



*IFLA Global Vision Workshop in Singapore.*

# Facing the challenges of the future

**T**he International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is promoting a global discussion about how libraries can meet the challenges of the future. There have been six workshops around the world and, as HEATHER WELLARD reports, there's an opportunity for the Australian library sector's views to be fed into the discussion.

IFLA is tackling the challenges facing the library field from ever-increasing globalisation head-on. IFLA's view is that they can only be met and overcome by an inclusive, global response from a united library field.

IFLA's Global Vision discussion brings together hundreds of representatives of the library field worldwide to explore how a connected library field can meet the challenges of the future.

IFLA launched and facilitated this global discussion at a series of high-level meetings and workshops in different parts of the world, following the kick-off event in Athens, Greece. Numerous meetings and online threads led by librarians from all over the world will build on the momentum started in Athens. Simultaneously, this dedicated 'Global Vision' website ([globalvision.ifla.org](http://globalvision.ifla.org)) provides key information about the initiative and will also provide support materials as well as interactive mechanisms (for example, real-time voting) that allow active participation in identifying future challenges and prioritising actions that the library industry could take.

ALIA CEO Sue McKerracher travelled to Singapore for an IFLA Global Vision workshop, which was held over a couple of days at the end of June. It took place in the appropriately named Possibility and Imagination Room on the fifth floor of the National Library, where 32 participants from 26 countries gathered. Representing



Top: Margaret Allen, State Library WA; Namtip Wipawin, Thailand and Udaya Cabral, Sri Lanka.



Bottom: Mahshid Borjianbrojeni of Iran and ALIA CEO Sue McKerracher.

Australia were Margaret Allen (State Library of WA) and Christine Mackenzie (Public Libraries Victoria Network), as they are both on the IFLA Governing Board, and Alex Philp, from the National Library of Australia. All the delegates at the Singapore workshop have agreed to run Global Vision workshops in their home countries and provide a national report.

In Australia, there was an ALIA Australian Public Library Alliance workshop in Geelong on 6 July. There has also been a public library online survey, and many libraries are holding their own Global Vision workshops. In addition, ALIA Members responded in their hundreds to an online survey in July and August.

Imagine that activity like this is happening all over the world. Conclusions from these international conversations, along with voting data, will then be gathered and analysed by IFLA. This unique material will provide a basis for the IFLA Global Vision report, which will be published in early 2018. Based on the report, the library field will develop concrete work plans on how to put the collective vision of the future into practice. Share your thoughts: #iflaGlobalVision. 🌐

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