



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

How a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future – Ideas for actions

8 July 2018



In the meeting room

Contributors

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At the In front of the Thai Library Association (TLA)



Group 1



Group 4



Group 2



Group 5



Group 3



presentation

Index

Contributors	2
Index	4
Introduction.....	5
About the participants.....	5
Opportunities for the country and region.....	6
Priorities for the country	6
Priorities for the region	7
Ideas for action.....	8
Ideas for action for opportunity 1: We must be champions of intellectual freedom	8
Ideas for action for opportunity 2: We must update our traditional roles in the digital age	9
Ideas for action for opportunity 4: We must keep up with ongoing technological changes	9
Ideas for action for opportunity 5: advocacy	10
Ideas for action for opportunity 7: collaboration.....	11
A global conversation	12

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 สมุดเพื่อพร้อมเผชิญกับทศวรรษที่ภายในอนาคต" ที่สมาคมฯ เขตบางกะปิ เทน.

Introduction

On 8 July 2018, in Thailand, 42 librarians and information professionals participated in a conversation about how a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future-Ideas for actions. This meeting was hosted by the Thai Library Association (TLA) under the Royal Patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. Together all participants represent 1,031 years of library experience.

We built on the results from phase 1 of the conversation to gather ideas for actions for IFLA that help a united field tackle the challenges of the future. This is our contribution to **the largest ideas store of actions.**

About the participants

The participants in the workshop are divided by experience in the field in the following way:

Years of experience in libraries	Number of participants
1-10 years of experience	5
11-20 years of experience	9
21-30 years of experience	12
31+ years of experience	16

Each participant shared in which type of library they have most experience:

Years of experience in libraries	Number of participants
National Libraries	8
Academic and Research Libraries	18
Public Libraries	2
School Libraries	4
Special Libraries	8
Vocational Education and Technology Libraries	2
Not a librarian	-

Opportunities for the country and region

In phase 1 of IFLA's global vision discussion, ten opportunities have been discovered for the library field. These opportunities are global. Regionally, nationally, and locally, there are differences in which opportunities take priority. In the meeting, we debated the top opportunities for Thailand and Asia Oceania.

Priorities for the country

The participants identified the following top-3 among the opportunities for the country:

[LIST THE TOP-3 OPPORTUNITIES IDENTIFIED. INCLUDE THE OPPORTUNITY NUMBER]

- **1.** **We must be champions of intellectual freedom**
Equal and free access to information and knowledge depends on freedom of expression. Libraries' role in ensuring this needs to be better understood.
- **2.** **We must update our traditional roles in the digital age**
To support learning, literacy and reading meaningfully in a digital age, libraries must adapt continuously. Services, collections and practices must develop to meet changing user expectations.
- **4.** **We must keep up with ongoing technological changes**
Ensuring all libraries have the right tools, infrastructure, funding, and skills to seize the opportunities provided by digital innovations is a pressing need.

Comments:

We divided our participants into 5 groups. Opportunity 2 was considered, then selected by all groups (5 groups). Opportunities 1, 4 were considered, then selected by 3 groups. Therefore, the top-3 among the opportunities for the country-Thailand are 1, 2, 4.

Priorities for the region

The participants identified the following top-5 among the opportunities for the region:

[LIST THE TOP-5 OPPORTUNITIES IDENTIFIED. INCLUDE THE OPPORTUNITY NUMBER]

- **1.** **We must be champions of intellectual freedom**
Equal and free access to information and knowledge depends on freedom of expression. Libraries' role in ensuring this needs to be better understood.
- **2.** **We must update our traditional roles in the digital age**
To support learning, literacy and reading meaningfully in a digital age, libraries must adapt continuously. Services, collections and practices must develop to meet changing user expectations.
- **5.** **We need more and better advocates at all levels**
Everyone in the field needs a deeper understanding of the need for advocacy to improve perceptions and ultimately achieve our goals. Every librarian an advocate.
- **7.** **We need to develop a spirit of collaboration**
Understanding and addressing actual and perceived barriers to collaboration will help end a tendency to work in isolation, and realise the vision of a united library field.
- **9.** **We need to maximise access to the world's documentary heritage**
As a united field we must apply innovative practices and tools, share expertise and resources, and advocate for solutions to legal and funding challenges, to give access to the works we safeguard.

Comments:

We divided our participants into 5 groups. Opportunities 1, 2, 7 were considered, then selected by 4 groups. Opportunities 5, 9 were considered, then selected by 3 groups. Therefore, the top-5 among the opportunities for the region-Asia Oceania are 1, 2, 5, 7, 9.

Ideas for action

To realise the opportunities for our country, we focused on creating ideas for actions. These ideas will be entered into the ideas store for action of IFLA. Our recommended actions for each of the top-3 opportunities and the specially highlighted opportunities 5 (advocacy) and 7 (collaboration) are:

Ideas for action for opportunity 1: We must be champions of intellectual freedom

The top-5 ideas for action we as librarians could consider to realise this opportunity in our country are:

1. **The knowledge network/profession network should be connected to be accessed conveniently, quickly and free of charge.** Everybody must be able to access the network equally with the same direction, without any barrier. It would be good if the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society is the host of this idea.

2. **This opportunity should be set to be the national policy in order to be the national actions.** It can be the strategies of the government or the ministry concerned. Everybody will see and realize the importance. The policy is the starting point to the sustainable actions. We can start this idea via profession association.

3. **The knowledge bases of the communities should be implemented to become the national bases.** The knowledge of communities is various and different. It is knowledge learning and sharing. The community knowledge bases will lead to intellectual freedom. Each community should have or create its knowledge base.

4. **All sectors concerned should have collaboration, advocacy and campaign to achieve this opportunity physically.** The collaboration will lead to the success.

5. **There should be various and free services, information literacy promotion, and information access.** Everybody must have skills of information literacy in order to be able to access information for they are important in learning. The skills of information is the foundation of learning and information access. The curriculum on this matter should be set.

Comments:

More ideas for action for opportunity 1: Resource sharing, strong library networkings-we will have many types and levels of networks without limitation, the most important is the national library network which has only one, and under the supervision of the prime minister or deputy prime minister, national policy for intellectual freedom, rights of free information access.

Ideas for action for opportunity 2: We must update our traditional roles in the digital age

The top-5 ideas for action we as librarians could consider to realise this opportunity in our country are:

1. Providing modern and update technologies to use in the library field. Revising and improving the library roles to be compatible with technologies. Arranging the activities for the users to take part in.

2. Creating the collaboration between the library field and other professional councils/associations. Bringing multidisciplinary knowledge for library development. Creating the innovation of information technology to operate the library field and professional staff.

3. Surveying and evaluating user satisfaction and expectation from library. The results will be used to improve services, libraries, and librarians. The library can adapt to keep pace with changes. The library roles can be adapted to match the user expectation.

4. Training the library users and promoting the library use. The users can access the library resources quickly and correctly. They will know how to search information, searching tools, online information databases of each fields.

5. Revising and improving library and librarian curriculum. It should be update, modern and compatible with global and local socio-cultural context. The important courses which must always have are library use, and reading promotion.

Comments:

More ideas for action for opportunity 2: Increasing the roles of libraries and the knowledge of librarians on digital technology, focusing on proactive action and library marketing, creating library branding, preparing for digital library resources, organising interesting exhibitions to promote the library resources/works, surveying the demands and expectations of the users.

Ideas for action for opportunity 4: We must keep up with ongoing technological changes

The top-5 ideas for action we as librarians could consider to realise this opportunity in our country are:

1. Conserving, preserving, and storing information resources systematically. We should conserve, preserve, and store information resources systematically in order to disseminate to sustainable learning.

2. **Accessing digital knowledge.** Developing the system of accessing digital knowledge without border.

3. **Tools/equipments to access should not be expensive.** They should be cheap and be able to distribute to everybody easily and correctly under the law of the country and other countries.

4. **Teaching/suggesting how to use digital information.** Anybody with any age is available without discrimination.

5. **Network development.** There should be network development, continuous and sustainable collaboration.

Comments:

More ideas for action for opportunity 4: Connecting to many sectors widely, creating networking effectively, keeping up with what's going on in the world quickly, having good management system.

Ideas for action for opportunity 5: advocacy

Five bold actions that are needed for us (as librarians) to improve advocacy for the library field in our country are:

1. **Supporting to access various databases of libraries.** This idea will help users and libraries be able to use information equally.

2. **Holding the conference/training for each type of libraries by the organization or central sector** for meetings, sharing and learning.

3. **Creating professional standards or librarianship professional license** for upgrading the profession and creating academic standards.

4. **Collaboration of knowledge creation and management** for building knowledge line to the organization and distributing knowledge to outside.

5. **Assistance and library cooperation** for creating awareness and contact channels.

Comments:

More bold actions that are needed for us (as librarians) to improve advocacy for the library field in Thailand are: building the library collaborations in terms of body of knowledge promotion, information sharing, which will bring about creating the professional standards, holding trainings. The Thai Library Association is an important organisation in creating professional standards, and library collaborations.

Ideas for action for opportunity 7: collaboration

Five bold actions that we (as librarians) could take to improve collaboration across the library field in our country are:

1. **Organizing the activities promoting information literacy and digital literacy suitable with the context of communities.** This idea wants the communities to have a chance to learn in utilize information and digital to be useful and effective to communities.

2. **Promoting online sharing space of the library/each type of libraries** to be learning resources of the whole libraries in Thailand in terms of online community of practices.

3. **Doing collaborative research project for various library groups,** the results will be applied to develop the libraries and adapted to use with various context.

4. **Competing library innovation project and concerned in terms of co-creation** will bring about the collaboration of innovation creation.

5. **Thai Library association and library groups created library forum stage or up-to-date topics necessary to library development.** This will bring about the national collaboration with the Thai Library Association/library groups as a leading core.

One bold action that we could take as librarians to improve collaboration within our region, is:

Doing collaborative research project in terms of benchmarking will bring about improving and surveying the guidelines of library development with almost similar dimension.

Comments:

Bold actions for library collaboration development in Thailand should focus on strengthening from household, community, and organization concerned in country level. However, there should be national policy promoting a spirit of collaboration both public and private sectors, promoting the various innovation creation, making the people have good image of library and realize the library importance.

As for bold actions for library collaboration development in Asia Oceania, they should be as follows: 1) the activity of comparative study, collaborative learning, better practices or appropriate model finding which can apply to the context of various countries 2) the activity of library association collaboration of each country in order to build the strength to the library association as a leading core.

A global conversation

This report is created in an interactive process in the Thai Library Association, Thailand on 8 July 2018. It is part of a global conversation initiated by IFLA on how a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future, currently in phase 2.

Over the course of two years (2017-2018), IFLA will involve as many librarians and others as possible in this global conversation. Participants are encouraged to continue the conversation in their own networks and organization and share the results with IFLA. In the beginning of 2019, the results of all the workshops and online discussions will be presented to IFLA's GB, which in turn will use the ideas for actions to create concrete strategies, processes and work programmes for the future.

To learn more about the global conversation, and download supporting materials to support your own activities, visit <https://www.ifla.org/globalvision>.

Stay tuned for news about the IFLA Global Vision discussion following [#iflaGlobalVision](https://twitter.com/iflaGlobalVision) and make sure to cast your vote in August when the online voting platform is available on <https://www.ifla.org/globalvision>.

* Additional instructions:

- Please send the report to globalvision@ifla.org not later than 14 days after the meeting
- The report must be written in English
- Before submitting the report, please make sure that all parts highlighted yellow have been replaced by text and/or data and remove any remaining fragments highlighted yellow (such as this one)