IFLA

IFLA is the global voice of the library and information profession. It provides librarians throughout the world with a forum for exchanging ideas, promotion of international cooperation, unifying library practices and advancing the cause of librarianship. Established in 1927 as a nonpolitical, non-governmental organization, IFLA has members in 150 countries. Workshops and seminars around the world are organized to enhance professional practice and increase awareness of the importance of libraries in the digital age.

The Statistics and Evaluation Section is one of 47 professional sections within IFLA.
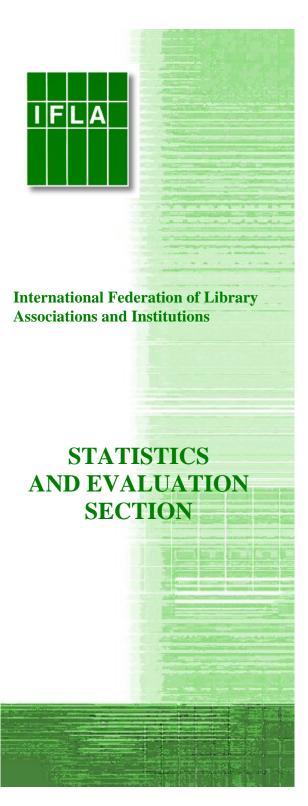
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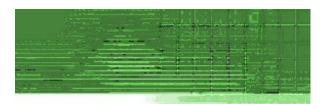IFLA Headquarters
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JOIN THE STATISTICS AND EVALUATION SECTION

1. To exchange information and professional practice on an international level, meeting with colleagues from different countries;

2. To share practical, relevant experience on service evaluation;

3. Because librarians have an increasing need for statistics and evaluation to manage their libraries and promote their services.

Revised 2003

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

STATISTICS AND EVALUATION SECTION

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Scope

The section aims to promote the use of measurement and evaluation in the management, operation and promotion of libraries and library services. It advocates the use of both quantitative and qualitative statistical and other methods and tools to achieve this.

It promotes the development and use of standardized measures and good practice. It aims to co-operate with, to assist and to advise other IFLA sections in the use of measurement and evaluation in their fields.

It takes an interest in international benchmark comparisons and supports collaboration with international agencies such as UNESCO and ISO.

STATISTICS AND EVALUATION SECTION

Activity

The section's field of interest includes:

- Statistics of all kinds and their definition, standardization, analysis, and interpretation;

- The collection and use of information about library use, users, materials, resources and processes;

- Methods of data collection, including counting, aggregation, correlation, sampling, surveys and transaction logging;

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- Analysis, including specialized statistical techniques, user satisfaction assessment and the use of software packages;

- Uses of such data and analyses in library management and planning, in performance measurement and benchmarking, in longitudinal studies ('time series') and impact studies;

- The publication of results in print and electronic format.