



World Library and Information Congress
85th IFLA General Conference and Assembly
24–30 August 2019, Athens, Greece

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INTRODUCTION

All across the globe, libraries play a vital role in informing and educating citizens, developing society and acting to protect access to information in all its forms. Each year, the IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) is held in a different region of the world and offers the opportunity for the press to learn how libraries and librarians support the basic human rights.

2019 marks the first time our congress has come to Greece. Join us to find out about the incredible work happening around the globe.

BACKGROUND

The [International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions \(IFLA\)](#) is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. It is the global voice of the library and information profession. IFLA is an independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit organisation with over 1400 members in over 140 countries.

To advance the interest of IFLA Members, we:

- further accessibility, protection, and preservation of documentary cultural heritage;
- support a library and information profession which anticipates, responds, and continuously innovates to address the needs of communities worldwide;
- drive high standards in library and information services and professional practices;
- encourage widespread understanding of the value and importance of quality library and information services in the public, private and voluntary sectors;
- promote libraries as vital institutions that enhance people's lives and contributes to sustainable development through equitable access to information and knowledge;
- advocate for the best policies for libraries at all levels, through collaboration between headquarters, volunteers and members.

In our professional programmes we build the capacity of our members, and set the professional agenda through development of guidelines, standards, publications and events around the world. IFLA's status as the global organisation for library and information services ensures that our voice is represented through formal relations with the United Nations and other organisations.

IFLA WLIC 2019 Athens, Greece

Congress Theme: Libraries: dialogue for change

The [IFLA World Library and Information Congress](#) is the **international flagship** professional and trade event for the *library and information services sector*. It brings together over 3,500 participants from more than 120 countries. It sets the **international agenda** for the profession and offers opportunities for networking and professional development to all delegates.

It is an opportunity for the host country to **showcase** the status of libraries and information science in their country and region as well as to have their professionals **experience** international librarianship and international relations in a unique way.

The congress also offers an **international trade exhibition** with over 70 exhibitors and an exhibition space of approximately 700 m².

The combined spending of all delegates provides a sizable impact on the local economy of the host city and can be estimated at more than 2 million Euros.

GENERAL INFORMATION

This year's conference is expected to again bring together thousands of participants from more than 120 countries. Between 24 and 30 August, more than 270 individual sessions covering the [broad spectrum of Library and Information Science](#) and its many related fields (copyright, access to information, safeguarding of cultural heritage, development, etc.) will be held in [Megaron Convention Centre](#). A number of high-level officials will also be participating throughout the conference week; see our list of key speakers and key sessions below. In addition, dozens of [satellite meetings](#) and offsite sessions will take place in various locations throughout Greece and its surrounding areas.

REGISTRATION/ACCESS

To register as a media representative, please contact the Congress Secretariat at wlic2019-registration@kit-group.org in order to receive a media registration form. There is no registration fee for accredited media representatives. However, to register as a media representative, you must submit a copy of your official press credentials.

MEDIA INQUIRES

A detailed conference programme is available upon request.

For all media inquiries, please contact:

Louis Takács

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Tel. + 30 697 1841561 (onsite only)
communications@ifla.org

PRESS ROOM

MC 3.3

Megaron Athens International
Conference Centre

KEY SPEAKERS

- **Loukas Tsoukalis**, Professor Emeritus of the University of Athens and President of the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP)
- **Panos Constantopoulos**, Professor of Informatics at the Athens University of Economics and Business
- **Natalia Manola**, Managing Director of OpenAIRE (Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe)



KEY SESSIONS

OPENING CEREMONY: *Libraries: dialogue for change*

25 August 10:30 – 12:00 | Lambrakis Hall

LIVESTREAM

Doors open at 09:30



Glòria Pérez-Salmerón
IFLA President



Gerald Leitner
IFLA Secretary
General



Alexandra Papazoglou
President of the Association
of Greek Librarians and
Information Scientists



Filippos Tsimpoglou
Director General of the
National Library of Greece



Loukas Tsoukalis
Professor Emeritus of the
University of Athens and
President of the Hellenic
Foundation for European
and Foreign Policy

Congress delegates will come together on Sunday, 25 August for the official opening of IFLA WLIC 2019. The main theme of the official Opening Ceremony will reflect the main Congress theme: *Libraries: dialogue for change*.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

- Welcome Remarks by Co-Chairs of the National Committee: Alexandra Papazoglou, President of the Association of Greek Librarians and Information Scientists and Filippos Tsimpoglou, Director General of the National Library of Greece
- Opening Speech by **Glòria Pérez-Salmerón**, IFLA President
- Speech by **Gerald Leitner**, IFLA Secretary General
- Announcement of WLIC 2020
- Cultural Performance by **Sofia Spyratou**
- Keynote Address by **Loukas Tsoukalis**, Professor Emeritus of the University of Athens and President of the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy
- Official Opening by **Glòria Pérez-Salmerón**, IFLA President

KEY SESSIONS

20 YEARS OF THE IFLA INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM STATEMENT: CONSTANCY AND CHANGE

25 August 13:45– 15:45 | Lambrakis Hall

LIVESTREAM

IFLA's Intellectual Freedom statement was adopted 20 years ago this year, underlining the commitment of libraries to fundamental freedoms. In the intervening years, the opportunities to exercise this freedom, as well as the threats to it, have evolved rapidly. New issues and understandings have emerged, forcing libraries to reflect on how their values – as well as the terms of the Statement itself – should be interpreted and applied. To mark the anniversary, IFLA's Advisory Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression is looking at the continued relevance of the statement, and where changes may be necessary in order to reflect the times. Come along and hear both about recent work associated with the Intellectual Freedom Statement – IFLA's Statement on Censorship, and Guidelines on public internet access in libraries – and to hear expert speakers share their views on what intellectual freedom, and its defence, look like today.

IFLA HIGHLIGHTS SESSION

26 August 08:30 – 09:30 | Lambrakis Hall

LIVESTREAM

What's on at IFLA? Get the summary in just 60 minutes! The Highlights Session is opportunity to hear about IFLA's main projects and initiatives, plan your week, and meet the IFLA President, the IFLA Secretary General and the team from IFLA Headquarters.

IFLA PRESIDENT'S SESSION: INSPIRING, ENGAGING, ENABLING, AND CONNECTING THE MOTORS OF CHANGE

26 August 09:30 – 11:30 | Lambrakis Hall

LIVESTREAM

In order to deliver fully and consistently on the potential of libraries as motors of change, a change in our own mindsets and ways of working is needed. IFLA's new strategy provides a framework for achieving this. In her final President's Session, Glòria Pérez-Salmerón will therefore bring together people for a conversation around the different elements of the mission set out in the Strategy. Participants will be able to take part in a conversation about what it means for any organisation to inspire, engage, enable and connect its members and the field it serves. Speakers who themselves have experience in each of these areas will share what they have learned, leading to reflection on how we can, together, deliver on the Strategy, and build a strong and united library field.

Chair: Glòria Pérez-Salmerón, IFLA President

FROM VISION TO IMPLEMENTATION — IFLA'S STRATEGY

26 August 11:45 – 12:45 | Lambrakis Hall

LIVESTREAM

Building on the Global Vision discussion – the biggest and most inclusive conversation ever in the history of our field – IFLA now has a new five-year Strategy. This is very much your Strategy, based on the tens of thousands of contributions to the Global Vision discussion, and the thousands of ideas submitted to the IFLA Ideas Store. It sets a clear vision and direction for the work of our organisation, and all those who engage in it. Yet more than this, it is designed as a reference point, facilitating cooperation and supporting alignment across borders, library types, and levels of work. Indeed, just as it could not have been developed without the contributions of the field, it can only be delivered collaboratively, with the support of associations, institutions and individuals. Come along to this session in order to find out about what's in the Strategy, and how it can help you in your work.

KEY SESSIONS

POSTER SESSIONS

26-27 August 12:00– 14:00 | Exhibition Hall

In the Exhibition Hall, you will find almost 200 unique poster presentations. Together these form a kaleidoscopic and representative overview of library and information initiatives and projects—large and small—from around the world. Posters will be on display in the Exhibition Hall throughout the week and will be presented with authors present during two, two-hour sessions: from 12:00 to 14:00 on Monday and Tuesday—26 & 27 August. The “Best IFLA Poster 2019,” awarded during the Closing Session on Thursday 29 August, will be selected from the posters presented in Athens, by a jury on behalf of the IFLA Professional Committee.

LEGISLATORS’ PANEL: WHAT LAWMAKERS THINK ABOUT LIBRARIES

26 August 13:45– 14:45 | Lambrakis Hall

LIVESTREAM

Libraries depend heavily on the decisions taken in councils, parliaments and ministries. The success of our institutions requires us to understand and win the support of decision-makers. But in turn, libraries are great ways for governments to achieve their own goals in education, culture, health, and across the board. This panel – a first for IFLA – will discuss how people in power see libraries contributing to their agendas, how they perceive libraries in general, and what we can do to ensure that decision-makers go from awareness, to support to action on our behalf.

STRENGTHENING THE GLOBAL VOICE: SECURING THE FUTURE OF LIBRARIES

26 August 14:45– 15:45 | Lambrakis Hall

LIVESTREAM

IFLA is the global voice of libraries, working hard to ensure recognition of, and support for libraries in international discussions. Yet we can only truly secure the future of our institutions by taking action at all levels, in all spaces. As part of its new Strategy, IFLA will be working to make every librarian an advocate through new tools and support. Come along to this session in order to hear more about key IFLA projects over the past year, what they mean for you, and how to use them in your work.

OPEN ACCESS FROM AN ETHICAL AND LEGAL ASPECT

27 August 08:30– 10:30 | Lambrakis Hall

Libraries have the responsibility of providing democratic access to information for the benefit of all. The work of the Open Access (OA) movement has led to major progress in realising this goal in the field of research and scholarship, working to ensure that laws and business models do not stand in the way of the widest possible access. This session is sponsored by IFLA's Advisory Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) and the Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM) Advisory Committee.

KEY SESSIONS

PLENARY SPEAKER: PANOS CONSTANTOPOULOS

27 August 10:40– 11:40 | Lambrakis Hall

Topic: *From the catalogue to the virtual information space*

Panos Constantopoulos is Professor in the Department of Informatics, Director of the MSc Programme in Digital Methods for the Humanities, and former Dean of the School of Information Sciences and Technology, Athens University of Economics and Business. He is also affiliated with the Information Management Systems Institute of the “Athena” Research Centre, where he founded and heads the Digital Curation Unit. He has previously been Professor and Chairman in the Department of Computer Science, University of Crete. He has founded and headed for 12 years the Information Systems Laboratory and the Centre for Cultural Informatics at the Institute of Computer Science, Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas.



IFLA AWARDS PRESENTATION

27 August 12:45 – 13:45 | Expo Pavilion

A number of important IFLA-related awards will be handed out to their recipients during this session, including:

- IFLA Academic and Research Libraries Section Attendance Grants by Sage/Ex Libris
- IFLA PressReader International Library Marketing Award
- IFLA Green Library Award
- IFLA Margreet Wijnstroom Grant
- IFLA Metropolitan Libraries Short Film Award
- Dr. Shawky Salem Conference Grant
- Naseej Conference Grant

Presenter: Barbara Lison, IFLA Treasurer

FROM CONSUMERS TO CREATORS — SUPPORTING NEW VOICES

27 August 16:00– 18:00 | Lambrakis Hall

This session will explore both how libraries are supporting professional creators in different ways, as well as becoming places for more democratic creativity, allowing everyone to fulfil their potential.

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S SESSION: LET'S WORK TOGETHER

28 August 09:30 – 11:30 | Banqueting Hall

The success of IFLA's new Strategy depends on collaboration, not just between traditional partners, but also across sectors, levels, and types of library – a truly united global library field. This can require effort and imagination but promises real benefits in our ability to support literate, informed and participatory societies. With IFLA's President-elect Christine Mackenzie focusing on 'Let's Work Together' as the theme for her presidency, the President-elect's session at WLIC 2019 will offer an opportunity for everyone in the library field to think about the new links they can make, and how to make them work.

KEY SESSIONS

PLENARY SPEAKER: NATALIA MANOLA

28 August 10:40– 11:40 | Lambrakis Hall

Topic: *Open Science Commons: a holistic and ecological view of science*

Natalia Manola is the Managing Director of OpenAIRE (www.openaire.eu), a pan European e-Infrastructure supporting open access in all scientific results and a research associate in “Athena” Research and Innovation Center and the University of Athens, Department of Informatics & Telecommunications. She holds a Physics degree from the University of Athens, and an MS in Electrical and Computing Engineering from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, having worked for several years as a Software Engineer in the Bioinformatics commercial sector.



IFLA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

28 August 16:15 – 18:00 | Lambrakis Hall

During the General Assembly, IFLA members have the opportunity to vote on several strategic issues concerning the Federation.

Agenda:

1. Opening by the President, Glòria Pérez-Salmerón
2. Appointment of Tellers
3. Establishment of a Quorum
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Minutes of the previous meeting, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 28 and 29 August 2018
6. In memoriam of those members who have died during the past year
7. Presentation of the Report of the President
8. Presentation of IFLA's Annual Report by the Secretary General
9. Presentation of the Annual Accounts by the Treasurer
10. Formal announcement of the Results of the Postal Ballot for the Election of President-elect and for places on the Governing Board by the Secretary General
11. Motions and Resolutions
 - 11.1 Motion to approve the holding of the next General Assembly in August 2020 (Art 8.2 of the Statutes refers)
 - 11.2 Motion to approve Membership fees 2019-2021
 - 11.3 Motion to hold the election of the 10th member of the Governing Board
12. Motion to adjourn and reconvene at 16:15 on Thursday, 29 August 2019

Note: The General Assembly reconvenes at the Closing Session (Session 276) at 16.15 on Thursday, 29 August

LIGHTNING TALKS

29 August 08:30 – 10:30, 11:45-12:45, 14:45-15:45 | Skalkotas

Many voices, many perspectives, just five minutes to share a story. After a successful launch in Kuala Lumpur, we're excited to be bringing Lightning Talks back to WLIC this year. Over three sessions, 25+ speakers from around the world and across the library field will be challenged to share a glimpse into innovative projects with Congress delegates in just five minutes.

Full schedule: 2019.ifla.org/conference-programme/5-minute-lightning-talks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGIES IN LIBRARIES

29 August 08:30 – 10:30 | Lambrakis Hall

LIVESTREAM

Libraries have long played a leading role in providing democratic access to new technologies for accessing and using knowledge. In doing so, they help ensure that technological advances do not leave anyone behind. From access to 3D printers and support for text and data mining in research settings for patrons, to the role that blockchain and artificial intelligence can play in support of better back-end services, innovation is a key part of the lives of libraries. Yet keeping up with change raises new legal challenges. The session will explore key legal aspects around disruptive technologies that libraries are – or should be – thinking about. This session is sponsored by IFLA's Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM) Advisory Committee.

LIBRARY LOVE STORIES

29 August 10:45 – 12:45 | Lambrakis Hall

LIVESTREAM

Would you fall in love in a library? Can a place of culture, knowledge and information be a place of passion? During this 2-hour session, we will address four main issues:

1. Love among users – Are some libraries more suited for people to meet and fall in love? Can libraries and librarians play a role as cultural matchmakers in the community? Can our collections help our users with their love life?
2. Love among librarians – Have you ever fallen in love with a colleague? How should managers deal with a couple in their team? How important are passion and desire in professional relationships?
3. Love between librarians and library users – Can we fall in love on both sides of a reference desk?
4. How do we manage unwanted wooing in the library? When does it become harassment and how do we deal with these situations to protect our staff and patrons? This is a serious issue and it is probably time for us all to address it frankly.

This session is sponsored by IFLA's New Professionals Special Interest Group and the Management and Marketing Section.

CLOSING SESSION

29 August 16:15 – 17:30 | Lambrakis Hall

LIVESTREAM

The General Assembly reconvenes at the Closing Session, where official IFLA Awards (Best IFLA Poster, Most Dynamic Unit, Honours and Premier Awards) will be presented.

Agenda:

1. Address by the President Glòria Pérez-Salmerón
2. Presentation of IFLA Awards
3. Thank you to the outgoing Governing Board
4. Introduction of the incoming Governing Board
5. Announcement of WLIC 2021 location
6. Vote of thanks WLIC 2019
7. Invitation to WLIC 2020 in Dublin, Ireland
8. Address by incoming President, Christine Mackenzie
9. Close of the Assembly

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