GLOBAL VISION DISCUSSION

Australia contributes to the IFLA Global Vision conversation survey results

*How a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future*

The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) survey was open from 6 July to 28 August 2017
Contributors

This report was created by 449 respondents, 95% of whom are ALIA Personal Members or work for libraries that are ALIA Institutional Members.

Participants came from every State and Territory in Australia.

Australian Capital Territory 7% Tasmania 1%
New South Wales 25% Victoria 31%
Northern Territory 2% Western Australia 9%
Queensland 15% Overseas (Vietnam, Canada, UK) 1%
South Australia 9%

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Introduction

Between 6 July and 28 August 2017, 445 Australians connected with libraries (and four from overseas) participated in a conversation about how a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future. Together we represent 8532 years of library experience.

School libraries 12%  National, state and territory libraries 5%
Public libraries 24%  Industry partners/library suppliers 1%
University, higher education, research libraries 24%  Library and information science educators 3%
Vocational education libraries 4%  Students 4%
Special libraries 18%  Retirees 3%
Other 2%

A vision for libraries

Imagine the year is 2022. What have libraries achieved?

Global influence 18.75%
Greater collaboration across the Galleries Libraries Archives and Museums (GLAM) sector 47.54%
They have bridged the digital divide 68.08%
Librarianship is the career of choice 15.18%
Sustainable funding models 33.48%
Copyright law reform, balancing the rights of users and creators 54.69%
Open access to scholarly research 63.62%
They have made a significant contribution to universal literacy 84.60%
They have helped to promote peace and prosperity 25.67%
The core values of libraries (Q4):

- To support intellectual freedom: 30.27%
- To empower clients and communities: 49.33%
- To be inclusive: 27.13%
- To be trusted, authentic sources of accurate information in a fake news, post-truth environment: 55.38%
- Partnerships and collaboration to advance these values: 15.92%
- Excellence in professional service to our communities: 21.75%
- Preservation of the human record: 45.74%
- Respect for the diversity and individuality of all people: 33.86%
- Commitment to literacy, information literacy and learning: 77.58%
- To connect people and ideas: 50.22%
- To promote the free flow of information and ideas through open access to recorded knowledge, information, and creative works: 77.58%
Libraries are exceptionally good at (Q5):

- Contributing to the development of new knowledge and works: 49.66%
- Contributing to economic development: 17.23%
- Collaboration and generation of ideas: 41.39%
- Preservation of cultural heritage: 66.89%
- Supporting information and digital literacy: 87.02%
- Alerting clients to the latest and most relevant information: 39.15%
- Providing access to information: 92.39%

Libraries should do more of (Q6):

- Encouraging staff to aspire to management positions in the wider organisation: 18.10%
- Seeking sources of alternative funding: 38.46%
- Long term strategic planning: 55.88%
- Being politically aware and agile: 45.25%
- Succession planning: 36.43%
- Training for staff: 41.40%
- Access to technologies: 52.71%
- Partnerships and collaboration: 70.59%
- Advocacy: 56.79%
Libraries should do less of (Q7):

Challenges and solutions

The main challenges to society (Q8):
The main challenges to libraries (Q9):

- Succession planning: 21.57%
- Continued relevance in the era of Amazon and Google: 48.76%
- Copyright and laws or licences regulating the use of digital materials: 44.49%
- Insufficient funding and resources: 82.70%
- Increased user expectations: 36.40%
- Digital divide among library users: 57.08%
- Rate of technological change: 64.27%
- Workforce education and skills: 43.82%

How a united library field can make a difference

How should a united library field help meet the challenges identified (Q11)?

- Create an ideas bank: 21.85%
- Provide shared tools and resources: 66.22%
- Map libraries and their activities to enable benchmarking: 28.15%
- Provide opportunities for libraries to connect with international counterparts: 49.10%
- Influence governments from a global perspective: 43.47%
- Develop future leaders: 32.88%
- Support developing countries: 40.54%
- Promote libraries as places for critical thinking: 71.40%
- Create a strong shared vision and voice: 69.82%
The characteristics of a united library field (Q12):

- Universal buy-in from libraries and library associations: 19.14%
- Clear plan of action: 27.03%
- Availability of shared tools and resources: 44.14%
- Collaboration around core values and equity of access to information: 62.39%
- Understanding, appreciation and acceptance of common ground and differences: 34.68%
- Highly connected: 45.50%
- Strong advocacy: 63.29%
- Compelling narrative and data about the value of libraries: 55.86%
- Commitment to truth and knowledge: 44.37%
- Shared vision and united voice: 59.01%

A global conversation

This report is part of a global conversation initiated by IFLA on how a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future.

Over the course of two years (2017-2018), IFLA will involve as many librarians and others as possible in this global conversation. Participants are encouraged to continue the conversation in their own networks and organization and share the results with IFLA. At the end of 2017, the first results of all the workshops and online discussions will be turned into a Global Vision Report, which in turn will be adapted into concrete strategies, processes and work programmes in 2018.

To learn more about the global conversation, and download supporting materials to support your own activities, visit globalvision.ifla.org.

Stay tuned for news about the IFLA Global Vision discussion following #iflaGlobalVision and make sure to cast your vote in August when the online voting platform is available on https://globalvision.ifla.org.