



# **Global Horizons, Local Struggles: Defending Democracy and Libraries Beyond Europe**

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9<sup>th</sup> German Library Congress, June 24 - 27, 2025, Bremen

# Libraries: Foundational Pillars of Democracy & Global Growth

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1. Digital Democracy & Inclusion
2. Asian Advancement and Global Recognition
3. Information Access & Transparency



<https://www.scienceandcocktails.org/en/events/copenhagen/%C3%A7>

# Libraries: Advocates for Voices and Partners for Social Justice

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**Freedom of Expression & Diversity  
Preservation**

**Advocating for Minority Rights & Cultural  
Identity**

**Global Collaboration and Regional Impact**

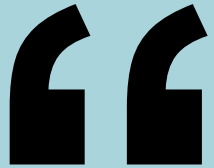


# Facing Adversity: Political Pressures and Their Impact

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These challenges highlight that the fight for **free and open access to information and robust libraries** is a continuous one, even in established democracies. They underscore the universal need for strong library advocacy



- Libraries outside Europe are not just adapting but **leading in innovation**, actively **defending democratic values, supporting human rights, and promoting social justice**, even while navigating unique challenges and universal political pressures.
- Librarianship is founded on universal values. The experiences of libraries, both in triumphs like China and in advocacy efforts in the US, **provide crucial lessons for global collaboration and vigilance.**



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- Libraries, wherever they are, are fundamental pillars that ensure the **free flow of information and that every individual's voice can be heard.** This role is not just about books; it's about **empowering citizens and safeguarding the foundations of democracy.** We must continue to champion and strengthen this vital mission, together, across all global horizons.

# Role of IFLA

## IFLA Strategy 2024-2029

This Strategy takes IFLA beyond its centenary, focusing on the long-term role of libraries in sustainable development, aligned with the UN's 2030 Agenda.



Sustainable Futures for All  
Through Knowledge and  
Information

### OUR VISION

Libraries, their workforce, and associations globally have the capability, contacts, confidence, and resilience to drive inclusive, rights-based sustainable development in a fast-evolving world.

### ENABLER: Future-Proofing IFLA

Ensuring IFLA's governance, projects, and partnerships are effective, transparent, and innovative.

#### Key Points:

- Effective governance -
- Reliable project delivery -
- Investing in IFLA's team -
- A strategy for the long-term -

### IMPACT AREA 1

IFLA'S  
INPUT

We bring together a unique community of members and volunteers, facilitating global exchange, learning, and inspiration.

#### Key Points:

- Dynamic volunteer groups
- Engaged membership
- Active communities of practice
- Influential standards and guidelines
- Spaces for effective connection

Professional communities are  
connected and energised

### IMPACT AREA 3

IFLA'S  
INPUT

We support capacity development, enabling libraries to drive systemic change.

#### Key Points:

- Regionally responsive delivery
- Relevant training and learning
- High-impact library associations
- Opportunities to grow and network

Meaningful change is possible

### IMPACT AREA 2

IFLA'S  
INPUT

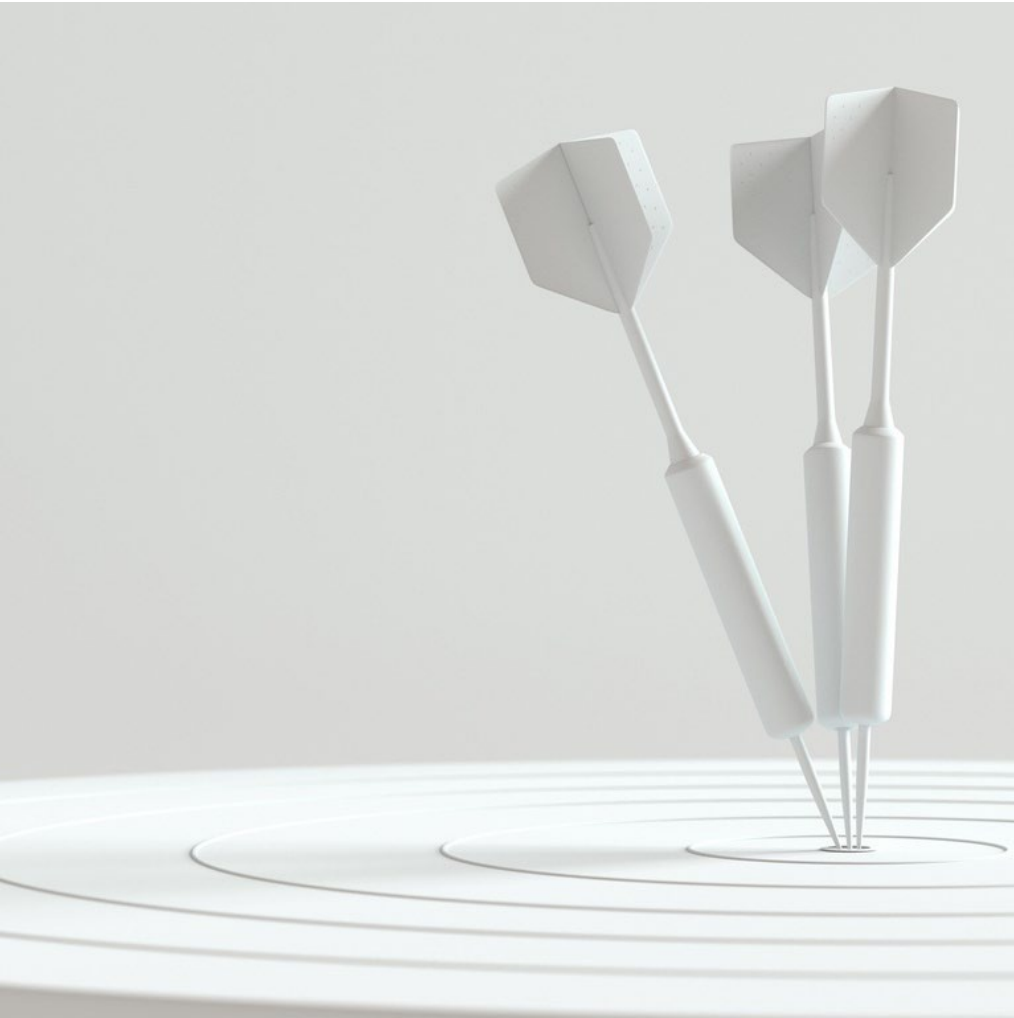
We advocate for libraries at all levels, ensuring they are recognised as vital partners in societal development.

#### Key Points:

- Voice in international policy
- Effective partnerships for delivery
- Thought leadership
- Advocacy resources and skills

Libraries are valued partners

IFLA.org



# Thank you

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***"Where Knowledge Flows, Democracy Grows."***

**— Libraries worldwide are not just preserving the past, but shaping the future.**

Let's continue to advocate, collaborate, and innovate — together.

#WLIC2025 | #LibraryAdvocacy | #GlobalLibraries

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