



Memorandum of understanding (MoU)
between

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)
International Reading Association (IRA)
International Board for Books for Young People (IBBY)

The participating organisations, IFLA, IRA and IBBY, acknowledge the intrinsic value and importance of literacy in the widest sense, which is a prerequisite for seeking and accessing of information of any kind, and understanding and making use of it. Literacy is a condition for participative citizenship, social inclusion, the creation of new knowledge, empowerment in the widest sense (personal, vocational, corporate and organisational) and learning for life.

The participating organisations understand that there are different ways of learning, and of developing and sustaining literacy. Education (formal, non-formal and informal), availability of books in the readers' languages; support for local publishing and library programming are complementary sources and enablers of knowledge. They are central pillars to our aims, goals and values.

Literacy, in the widest sense is the ability to make use of various sources of information and improve human quality of life. It includes the ability to locate, evaluate and effectively use information in multiple manners. Literacy is lifelong process, seeking continuous update. Working for lifelong literacy ranges therefore from the youngest member of the human family to the oldest age groups.

Education and access to information as human rights include the right to literacy as a precondition.

Our commonality is the role of literacy in society.

In order to live up to these affirmations, we agree to work together on:

- formalisation of partnerships among IFLA, IRA and IBBY through:
- establishing associated status with each other, based on our common interests, and on maximization of each others' strengths, to enhance our effectiveness and outreach.

We therefore agree to work on practical modalities which include:

- One free registration for one representative in each others' conferences:
 - IFLA: World Library and Information Congress (WILC)
 - IRA: Annual Conference, World Congress (bi-annual)
 - IBBY: World Congress
- Exchange of expertise
- Joint statements, declarations, manifestos etc.
- Joint advocacy and support for each others' advocacy activities
- Joint research activities
- Joint workshops and/or training sessions

- Joint projects
- Joint publications
- Links to each other on the websites of our organisations.

Agreed by

Kay Raseroka, president of IFLA

Richard Allington, president of IRA

Peter Schneck, president of IBBY

Zagreb, August 2, 2005

Proposal for concrete action

Based on discussions of the presidents of IBBY, IFLA and IRA, and James Wile (Director of International Development, IRA)

On the occasion of the 14th European Conference on Reading, Zagreb, August 2, 2005

To follow up the **Memorandum of Understanding** between IFLA, IRA and IBBY, the following concrete action is proposed:

1. Establish a committee of representatives from the three organisations, based on our common interests, to work on priority activity and consider how public and school libraries in Africa can be enhanced:
 - a. to support literacy
 - b. to facilitate the development and the availability of materials of high quality and at appropriate levels, in languages that children understand and which support local publishing.
2. Participating organisations provide seed financing, e.g. 5000 US dollars to facilitate the projects proposed by the Committee.
3. The seed funding would be the basis on which matching grants would be sought from organisations with interest in literacy, e.g. Rotary.

Operational issues

The Executive Directors will be responsible for the financial and administrative issues of the agreed projects.

Time frame for discussion by appropriate Committees:

IBBY Committee: September 2005

IFLA Executive Board/Governing Board: August 2005

IRA Committee: September 2005.