



GLOBAL VISION DISCUSSION

Report of the **Thai Library Team** meeting

Organized by Thai Library Association

Under the Royal Patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and
Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University

*“How a united library field can tackle the
challenges of the future.”*

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Contributors

This report was created by:

Chutima Sacchanand	Suwakhon Siriwongworawat	Prachark Wattananusit	Namtip Wipawin
Suchit Suvaphab	Poolsook Priwatworawute	Tassana Hanpol	Pimrumpai Premsmrit
Chirayoo Dasri	Rungtip Hovanotayan	Kingkaew Aumsri	Pintima Lertsomboon
Napalai Tongpan	Kanokkorn Kamolpechara	Winai Mahamad	Natrapapintr Benjawong
Panisa Pannoi	Komdech Boonprasert	Pranee Asvapoositkul	Umaporn Pradipaphalin
Pisut Srirachan	Piyada Yidchung	Yutthana Aiyaraprote	Juree Sangkapinyo
Ratchana Sripan	Watinee Khemakarothai	Jirawan Sriwong	Thanarak Muangkasem
Napaporn Aiemngam	Pronpen Khayandee	Jutharat Sarawanawong	Areerak Phoungpanthong
Mingkwon Koychuen	Nawarat Panyagam	Ngampen Yawong	Pattinun Lusawatdikul
Sudarath Klamdee	Vassana Ngamduangjai	Amphika Nanthikanjana	Supaporn Somjit
Punnapa Suksakhon	Prasittichai Lertratanakehakarn	Wanassua Disyabutra	Sorapon Khasaard
Narumol Ruenwai	Soysana Junsiriwattanakun	Rinsiri Tongkam	Payom Yuvasuta
Thanit Suksasan	Nonglak Chompupatipong	Somma Ongchum	Kunwadee Numtong
Kanlaya Srisumrit	Uraiwan Phohpaen	Piyada Jaoad	Warunee Lumyong
Thanchanok Rithimas	Warunya Weerawattanawong	Sorawee Hongnoi	Angsana Kerdboonsong



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Introduction

On 4 August 2017, in Thailand, 60 librarians and information professionals participated in a conversation about how a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future. Together we represent 1137 years of library experience.

The participants in this workshop are from 6 groups of representatives in Thai library community such as :-

10 delegates from the National Library of Thailand,

12 delegates from the public library group,

12 delegates from the school library group,

10 delegates from the university library group

6 delegates from the special library group

And 10 delegates from faculty members in 7 universities.

This workshop organizes by the Thai Library Association (TLA) under the Royal Patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University to share the ideas about the how a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future. Before organizing the workshop, TLA also runs a survey to find out what people in the Thai library community think about their future library, 342 people in the survey share similar views. Every library group contributes the answers for these questions by saying that we care for the learning lifestyle of future users and we will adapt ourselves to build the future library as their happy home for reading and learning by using library space and virtual space. We keep working more for digital preservation of cultural and national knowledge for future generation with collaboration and networking.

A vision for libraries

*Libraries enable literate, informed and participative societies. When we look at the future, according to the debates in Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, this means that *the libraries in this world are immortal. Libraries are an accessible source of factual information, where people come to find the truth. Libraries are inclusive community centres where all voices are represented. To make this vision reality, librarians feel part of a global community where they exchange ideas and help each other overcome challenges.**

The core values of libraries (Q4):

- | |
|---|
| 1. Service mind with equal quality services for all |
| 2. Lifelong learning place for all |
| 3. Community engagement |
| 4. Teamwork |
| 5. Sharing resources and collaboration |

Comments:

The Library believes that an atmosphere of inspiration and creativity is the core success to the knowledge center and knowledge sharing. Reading promotion for lifelong learning with service mind is important for library collaboration.

Libraries are exceptionally good at (Q5):

-
1. *Being proactive librarians and information professionals*
 2. *Organizing library resources to enhance research and innovation*
 3. *Providing safe and comfortable place*
 4. *Free access to all*
 5. *Reading promotion and learning support*
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Comments:

The library provides free information services to people in the community with proactive and professional ability. Managing cultural heritage information and local information management in any forms. The library is the learning space and home for the community.

Libraries should do more of (Q6):

-
1. *Collaboration, partnership and sharing resources*
 2. *Improve spaces such as working space, maker space, learning space*
 3. *Increase readers and digital literacy*
 4. *Training for staff in IT skill*
 5. *Leadership skill*
-

Comments:

The library is a reading clinic and information forum for readers in the community. Advocacy from the administrators is the priority as well as partnership in reading materials. Digital preservation can enhance the accessibility of rare books and special collections. Maker space for knowledge sharing can increase readers and innovators in the future.

Libraries should do less of (Q7):

1. *Restrictions and rules*
2. *Duplicate work and duplication*
3. *Being passive and negative with ego.*
4. *Resist change in collection development and cataloging*
5. *Manual work*

Comments:

The passive and negative attitude of librarians and library staff affect the reputation of library services. The outdated collections and materials as well as duplication should be more concern. Update information needs to be displayed to use in their daily life.

Challenges and solutions

The main challenges to society (Q8):

1. *Illiteracy to access to unreliable information*
2. *Aging society*
3. *Sufficient economy*
4. *IT development such as search engine, e-learning, e-commerce*
5. *Digital divide and economic divide*

Comments:

How to promote information and digital literacy for library users in the community and promote reading habits are the main challenges to Thai society. Therefore, library and IT training are needed as well as increasing knowledge for sufficient economy.

The main challenges to libraries (Q9):

1. *Insufficient budget*
2. *Change in Users' expectations and lifestyle*
3. *More partnership and reading network*
4. *Improve IT skill in library services*
5. *Increase library users and build more attractive library space*

Comments:

Building the future library with the concept of universal design can meet the users' lifestyle and their expectation. Digital technology involves with library and information management to improve IT skills of library and information professionals. Information, technology and learning culture are the core challenges to develop reading ability of users in libraries.

How a united library field can make a difference!

How should a united library field help meet the challenges identified (Q11)?

1. Supporting advocacy and bargaining power
2. Sharing resources and managing budget effectively
3. Professional Staff development
4. Increase accessibility
5. Networking

Comments:

More knowledge resources comes from more collaboration by the Mutual Of Understanding (MOU) and the working group to share the same goal. Collecting the expertise in library collection and staff of web portal can also support the knowledge sharing and the policy of open access. Strong library association with strong library groups bridge the strong library community.

The characteristics of a united library field (Q12):

1. Virtual and digital library
2. World knowledge repository
3. Web portal with world library exchange center
4. Networking with local and international collaboration
5. One click for all knowledge

Comments:

Library as home of knowledge in the community which can be access to the cultural knowledge to support entrepreneurs in digital economy. One click for all knowledge comes from the library network and collaboration. It is the place for knowledge, peace and happiness.

A global conversation

This report is created in an interactive process, in Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, Thailand, on Friday 4 August 2017. It is part of a global conversation initiated by IFLA on how a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future.

IFLA Global Vision Discussion in Thailand, 4 August 2017



TLA Executive Board Members





Opening session



Meeting with group facilitators



Library Discussion





Library Discussion





Library discussion





Every voice must be heard.





Spirit of teamwork ! Together we create the future !







Holding hands to empower our library future.





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