



FINAL REPORT
Based on the discussion of the
«IFLA Trend Report 2022»
As part of the VI International Forum
«Shaping the Future of Libraries»
Topic of the year: «CIS Libraries in the Global Context»
Moscow, Library for Foreign Literature
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The report was created by:

Svetlana Gorokhova, Adviser to Director General, Library for Foreign Literature, Academic secretary, V. Mayakovsky Library, Chair, RLA Section for International Cooperation; IFLA CPDWL SC Member

Daria Belyakova, Head, Center for Library Science and Professional Interaction, M. I. Rudomino All-Russia State Library for Foreign Literature, Moscow, Russia, Deputy Chair, RLA Section for International Cooperation; IFLA CPDWL SC Member

Olesya Gamidova, Head Librarian of the Art Literature Department of the National Library of the Komi Republic;

Olga Kostina, Director of the Novosibirsk Regional Library for Children;

Daria Rytseva, Head of the Library Research Department of the Central City Library of Ufa;

The translation of the document "IFLA Trend Report 2022" was carried out by the IFLA Russian Language Regional Center at the Russian State Library (RSL) led by **Irina Gayshun**, Vice-Director of Department and Head of the RSL International Division.

INTRODUCTION

100 librarians from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries discussed the document ["IFLA Trend Report 2022"](#) in Moscow, Russia, on April 20th, 2023. The discussion took place as part of the VI International Forum "Shaping the Future of Libraries" at the M. I. Rudomino All-Russian State Library for Foreign Literature with topic of the year "Commonwealth Libraries in the Global Context".

Russian Library Association (RLA) Section on International Cooperation took the initiative to organize the event, which was supported by the M. I. Rudomino All-Russian State Library for Foreign Literature and the Russian-language center of IFLA at the Russian State Library, with financial assistance provided by the The Intergovernmental Foundation for Educational, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation of the CIS states (IFESCCO).

Leaders and specialists from libraries of various types located in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries (Russia, Azerbaijan,

Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan) participated in the meeting: public libraries at the national, regional, and municipal levels, as well as research, university, and special libraries. The event featured prominent national professional associations such as the Russian Library Association, the National Library Association «Libraries of the Future» , members and consultants of IFLA sections standing committees, as well as representatives of the publishing industry and journalists.

30% of the discussion participants were young specialists (under 35 years old) who participated in the International Forum "Library Dialogue of the CIS countries" from national and regional libraries of Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Russian libraries were represented by young specialists from the following regions: Ekaterinburg, Krasnoyarsk, Murmansk, Nizhny Novgorod, Novosibirsk, Pskov, Saratov, Ulyanovsk, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Bashkortostan, the Republic of Komi, Tatarstan, the Chechen Republic, and the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics.

The hosts of the event proposed to the leaders of the library field in the CIS countries to comment on 11 recommendations for the professional community and their relevance to the current state of the industry, based on the structure of the "IFLA Trend Report 2022" document that reflected the main directions formulated in the IFLA mission - inspire, engage, enable, and connect. (Appendix 1).

The meeting was moderated by **Svetlana Gorokhova**, Adviser to Director General, Library for Foreign Literature, Academic secretary, V. Mayakovsky Library, Chair, RLA Section for International Cooperation;

The following specialists acted as facilitators of the discussion: **Albina Krymskaya**, PhD, Associate Professor of the Department of Media Studies and Literature of the St. Petersburg State University of Culture, Chair, IFLA Section on Education and Training (SET); **Svetlana Tarasova**, Director, Novosibirsk State Regional Research Library, President, Novosibirsk Regional Library Society, **Irina Mikhnova**, Director, The Russian State Library for Young Adults (RSLYA), **Oksana Knizhnikova**, Director General, National Library of Belarus.

The recommendations for the professional community were further discussed in four working groups:

Track «Inspire». Recommendations 1 – 3

Moderated by: **Maria Belokolenko**, Deputy Director General, Library for Foreign Literature;

«Engage». Recommendations 4 – 5

Moderated by: **Lyubov Kazachenkova**, General Director, Editor-in-Chief - Publishing and Consulting Center, "Modern Library" magazine, SC Member of the RLA Section for International Cooperation;

«Enable». Recommendations 6 – 9

Moderated by: **Maria Ponomarenko**, Head of the Center for Children Literature and Programs of the Library for Foreign Literature;

«Connect». Recommendations 10 – 11

Moderated by: **Daria Belyakova**, Head, Center for Library Science and Professional Interaction, M. I. Rudomino All-Russia State Library for Foreign Literature, Moscow, Russia, Deputy Chair, RLA Section for International Cooperation;

After the discussions, the forum's participants presented the outcomes of the work conducted in the four groups. Group speakers shared their findings, which were based on the responses to three key questions:

1. Are these recommendations relevant to the library industry in your country/countries?
2. What actions can libraries take to implement these recommendations?
3. What additional recommendations do you suggest for the development of the library industry (related to the topic of the group's work)?

GROUP WORK RESULTS

«INSPIRE». Recommendations 1 – 3

1. We need to see libraries as players in a wide variety of activity areas

2. We should be more open in where and how we engage in advocacy, making a wider variety of issues our own
3. We should intensify and make more effective our own advocacy efforts

Are these recommendations relevant to the library industry in your country/countries?

Recommendations are relevant to the library industry in CIS countries

What actions can libraries take to implement these recommendations?

- Engage with different social groups to promote modern library services.
- Promote regional studies to boost the region's tourism potential through activities like library tourism and cultural branding of territories.
- Increase engagement with local communities through social media.
- Contribute to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, including the promotion of environmental awareness among the local population.

What additional recommendations do you suggest for the development of the library industry (related to the topic of the group's work)?

- Regularly analyze the challenges and issues faced by the local community.
- Identify the library's priorities based on the needs and issues of the local community.
- Allocate library resources efficiently based on the identified priorities.

«ENGAGE». Recommendations 4 – 5

4. We need to adopt a broad definition of our field, and ensure that being part of it is synonymous with action
5. We must see outreach as key to achieving our missions

Are these recommendations relevant to the library industry in your country/countries?

Recommendations are relevant to the library industry in CIS countries

What actions can libraries take to implement these recommendations?

- Establish user and library staff joint communities to facilitate the exchange of ideas and practical experience among readers and professionals, in order to develop the library informational and educational activities.
- Restore the institute of mentoring to encourage younger generation to learn leadership skills from their elders.
- Strengthen volunteers involvement into the library informational and educational initiatives.

What additional recommendations do you suggest for the development of the library industry (related to the topic of the group's work)?

- Actively engage government and public decision makers in order to address industry-related issues.
- Collaborate with business entities willing to assist and support the development of libraries.
- Expand the network of partners and involve volunteers.
- Restore the institute of mentoring within the library industry.
- Foster the establishment of regional professional associations and societies/

«ENABLE». Recommendations 6 – 9

6. We need to feel that we can shape the future

7. We need to embrace and share innovation

8. We need to see ourselves as a core part of the education infrastructure

9. We need to support emerging leaders as a core plank of sustainability, while also seeing that we all have potential to develop

Are these recommendations relevant to the library industry in your country/countries?

Recommendations are relevant to the library industry in CIS countries. The participants of the work group share the consensus that librarians and library users possess the capacity to shape the future and how it is perceived.

What actions can libraries take to implement these recommendations?

- Develop a communication system that connects readers, library staff, and employees of other cultural institutions.
- Constantly explore new communication opportunities, staying attuned to the interests of our audience and bringing people together.
- Foster collaboration with librarians from different regions and countries, as well as partners from cultural, scientific, and educational institutions. This collaboration is crucial for institutions that engage with people, creating a positive mindset for citizens worldwide.
- Create avenues for informal education that extend beyond traditional courses, encompassing educational and cultural events that promote reading and popularize library practices.
- Facilitate the transfer of professional skills among staff members, ensuring continuity. This support for professional development strengthens the resources of libraries, including human, intellectual, and innovative capabilities.

What additional recommendations do you suggest for the development of the library industry (related to the topic of the group's work)?

- Broaden the library's concept beyond being a mere information provider, emphasizing its role as a space for personal growth, self-fulfillment, and meaningful intellectual exchanges.
- Position the library as an active participant, actively engaging with the local community and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, to create an environment conducive to high-quality intellectual conversations and informal learning opportunities for individuals.

«CONNECT». Recommendations 10 – 11

10. We must make connecting with others in our field an integral part of our practice

11. We should invest seriously in our connections with partners and supporters

Are these recommendations relevant to the library industry in your country/countries?

Recommendations are relevant to the library industry in CIS countries. The participation of library specialists in methodological events and their membership in professional associations contribute to the professional exchange. For young professionals, active involvement in youth professional organizations holds significant value.

Libraries actively collaborate with municipal administrations, ministries of education and culture, youth policy and sports organizations, social support organizations, representatives of various religious groups, business entities, media outlets, as well as respected figures in their respective regions.

What actions can libraries take to implement these recommendations?

- Enhance collaboration with national diaspora, religious denominations, and social support organizations.
- Exercise outreach, going outside the library walls by organizing events in partnership with other organizations, becoming an integral part of the social fabric in various regional communities.
- Ensure equal opportunities for all library users in terms of access to information, intellectual leisure, informal education, self-development, and self-fulfillment.

What additional recommendations do you suggest for the development of the library industry (related to the topic of the group's work)?

- Ensure a seamless transfer of professional experience through mentoring.
- Facilitate regular training for both young professionals and long-term practitioners in the field.
- Advocate for improved material and technical support for libraries in Russia and other CIS countries.
- Promote equal opportunities for libraries of all types, categories, and regions to actively engage with national and international professional associations. This includes access to methodological events and educational resources through both in-person and distant participation.

GLOBAL CONVERSATION

This report has been prepared on behalf of the library community of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries by the M.I. Rudomino All-Russia State Library for Foreign Literature and the RLA Section for International Cooperation on May 5, 2023. The report is part of the global discussion initiated by IFLA to enhance the effectiveness of library services, improve access to information and cultural heritage resources, advocate for libraries, support the professional development of library specialists, and promote international collaboration in exchanging professional experiences. The outcomes of the discussion will contribute to the study of trends in library development by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and will be widely disseminated within the global professional community.

Appendix 1

Recommendations for our field

1. We need to see libraries as players in a wide variety of policy areas
2. We should be more open in where and how we engage in advocacy, making a wider variety of issues our own
3. We should intensify and improve our own advocacy
4. We need to adopt a broad definition of our field, and ensure that being part of it is synonymous with action
5. We must see outreach as key to achieving our missions
6. We need to feel a sense of agency in the face of the future
7. We need to embrace and share innovation
8. We need to see ourselves as a core part of the education infrastructure
9. We need to support emerging leaders as a core plank of sustainability, while also seeing that we all have potential to develop
10. We must make connecting with others in our field an integral part of our practice
11. We should invest seriously in our connections with partners and supporters