



Government Libraries Section



Government Information and role of Government Libraries

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Role of Government

- Government's role usually includes the passing of laws and their implementation, and the provision of defense and security, health, education, social care, cultural support, management of the economy and trade and relations with other countries. The tasks of any government can be grouped into three categories:

The Legislative: Parliaments / Congress, etc.
which make laws

The Executive: Ministries / Departments/
Agencies which are responsible for
implementation of laws

The Judiciary: Legal branch to ensure the
enforcement of laws

Government Libraries

Government Libraries are any libraries that are established and fully supported by government to serve government with the primary audience being government although the actual audience served may be broader than government.

Types of Government Libraries

Libraries of the Legislature

Parliamentary Libraries

State Legislature / Assembly Libraries

Libraries of the Executive

Ministry / Departmental Libraries

Libraries of Government Agencies / Organisations / Projects

Diplomatic Mission / Embassy Libraries

State, Regional and Local Government Libraries

National Libraries

Libraries of the Judiciary

Supreme Court Libraries

Other judicial libraries

Role of government libraries

The primary function of government libraries is to serve government at different levels by making available all kinds of information published by government, non-government bodies and individuals. Their clientele are elected representatives, ministers, administrators, scientists and other specialists, researchers, and in some cases the general public.

Role of Government Libraries

Government libraries have a responsibility to contribute and support the goals of the parent organization.

Role of Government Libraries

Government libraries support the basic functions of their parent organization such as the formulation of programs and policies; administrative and regulatory actions; advisory functions, and; research programs. Regardless of the nature of the government organization served by a government library, the services provided by the library are essential to the efficient and effective implementation of a government organization's mandate

Role of Library Associations in development of Libraries

Library Associations play an important role in the promotion of librarianship as a profession vital to an informed and knowledgeable society. Thus, they have responsibilities to address important issues of development of libraries.

Role of Library Associations

- in library movement
- in enactment of library laws
- in developing norms, standards , guidelines and manifestos
- in professional development of librarians

Role of Library Associations

- in competency building in emerging and new areas
- in developing professional ethics
- in introducing new library services
- in providing consultancy to libraries
- in developing institutional repositories, subject gateways and library portals

Roles of Library Associations

- in open access and open source movement
- in collaborative networking in libraries
- in design and implementation of library and information services through social media
- incorporating social networking techniques for the next-generation libraries
- Blogs and information services

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. It is the global voice of the library and information profession. Founded in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1927 at an international conference, IFLA now have over 1500 Members in approximately 150 countries around the world.

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)

IFLA is an independent, international, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization with following aims:

- Promote high standards of provision and delivery of library and information services
- Encourage widespread understanding of the value of good library & information services
- Represent the interests of IFLA members throughout the world.

In pursuing these aims IFLA embraces the following core values:

The endorsement of the principles of freedom of access to information, ideas and works of imagination and freedom of expression embodied in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The belief that people, communities and organizations need universal and equitable access to information, ideas and works of imagination for their social, educational, cultural, democratic and economic well-being

The conviction that delivery of high quality library and information services helps guarantee that access

The commitment to enable all Members of the Federation to engage in, and benefit from, its activities without regard to citizenship, disability, ethnic origin, gender, geographical location, language, political philosophy, race or religion.

Membership of IFLA

- Associations of library and information professionals are all welcome as Association Members.
- Institutional Membership is designed for individual library and information services, and all kinds of organizations in the library and information sector.
- International organizations may join as International Association Members.
- Individual practitioners in the field of library and information science may join as Personal Affiliates.

Membership of IFLA

- National Association Members, International Association Members and Institutional Members have voting rights in elections and meetings. They are entitled to nominate candidates for the post of IFLA President and Governing Board Members.
- Personal Affiliates do not have voting rights, but they provide invaluable contributions to the work of IFLA, by serving on committees and contributing to professional programmes.
- More information can be found on www.ifla.org

Relations with Other Bodies

- IFLA have established good working relations with a variety of other bodies with similar interests.
- IFLA have formal Associate Relations with UNESCO, observer status with the United Nations, associate status with the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) and observer status with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
- IFLA has consultative status to a number of non-governmental organizations operating in related fields, including the [International Publishers Association](#) (IPA), [International Council on Archives](#) (ICA), [International Council of Museums](#) (ICOM) and the [International Council on Monuments and Sites](#) (ICOMOS)

World Library and Information Congress IFLA General Conference and Assembly

IFLA conference is held in August or early September in a different city each year. More than three thousand delegates meet to exchange experience, debate professional issues, see the latest products of the information industry, conduct the business of IFLA and experience something of the culture of the host country.

Governing Board of IFLA

- IFLA's Governing Board (GB) is responsible for the governance and financial and professional directions of IFLA, and represents the Federation in legal and other formal proceedings.
- The Board consists of the President, the President-elect, ten directly elected members, the Chair of the Professional Committee, the Chairs of each IFLA Division, and the Chair of the Management of Library Associations Section's Standing Committee.
- Up to three further GB members may be co-opted to provide expertise or represent special interests. IFLA's Secretary General, who serves as the Board's Secretary, is an ex officio member.

2013-2015 Governing Board of IFLA



Government Libraries Section, IFLA

Government libraries form a Section of their own within IFLA (Section 04), belonging to Division I: Library Types. The Section is aimed at the community of libraries which are part of and work for a body with a governing task and which have, in any way, a political responsibility or connection.

Purpose of GLS

The Section is aimed at the community of libraries which are part of and work for a body with a governing task and which have, in any way, a political responsibility or connection. The Section encourages the growth and development of government libraries and assists in their cooperation.

Objectives of GLS

- Promote government libraries and government information services
- Assist government libraries in working with each other
- Provide advice to librarians working in government libraries to better assist their patrons in utilizing government information
- Provide a means for librarians in government libraries to exchange information and communicate with each other

Organization and Activities of GLS

The Section's work is steered by a Standing Committee which elects the officers, the Chair and the Secretary. During the annual IFLA General Conference the Section presents one or more programs, either individually or jointly sponsored with one or more IFLA sections.

Periodically the section holds a regional preconference of two to three days duration.

IFLA - GLS Officers 2013-2015



GLS SC Members around the World



GLS SC Members 2013-2015



IFLA Guidelines for Libraries of Government Departments

Several years of brainstorming, planning, meetings, writing, and hearings have culminated with this working guide for managers and line staff of government libraries.

IFLA Guidelines for Libraries of Government Departments

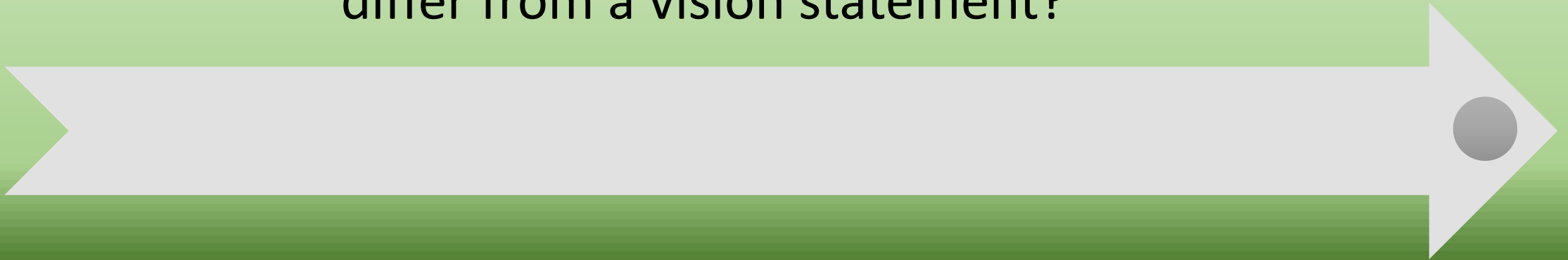
- These guidelines are designed to help government officials recognizing the importance of the libraries and how to make them even more effective to meet the needs of elected officials, staff, the general public and any other users.
- These guidelines will serve as tools for the development and operation of government libraries. Developing countries that are creating government libraries can make use of it and create quality government libraries.

Electronic Versions of Guidelines available in various languages on IFLA website



Mission /Vision statements of Government Libraries worldwide

Why a mission statement? What is the purpose of a mission statement? How does a mission statement differ from a vision statement?



Purpose of a mission statement

- For libraries the mission statement should convey the purpose and the means by which that purpose will be accomplished. The mission statement should also include the ultimate aims of the library within the confines of the parent organization, and thus, provide a unity of direction for managers, the shared expectations of employees, and convey to patrons and clients exactly what the library provides and represents.

Mission statement vs vision statement

The similarities as well as the differences between mission statements and vision statements are slight. The mission statement is more purpose directed and strategic. It inspires employees to meet specific expectations in order to arrive at the same goals. Mission statements are over arching and apply to the entire organization, business, or library. The vision statement is how an organization sees itself within its parent organization and in service to its customers. The vision statement aligns itself with the corporate mission statement and, at the same time, provides a direction by which employees will strive within their work units to meet the corporate goals and ultimately, the corporate mission.

Bibliothèque Nationale de France

The Bibliothèque nationale de France has four fundamental missions:

- The constitution and enhancement of collections
- Processing: the description of documents, their form, contents and when pertinent, their history
- Conservation: the restoration, reproduction and preservation of documents to ensure that they remain accessible to future generations
- Communications and promotion: developing awareness of the collections and making them available to the public

National Library of India

Mission Statement:

- Acquisition and conservation of all significant national production of printed material, excluding ephemera.
- Collection of printed material concerning the country, no matter where it is published, and as a corollary, the acquisition of photographic records of such material that is not available within the country
- Acquisition and conservation of foreign material required by the country.
- Rendering of bibliographical and documents services of current and retrospective material, both general and specialized.
- Acting as a referral centre purveying full and accurate knowledge.

National Library of Israel

Mission Statement:

- To collect, preserve, cultivate and endow the treasures of knowledge, heritage and culture in general, with an emphasis on the Land of Israel, the State of Israel and the Jewish people in particular.
- To serve as the National Library of the Jewish people, responsible for collecting the literary treasures of the Jewish people and preserve the continuity of Jewish and Israeli culture.
- To serve as the National Library of the State of Israel.
- To serve as the central research library for Israel and for the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in the Humanities fields, with an emphasis on Jewish Studies, Middle Eastern cultures, Asia-Africa and Islam.

National Library of Jordan

- **Mission Statement:**
To work on providing an enabling environment through the creation of suitable legislative infrastructure, qualified human resources in protection and preservation of cultural heritage of Jordan, protection of creativity, and serving researchers and scholars interested in the cultural and intellectual aspects of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
- **Vision Statement:**
To preserve the national memory, and ensuring its maintenance, protection and transferring it to the future generations.

National Library of Kuwait

Mission Statement:

To collect, organize, control and document all forms of the national cultural heritage, in addition to all published compilations and documents about the Arab Gulf region, Arab, and Islamic culture particularly those documents which are related to Kuwait, its national cultural heritage and the relative affairs both in and outside of the country, and to keep various valuable international collections of interest to Kuwait, the Arab, and the Islamic area.

King Fahad National Library of Saudi Arabia

Mission Statement:

The library aims to the acquisition of intellectual production, organization and control, documented, and by definition, dissemination and include tasks: collection of everything published in the Kingdom, and published by Saudi nationals abroad, and published on the Kingdom and is one of the vital topics of the Kingdom of the production of a global think tank, the collection of Heritage books, manuscripts, drawings, rare prints. The documents selected, especially those related to the Arab-Islamic civilization, to record what has filed in accordance with regulations, issue national bibliographic indexes and other standard tools of documentation.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SOUTH AFRICA

Mission Statement:

The National Library of South Africa is a custodian and provider of the nation's key knowledge resources. We are mandated by the National Library of South Africa Act to collect and preserve published documents and make them accessible. We ensure that knowledge is not lost to posterity and that information is available for research.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SWEDEN

Mission Statement

The National Library is responsible for collecting and preserving all Swedish publications, and for making the material available to the public. This means that we offer people the opportunity to read and study everything printed or published in Sweden, including books, magazines, reports, newspapers, manuscripts, maps, pictures, posters, printed music, and ephemera such as mail order catalogs and theater programs.

Vision

The National Library's vision is to continue the collection of Swedish publications in an era when a growing proportion of them is being published in various digital media.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS(USA)

Mission Statement

The Library's mission is to make its resources available and useful to the Congress and the American people and to sustain and preserve a universal collection of knowledge and creativity for future generations.

Vision Statement

We will foster a free and informed society by building, preserving and providing resources for human creativity, wisdom and achievement. We continually strive to place these resources at the fingertips of the American people, their elected representatives and the world for their mutual prosperity, enlightenment and inspiration.

Library and Archives Canada

Mission Statement:

The National Library is dedicated to building a world-class national resource enabling Canadians to know their country and themselves through their published heritage and to providing an effective gateway to national and international sources of information.

National Library of China

Mission Statement: The National Library of China serves as the repository of the nation's publications, a national bibliographic center, as well a national center for the preservation and conservation for ancient books. The major mission of the NLC includes: the collection and preservation of domestic and foreign publications; national coordination of document preservation and conservation work; provision of information and reference services to the central government, other governmental organizations, social organizations, and the general public; research in library sciences, and development of library services and programs, and guidance to other libraries in China with its expertise; the fulfillment of its role in international cultural exchanges through participation in the activities of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and other related organizations worldwide, as well as the promotion of exchanges and cooperation with other libraries in China and abroad.

National Library of Finland

Mission Statement: The National Library of Finland is the oldest and largest scholarly library in Finland as well as the largest independent institute at the University of Helsinki. It is responsible for the collection, description, preservation and accessibility of Finland's printed national heritage and the unique collections under its care.

The National Library also serves as a national service and development centre for the library sector and promotes national and international cooperation in the field.

Other Publications of Government Libraries Section

Action plan and strategic plan

Annual reports

Newsletter-
'The information point'

Role of Government Librarian in 21st Century

- The last decade has seen huge changes in the civil and public services throughout world. Public servants are becoming an increasingly sophisticated user of information. Government librarians have had to change and develop to meet these needs. Government libraries provide a wide range of services to government departments. This includes access to books, journals and databases as well as provision of current awareness services, enquiry and research services and some time information skills training. The running of these seamless services rests on a lot of hard work on the part of the librarians and their staff. In common with all librarians, government librarians are required to master a wide range of skills and competencies including negotiation skills for licensing and copyright agreements and securing value for money from vendors. In addition to managing the provision and development of information services, government librarians are also leading knowledge management initiatives, coordinating the provision of information through office intranet and internet and contributing to the overall management of government departments through their work.

Role of Government Librarian in 21st Century

Government Librarians in the twenty-first century face many changes. There are a vast array of new electronic resources – e-books, e-journals, e-databases, digital audio, digital video, and a myriad of new digital storage options – many available via the Internet to complement traditional tangible formats. Government Librarians must continue developing their skills and ability to work with technologies to access and use the new e-resources. Government information is not so different, but it has its own unique peculiarities and pressures. All of these conditions put pressure on a system that is slowly adjusting to and accommodating the information society of the twenty-first century

Evolving Environment

With the rise of the Internet in the mid-1990s, government agencies moved into “e-government” with 24/7 access to information and services. Downloadable forms and applications, FAQs, images, and full-text documents were needed for the e-government initiatives accessible to all. Increasing requests for services parallel the public use of information. Government sites attract millions of visitors participating in a host of activities.

New Model Needed

Fortunately, as government information migrated to the Internet, the traditional referral model began to change. This came at a crucial time, when financial pressures and space management issues began forcing a decline in physical space. In managing the increased demand for public service, with level or declining staff, government libraries have to reduce the support for the print government documents collections.

Inevitable Future

- Embedded in the e-government revolution is the mandate that government information be available on the Internet. Consequently, libraries faced with threefold problems: library staff unprepared to use electronic government resources; the level of discomfort that librarians have with e-government information and the decline in the number of skilled government publication librarians. Only a multifaceted approach will resolve these issues. Training of existing government information librarians and mechanisms to support librarians and library school students who wish to incorporate government information resources in their study and research tools.

Networking

- Government Librarians should meet frequently for networking , sharing knowledge and training each other with the support of their managements.

Needs

Combination of initiatives regarding e-government and government information will be beneficial in providing access of government information to the public. Continued efforts to spearhead technology, bibliographic control, personal expertise, and partnerships are needed to provide better library and information services in the 21st Century . Education and training, playing with new tools and trying new approaches are important for staying abreast of resources and changes in the information services.

Conclusion

The area of government information is undergoing changes – rapid growth in content, decreasing funding, increasing legislation and regulation with inconsistent policy and structure, tightening security with removal of data and content, increasing content complexity, commercialization and privatization, to assist with content.

Every librarian with an Internet connection is a government documents librarian. With e-government data, documents, images, and services moving online, it is imperative that libraries follow suit – providing reference, referral, and organizational services online. Training is must for use of government information.



THANKS FOR LISTENING!