# TRENDS AND IFLA

Results of the Survey into how the IFLA Trend Report Trends interact with the delivery of the IFLA Strategy

IFLA HQ

**International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions**

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# Executive Summary

This report presents the results of a survey of IFLA's members and volunteers in order to gather their ideas about where the Trends identified in IFLA's Trend report may affect work to achieve the goals set out in the IFLA Strategy.

Respondents highlight in particular the impact of technological change on our work to build capacity across the field, both in terms of evolutions in needs, and the means by which we can meet them. Nonetheless, the interactions seen as most significant vary between regions, and each area of IFLA's work is affected by a different combination of Trends.

This report, crucially, offers a starting point for further thinking about what factors may shape the future of international librarianship – a topic that will be very much in focus as IFLA approaches its centenary.

# Introduction

This survey forms part of the follow-up from the IFLA Trend Report of 2024, and with a look ahead to the IFLA100 celebrations that will start in 2026. It reflects the fact that, as well as being a tool that the library field can apply in its own work to plan for the future, the Trend Report also discusses changes that affect international librarianship, and in particular the work of IFLA.

In this spirit, this report brings together the results of a survey where we asked our members and volunteers to share their ideas about the interactions between the Trends and the pillars of IFLA's Strategy 2024-2029. The goal of this work was to draw on the collective experience and inspiration in order to inform our work on the future of international librarianship in the coming years.

For reference, the seven Trends are:

⇨ **1. Knowledge practices are changing** – the future holds both opportunities and challenges for improving equity in knowledge systems. This addresses questions about what we count as knowledge, the search for more diverse voices, and rising awareness of misinformation.

⇨ **2. AI and other technologies are transforming society** – Generative AI and new technologies are changing how we create, share and use information. This explores the implications of AI and deepfake technologies, but also the potential for technology to create new ways of engaging with and safeguarding information.

⇨ **3. Trust is being renegotiated** – re-establishing trust in government and media is central for our societies to flourish. This looks at trends around trust in institutions, as well as in journalism and the open movement, before tackling questions around privacy.

⇨ **4.Skills and abilities are becoming more complex** – people will need practical, critical and digital skills to thrive. This highlights growing skills demands, as well as the dividends that a more information literate society could bring, but also the risks to those with lower skill levels.

⇨ **5. Digital technologies are unevenly distributed** – digital inclusion will increase equity. This highlights a growing digital divide, as well as the issues around the transition of services to online-only. At the same time, it also foresees the potential for a more inclusive cultural information framework.

⇨ **6. Information systems are using more resources** – our information needs are impacting the planet. This stresses the pressure to join the green economy, finding ways to deliver both on environmental and equity concerns. Growing eWaste and resource use are priorities.

⇨ **7. People are seeking community connections** – creating places to share space and resources is key to building an equitable society. This includes trends around both isolation and an intensification of local initiatives that build community. It also talks about new ways of connecting, how online communities can ben beneficial, and the impact of more flexible working patterns.

Meanwhile IFLA's Strategy is made up of four Pillars:

⇨ **Impact area 1**: Libraries are connected and energised through vibrant, global professional communities
⇨ **Impact area 2**: Libraries are recognised, represented and valued as partners
⇨ **Impact area 3**: Libraries are enabled to deliver meaningful change at all levels
⇨ **Enabler – Futureproofing IFLA**: Ensuring IFLA's governance, projects, and partnerships are effective, transparent, and innovative.

# Methodology

The survey used a simple methodology, with respondents asked to identify up to 3 of the 28 potential interactions between Trends and Pillars which they felt were the most important. They were then invited to share additional thoughts about this interaction, although this was not obligatory.

In addition to this substantive question, respondents were also asked to provide some background information, namely concerning:
- Relationship to IFLA (being a member of a committee, officer, a member of IFLA in general, attending a Congress or other)
- Region (Asia-Oceania, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, North America and Sub-Saharan Africa)
- Length of experience in the library field (0-5, 5-10, 10-20, 20-30, 30+ years)
- Current situation of the respondent (working in a public, academic, national, school or special library, as well as library associations, as well as retired and student librarians).
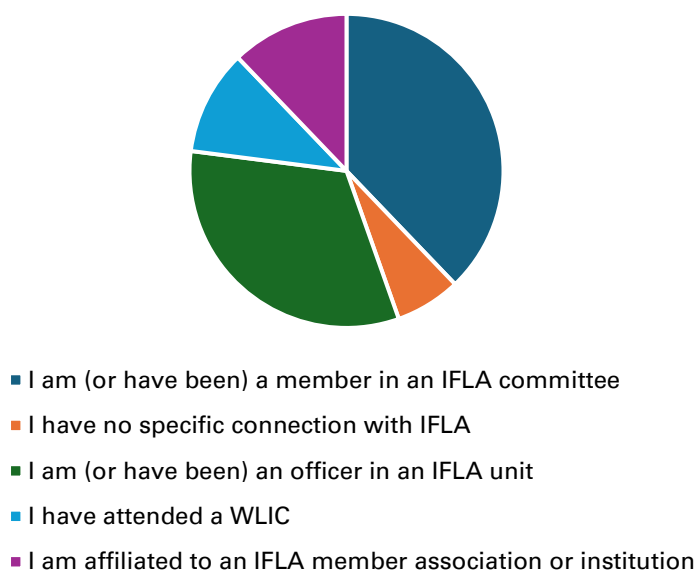
The survey was distributed through IFLA's platform for officers, as well as by e-mail, a news story, and a post on social media.

# Respondent Profile

Overall, we received 74 responses from across the library field. Chart 1 sets out the division by type of engagement with IFLA.

There was a strong representation of IFLA volunteers among the respondents, with 38% members and 32% officers in different IFLA committees. 12% of respondents reported

## Chart 1: What is your primary relationship with IFLA



- ■ I am (or have been) a member in an IFLA committee
- ■ I have no specific connection with IFLA
- ■ I am (or have been) an officer in an IFLA unit
- ■ I have attended a WLIC
- ■ I am affiliated to an IFLA member association or institution

coming from IFLA members, while for 11% the main form of engagement was having attended a WLIC, and just 7% reported having a more general connection with IFLA.

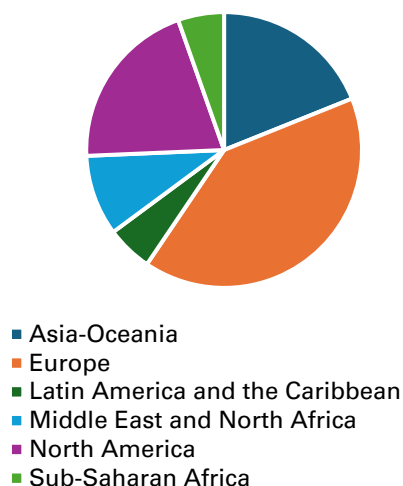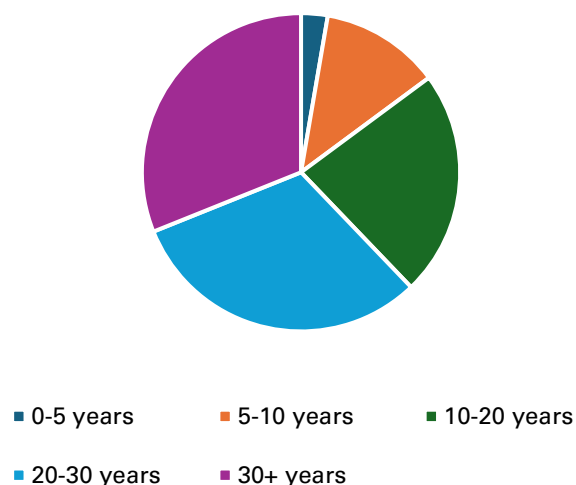**Chart 2: In which region are you based?**



- Asia-Oceania
- Europe
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Middle East and North Africa
- North America
- Sub-Saharan Africa

**Chart 3: How many years' experience do you have in libraries?**



- 0-5 years
- 5-10 years
- 10-20 years
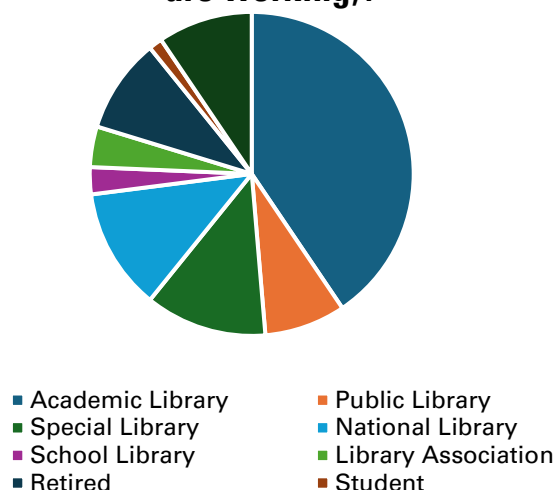- 20-30 years
- 30+ years

Charts 2 and 3 then look at geography and length of experience in libraries. Chart 2 underlines that Europeans represented the biggest single group among respondents, at 41% of the total. They were followed by North America (20%) and Asia-Oceania (19%), MENA on 9% and Latin America and the Caribbean and Sub-Saharan Africa both on 5% of the total.

As for length of experience, respondents tended to be from groups with more experience; 31% of respondents had 20-30 years of experience, and the same had over 30 years of experience. 23% had been in the sector for 10-20 years, while just 12% had been there for 5-10 years and only 3% for less than 5 years.

Finally, Chart 4 looks at what respondents reported their current situation as being. The most common response by a long was working in an academic library (41%), followed by working in special and national libraries (12% each). 9% of respondents were retired, and the same reported 'other'. Public librarians represented 8% of the total, 4%

**Chart 4: How would you describe your current situation (where you are working)?**



- Academic Library
- Public Library
- Special Library
- National Library
- School Library
- Library Association
- Retired
- Student

came from library associations, while just 3% came from school libraries, and 2% were students.

Of the 74 respondents, 27 provided textual answers in addition to their indication of which interactions between trends they saw as being most important.

# Main Interactions

Looking across the data as a whole, Table 1 sets out how often each interaction was cited by respondents.

This shows, for example, that the most commonly cited interaction was between Trend 2 (AI and other technologies are transforming society) and Impact Area 3 (Capacity Building). 19 respondents – over a quarter of the total – highlighted this. This was followed by interaction between Trend 1 (Knowledge practices are changing) and Impact Area 1 (Vibrant professional communities), as well as Trend 2 (AI and other technologies are transforming society) and Impact Area 2 (Advocacy and Partnerships), both on 13 mentions (over 1 in 6).

Overall, the most commonly cited Trend was 2 (AI and other technologies are transforming societies), at 45 references. Trend 1 (Knowledge practices are changing) came second with 37, followed by Trend 4 (Skills are becoming more complex) with 29, Trend 3 (Trust is being renegotiated) with 27 and Trend 7 (People are seeking community connections) with 25.

| Table 1: How often was each combination of Trend and Pillar Cited? | |
|---|---|
| **Interaction** | **Frequency** |
| Trend 2 and Impact Area 3 | 19 |
| Trend 1 and Impact Area 1 | 13 |
| Trend 2 and Impact Area 2 | 13 |
| Trend 4 and Impact Area 3 | 12 |
| Trend 1 and Impact Area 3 | 11 |
| Trend 3 and Impact Area 2 | 11 |
| Trend 2 and Impact Area 1 | 10 |
| Trend 4 and Impact Area 1 | 9 |
| Trend 1 and Impact Area 2 | 8 |
| Trend 3 and Impact Area 3 | 8 |
| Trend 7 and Impact Area 2 | 8 |
| Trend 7 and Impact Area 3 | 7 |
| Trend 4 and Impact Area 2 | 6 |
| Trend 5 and Impact Area 2 | 6 |
| Trend 7 and Impact Area 1 | 6 |
| Trend 1 and Enabler | 5 |
| Trend 3 and Impact Area 1 | 5 |
| Trend 5 and Impact Area 1 | 5 |
| Trend 5 and Impact Area 3 | 5 |
| Trend 7 and Enabler | 4 |
| Trend 2 and Enabler | 3 |
| Trend 3 and Enabler | 3 |
| Trend 6 and Impact Area 2 | 3 |
| Trend 4 and Enabler | 2 |
| Trend 5 and Enabler | 2 |
| Trend 6 and Impact Area 1 | 1 |
| Trend 6 and Impact Area 3 | 1 |
| Trend 6 and Enabler | 0 |

Further back were Trend 5 (Digital technologies are unevenly distributed – 18 references) and Trend 6 (Information systems are using more resources) – 5
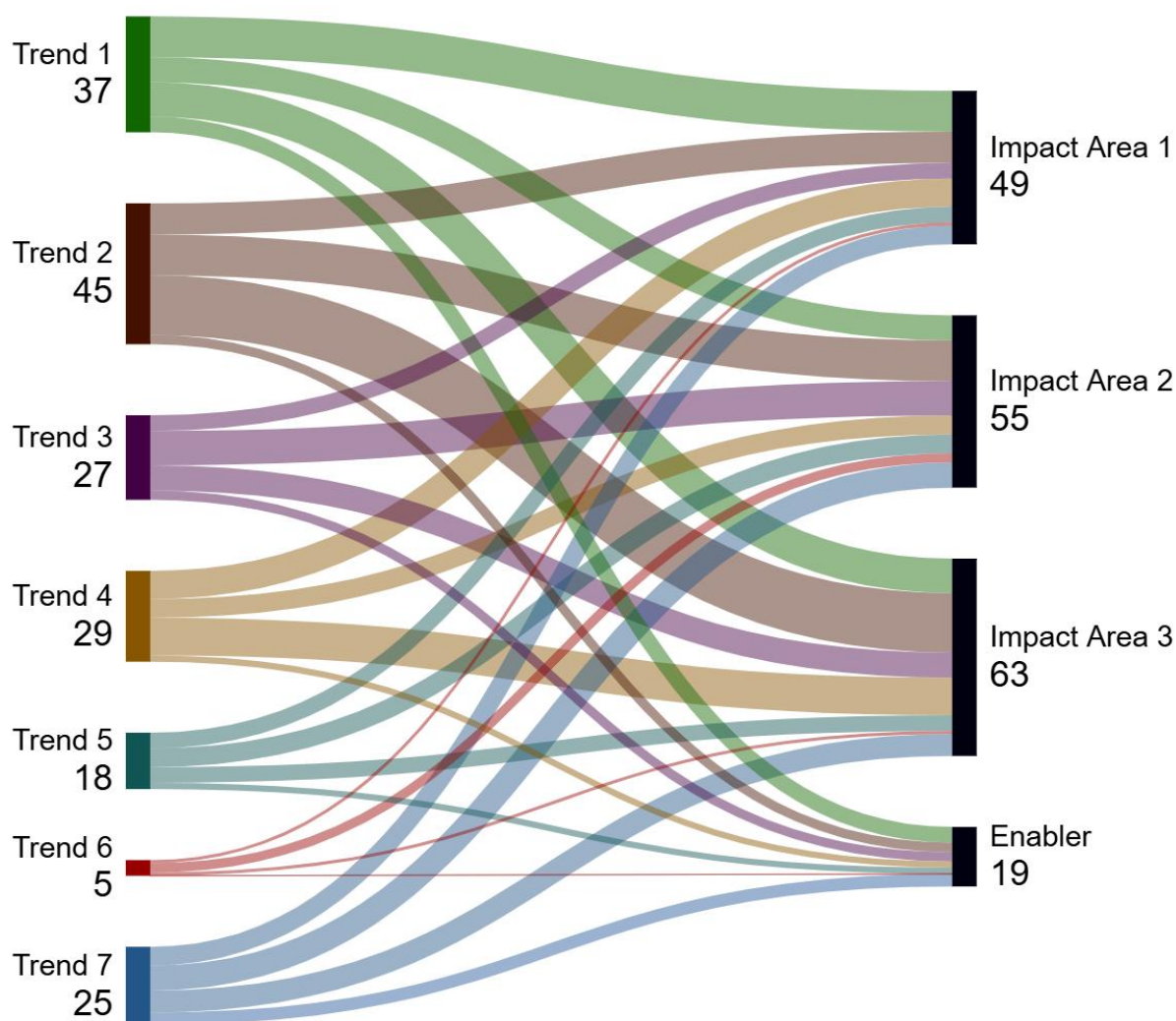
references.

As for the Pillars of the Strategy most regularly referenced, Impact Area 3 (Capacity Building) came top (63 references), followed by Impact Area 2 (Advocacy and Partnerships – 55), Impact Area 1 (Dynamic Professional Communities – 49), and the Enabler (Future-Proofing IFLA – 19).

An overview of these connections is available in the Chart 5, below where the thickness of the connecting lines reflects the number of times that interaction was highlighted:

## Chart 5: Frequency at which interactions were cited



Made at SankeyMATIC.com

Through this, we see, for example, that Trend 1 (Knowledge practices are changing) is most commonly associated with Impact Area 1 (Dynamic professional communities), and least with the Enabler (Future-proofing IFLA). Trend 2 (AI and other technologies are transforming societies) is most often connected with Impact Area 3 (Capacity building), and least with the Enabler (Future-proofing IFLA).

Looking at things from the other direction, the Trends most likely to be seen as affecting our ability to drive Dynamic professional communities (Impact Area 1) are 1 (Knowledge practices are changing) followed by 2 (AI and other technologies are transforming societies). Meanwhile, our advocacy and partnerships work (Impact Area 2) is seen as being most influenced by Trends 2 (AI and other technologies are transforming societies) and 4 (Technologies are unevenly distributed). This analysis potentially provides a helpful basis for reflection on opportunities and threats for success against our Strategy.

Looking at the regional breakdown, we have the following top 3 interactions for each region (Table 2).

## Table 2: Top-3 interactions identified per region

### Asia-Oceania

| Interaction | Place |
|---|---|
| Trend 4 and Impact Area 3 | 1st |
| Trend 1 and Impact Area 1 | 2nd= |
| Trend 2 and Impact Area 2 | 2nd= |
| Trend 3 and Impact Area 2 | 2nd= |

### Europe

| Interaction | Place |
|---|---|
| Trend 2 and Impact Area 3 | 1st |
| Trend 2 and Impact Area 2 | 2nd= |
| Trend 4 and Impact Area 1 | 2nd= |
| Trend 4 and Impact Area 2 | 2nd= |
| Trend 1 and Impact Area 3 | 2nd= |

### Latin America and the Caribbean

| Interaction | Place |
|---|---|
| Trend 1 and Impact Area 3 | 1st |
| Trend 2 and Impact Area 3 | 2nd= |
| Trend 2 and Impact Area 2 | 2nd= |
| Trend 4 and Impact Area 3 | 2nd= |
| Trend 1 and Impact Area 1 | 2nd= |
| Trend 5 and Enabler | 2nd= |

### Middle East and North Africa

| Interaction | Place |
|---|---|
| Trend 2 and Impact Area 3 | 1st |
| Trend 2 and Impact Area 2 | 2nd= |
| Trend 1 and Impact Area 1 | 2nd= |
| Trend 4 and Impact Area 1 | 2nd= |
| Trend 3 and Impact Area 3 | 2nd= |

### North America

| Interaction | Place |
|---|---|
| Trend 2 and Impact Area 3 | 1st |
| Trend 3 and Impact Area 2 | 2nd |
| Trend 1 and Impact Area 1 | 3rd= |
| Trend 1 and Impact Area 2 | 3rd= |
| Trend 5 and Impact Area 2 | 3rd= |

### Sub-Saharan Africa

| Interaction | Place |
|---|---|
| Trend 7 and Impact Area 2 | 1st= |
| Trend 7 and Impact Area 3 | 1st= |
| Trend 2 and Impact Area 1 | 3rd= |
| Trend 7 and Impact Area 1 | 3rd= |
| Trend 7 and Enabler | 3rd= |
| Trend 1 and Enabler | 3rd= |
| Trend 1 and Impact Area 3 | 3rd= |
| Trend 4 and Impact Area 1 | 3rd= |

Looking across the results, it is noticeable that Europe, the Middle East and North Africa and North America all share the same top interaction – between Trend 2 (AI and other technologies are transforming societies) and Impact Area 3 (Capacity Building). This is also the joint 2nd most cited interaction in Latin America and the Caribbean, but does not feature in the top-3 for Asia-Oceania or Sub-Saharan Africa.

Meanwhile, Asia-Oceania's most cited interaction – Trend 4 (Skills are becoming more complex) and Impact Area 3 (Capacity Building) also features as joint 2nd in Latin America, but not in any other region's top-3.

Latin America and the Caribbean's top interaction is between Trend 1 (Knowledge practices are changing) and Impact Area 3 (Capacity Building), which also features in Europe's and Sub-Saharan Africa's top-3.

Finally, Sub-Saharan Africa's joint top most referenced interactions both involved Trend 7 (People are seeking community connections), respectively with Impact Area 2 (Advocacy and partnerships) and Impact Area 3 (Capacity building).

# Key interactions and questions

This section explores the insights provided by respondents to the surveys about the different interactions between the Trend Report Trends and the Strategy Impact Areas. In each area where there were responses (23 out of a potential 28), there is a summary of the messages for IFLA, and some open questions which could be explored in more depth.

In each case, the answers provided by respondents are paraphrased, with similar arguments and questions brought together. Particularly powerful responses are included as quotations in inset boxes.

| Trend 1 | Impact Area 1 |
|---|---|
| **Knowledge Practices are Changing** | **Vibrant Professional Communities** |

**Messages for IFLA**
Stronger professional bonds can help us turn challenges into opportunities, for example to turn the rise of misinformation into an opportunity for stronger recognition. But for this, we need ideas!

- We need to look at how to build awareness of relevant standards and guidelines in an evolving knowledge environment.

"There is a very real need for libraries to remain connected and continue to be energised when knowledge practices are changing.  Through active and present global professional communities, such changes can be explored and adapted with stronger ties to the core of library and information work.  Without a strong voice between professional communities globally, there will be no connections to strengthen understanding and adaptation of the changes"

**Open questions**

- What does growing recognition of the importance and relevance of different forms of knowledge and ways of knowing mean for IFLA's corpus of guidelines and standards?
- What does information equity look like in practice? How can we influence this through our actions?
- How can we provide space for professionals to explore emerging issues rapidly and flexibly?

| Trend 1 | Impact Area 2 |
|---|---|
| **Knowledge Practices are Changing** | **Advocacy and Partnerships** |

**Messages for IFLA**

- We need to mobilise to ensure that as many other sectors as possible recognise the contribution that libraries, archives and museums can make to policy and other goals linked to knowledge.

> "The global community has an opportunity for greater equity - more than ever before -- and we can help achieve that through our professional networking and partnering with others'.

- In turn, we need to be aware of what is going on in the wider world and in policy spaces, and be able to translate this into the services and information we provide to our communities.

**Open questions**

- What needs to change in how we articulate our value in a world of evolving knowledge practices?
- How will these changes affect the resource environment for libraries? What messages do we need in this respect?

| Trend 1 | Impact Area 3 |
|---|---|
| **Knowledge Practices are Changing** | **Capacity Building** |

**Messages for IFLA**

- Preparing librarians for a changing information environment requires capacity at the level of associations and others.
- These evolutions also require reflection what ethical practice means now, and to what extent long-standing codes and guides are still relevant.
- We need to be able to train others – responsive and effective pedagogy is getting more important!

**Open questions**
- What are the skills librarians need to deal with rapid change?

| Trend 1 | Enabler |
| --- | --- |
| **Knowledge Practices are Changing** | **Future-Proofing IFLA** |

**Messages for IFLA**
- In line with what is happening in the wider knowledge environment, we should also be readier to accept that there are different ways of doing librarianship, respecting principles of equity and inclusion.

**Open questions**
- What does knowledge equity look like within our community?
- What is holding us back from being as equitable as we'd like to be? What can we do about it?

| Trend 2 | Impact Area 1 |
| --- | --- |
| **Technology is Transforming Society** | **Vibrant Professional Communities** |

**Messages for IFLA**
- AI obliges us to look again at some basic tenets of our professional outputs, for example around ethics and other concepts such as neutrality, censorship and more.
- We need to focus our efforts on understanding and adopting AI. In particular, we should consider what this means for library values and collaboration.
- Libraries nonetheless have a strong record of adapting technology, which we can build on. Through our connections, we have developed evidence-based, human-centred approaches.
- The discussions we are having internally about a professional response to these issues could be opened up in order to be aligned with those taking place in other spaces. We can learn from them, and them from us.

**Open questions**
- How to stimulate the cross-fertilisation of ideas about technology and responses to it between sectors, including outside of the library field?
- Which aspects of our corpus of guidelines and standards need to be updated to reflect technological change?
- How far can we make our standards and guidelines technology-neutral?

| Trend 2 | Impact Area 2 |
|---|---|
| **Technology is Transforming Society** | **Advocacy and Partnerships** |

**Messages for IFLA**

- There is an opportunity here for libraries to be seen as partners of choice, given growing awareness of the issues and stakes around information and knowledge.
- Tech regulation can potential have a significant impact on libraries – we need to be aware of this.
- There is a pressure to keep up though with what is happening in the wider world, but also conflicting forces – rejectionism, a tendency to wait and see, but also the desire to jump on everything in order to 'keep up'
- There are openings for a new take on AI which could be aligned with libraries, focusing on ideas such as 'public AI' or 'respectful AI'.

> "AI and other technologies are tools that can help libraries achieve their objectives. When leveraged well, we will be recognised, represented and valued as partners in this new world."

**Open questions**

- What does a supportive regulatory environment look like? How can we shape it?

| Trend 2 | Impact Area 3 |
|---|---|
| **Technology is Transforming Society** | **Capacity Building** |

**Messages for IFLA**

- We need updated protocols and practices though, for example for social media.
- There is a potential to support libraries to be leaders within their communities on AI and other topics – this can be a real path to influence and credibility.
- We must provide support to work on misinformation and accuracy. People need to be consciously digitally literate, and libraries can help, if they have the capacity themselves.

**Open questions**

- Where are the gaps in skills, infrastructure and readiness (including ethics of course)?
- How can IFLA serve as a rebalancer when it comes to technology adoption – helping lessons and materials to flow from the bigger and richer to those with fewer resources?
- How can we help to shape AI products that then help us?

- To what extent is it realistic to keep up with technology, and insofar as this is the case, how can we do this?

| Trend 2 | Enabler |
|---|---|
| **Technology is Transforming Society** | **Future-Proofing IFLA** |

**Messages for IFLA**
- As a cross-cutting point, the rise of AI illustrates strongly the need for an organisation that is ready to adapt, to ride the wave.

**Open questions**
- Are we open to adapting to a new technological environment? If not, what is holding us back?

| Trend 3 | Impact Area 1 |
|---|---|
| **Trust is Being Renegotiated** | **Vibrant Professional Communities** |

**Messages for IFLA**
- There is an opportunity for us to carve out a role as institutions which can promote trustworthiness of information
- At the same time, need through our structures to look at how we can maintain trust ourselves
- We need to be a space to share experience about some of these more fundamental questions that go beyond the technical

**Open questions**
- What do IFLA units (and HQ) need to do to maintain confidence and credibility among librarians around the world?

| Trend 3 | Impact Area 2 |
|---|---|
| **Trust is Being Renegotiated** | **Advocacy and Partnerships** |

**Messages for IFLA**
- There is a major window for advocacy here, but our arguments need to be backed up by evidence.
- In particular, we cannot automatically expect trust! We need to be able to demonstrate social impact, as well as the value of trustworthy information
- We need to make the case for openness.

**Open questions**

- How do we proactively demonstrate our trustworthiness to citizens and decision-makers in a much more competitive information environment?

| Trend 3 | Impact Area 3 |
|---|---|
| Trust is Being Renegotiated | Capacity Building |

**Messages for IFLA**

- There is a need to build the skills and services that back up claims about trustworthiness – this includes media literacy, ethical practices.
- We need to build professionalism further as a means of ensuring that we can be trustworthy.
- We also need to be confident in our own abilities.

**Open questions**

- What are the ingredients of trust in libraries, and how can we support their development, at the institutional and network levels?

| Trend 3 | Enabler |
|---|---|
| Trust is Being Renegotiated | Future-Proofing IFLA |

**Messages for IFLA**

- We need to keep a constant eye on inclusiveness and transparency, and assess processes and initiatives to see if they are working
- IFLA can however be a model here of effectiveness, transparency and innovation

> "The renegotiation of trust raises core questions for how IFLA ensures transparency, accountability, and meaningful participation across regions. This trend highlights the need for clearer communication, equitable representation in decision making, and mechanisms that allow underrepresented communities to be genuinely heard."

**Open questions**

- For IFLA, what is the best combination of transparency, inclusion and effectiveness?

| Trend 4 | Impact Area 1 |
|---|---|
| **Skills are Becoming More Complex** | **Vibrant Professional Communities** |

**Messages for IFLA**

- There is a need for skills across the field – not everyone benefits from a national field with the resources and critical mass to do this.
- The rapid change in expectations (for digital skills, media literacy and data) are also felt in librarianship.
- Physical meetings and virtual communities of practice can achieve a lot, so too can non-formal forms of learning.
- Through collective expertise, we can achieve a lot.

"IFLA's role is to connect library workers worldwide, provide access to emerging competencies, and cultivate an inclusive, innovative community that is prepared to navigate complexity and lead positive change."

**Open questions**

- What type of interventions and action around skills development make sense at the global level?

| Trend 4 | Impact Area 3 |
|---|---|
| **Skills are Becoming More Complex** | **Capacity Building** |

**Messages for IFLA**

- There is going to be a need to reinforce national fields, and offer support in ways that vary from region to region. IFLA needs to enable, not necessarily deliver itself.
- There is a need also for a cultural shift in favour of leadership and continuous learning, as well as peer-to-peer knowledge exchange

"The growing complexity of required skills challenges IFLA's ability to support national and regional library fields. Rapid shifts in digital, data, and AI competencies create uneven capacity across countries, risking a widening skills gap."

**Open questions**

- How can we support people to be autonomous and take their own initiatives?
- How can we better support this work in library schools?

| Trend 5 | Impact Area 1 |
|---|---|
| **Technologies are Unevenly Distributed** | **Vibrant Professional Communities** |

**Messages for IFLA**

- IFLA needs to find a way of ensuring that there can be meaningfully balanced engagement in volunteer groups despite different technological and other possibilities
- We need a more flexible approach to engagement to ensure diversity
- There is a risk of widening gaps between libraries around the world, reducing what we have in common.

> "Unequal access to digital technologies limits the ability of many professionals to participate fully in IFLA's global communities. This trend highlights the need for low-bandwidth, low-cost, and multilingual participation tools, as well as more inclusive communication practices."

**Open questions**

- What solutions exist to barriers to participation in our volunteer work linked to lack of access to technology?

| Trend 5 | Impact Area 2 |
|---|---|
| **Technologies are Unevenly Distributed** | **Advocacy and Partnerships** |

**Messages for IFLA**

- We need to place ourselves as part of the response to digital inequalities.
- We have scope to partner effectively with governments, development agencies and tech, and be seen as a real partner.
- For this, we need to partner, to be present everywhere – a coordinated approach that combines macro engagement with micro mobilization.
- We also need to act at local level, working with local and regional governments.

**Open questions**

- Which are the conversations we should be involved in around digital inclusion?

| Trend 5 | Impact Area 3 |
|---|---|
| **Technologies are Unevenly Distributed** | **Capacity Building** |

**Messages for IFLA**

- Unequal access to tech limits what libraries can do. There is also the risk that those who need help most are least able to access it.
- We should be ready to embrace the fact that not everything needs to be advanced tech.
- We need to develop partnership skills here!

> "Our mandate is dual: to effect change at both the macro and micro levels. We advocate with policymakers and administrators to shape effective national and regional policies that prioritize equitable access for all citizens. Simultaneously, we operate at the community level, providing vital resources, connectivity, and hands-on training to empower every individual."

**Open questions**

- How can a global organisation support locally-relevant training?
- How can we work with partners to bring more libraries online?

| Trend 5 | Enabler |
|---|---|
| **Technologies are Unevenly Distributed** | **Future-Proofing IFLA** |

**Messages for IFLA**

- Inequality in tech means that there's a risk that those who might perhaps most benefit from international engagement are not able to, and so can extract less value from their IFLA membership

**Open questions**

- How can we make membership valuable for libraries and colleagues in a low-tech environment?

| Trend 6 | Impact Area 1 |
|---|---|
| **Information System Resource Use** | **Vibrant Professional Communities** |

**Messages for IFLA**

- There's a challenge for IFLA in bringing together people to think about how to have access to information without destroying the earth.

**Open questions**

- How can IFLA help libraries address the question of providing services while using fewer resources?

| Trend 7 | Impact Area 1 |
| --- | --- |
| **Seeking Community Commections** | **Vibrant Professional Communities** |

**Messages for IFLA**

- Technological change has intensified the need for connection via online and in person, including in IFLA.
- We need to think about the architecture of IFLA as a space and structure for networking.
- IFLA also needs to create possibilities to engage with partners.

**Open questions**

- How can we maximise our potential to be a place for connection, and what does the sort of information sharing and collaboration IFLA enables do to help?

| Trend 7 | Impact Area 2 |
| --- | --- |
| **Seeking Community Connections** | **Advocacy and Partnerships** |

**Messages for IFLA**

- There is an opportunity in the reaction to concerns about technology driving us apart to place libraries as a ready-made response.
- There is also a possibility to shape policies around the uptake of tech to ensure they are people-centred.
- This is also about supporting library associations to take on this role in their own contexts.

> "By their nature, libraries are expert community builders, facilitating crucial connections in both physical and virtual realms. They ensure that new technologies are adopted not just for efficiency, but as tools for collaboration and engagement"

**Open questions**

- How can we get involved in relevant work here without putting into question our values and independence?

| Trend 7 | Impact Area 3 |
| --- | --- |
| **Seeking Community Connections** | **Capacity Building** |

**Messages for IFLA**

- We need to be much more focused on people and communities rather than collections per se, and develop skills that allow us to become places that bring people together and stimulate collaborations.
- We need national and regional fields to be able to support a wide range of skill sets, including social support skills.

- We need to be able to revitalise our spaces also!

**Open questions**
- What does this mean for how we support librarian development (and the institutions that provide this)?

| Trend 7 | Enabler |
|---|---|
| **Seeking Community Connections** | **Future-Proofing IFLA** |

**Messages for IFLA**
- IFLA needs to maintain a degree of thought-leadership and be looked to for new ideas if it is to retain interest from the field.
- IFLA also needs to create possibilities to engage with partners.

**Open questions**
- How to make a reality of a global field when only 3000 or so come to our congresses from a minority of members?

# Conclusions

What this report does not do is offer answers. However, the results presented here offer both a starting point for reflecting about the trends that will shape the future of international librarianship, but also a model of how the Trend Report can be applied to the work of library associations and institutions more broadly.

We can see already that there is a particularly strong focus on how the trends might impact IFLA's capacity building efforts, often linked both to technological chance and access to technology. The spread of trends potentially impacting IFLA's advocacy and partnerships work is broader, while our work to build dynamic professional communities seems set to be affected by a mixture of technological and more philosophical and political changes in knowledge practices.

While there are some commonalities across regions, there is not uniformity, suggesting that the development of international librarianship in different parts of the world may change. Meanwhile, the messages to IFLA come with important questions both about how to maximise the relevance of our corpus of work, but also our own working practices, faced with opportunities and tensions.

In short, there is plenty of work to do as we look towards IFLA's 2nd century.