

**Report on the 2nd Meeting of the Dynamic Coalition on Public Access in Libraries
Wednesday 23rd October 2013, IGF in Bali**

The meeting was chaired by Stuart Hamilton, Director of Policy and Advocacy at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).

Following a welcome (**Agenda item 1**) and introductions the meeting proceeded to review the activities of the PAL-DC since the IGF in Azerbaijan in 2012 (**Agenda item 2**). The 2012-2013 work programme focused on several actions with the following results:

Action	Result
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyse the aims and scope of other IGF Dynamic Coalitions and take contact to explore synergies and collaboration; 	Contact and collaboration established with the DC on Internet Rights and Principles and the DC on Network Neutrality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify active national and regional IGF chapters and events and engage with them to create possibilities to put public access in libraries on their agendas; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Map out the national and regional IGFs, providing this as a resource that is not yet available; 	Library participation at: EuroDIG (Report) Asia Pacific IGF (Report) African IGF (Report) Arab IGF (Report) Workshops on Public Access were held at EuroDIG, APriIGF A workshop on copyright and access was held at EuroDIG
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look into hosting an open forum during IGF 2013; 	The DC co-hosted Open Forum session 59 on Oct 23: IGF Outcome – Recommendations for Global Strategy on better inclusion of vulnerable groups in the Information society, 14.30 – 15.15 [Room 5]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the DC-PAL mailing list to a wider audience and encourage participants to link to the DC-PAL pages on the IGF site; 	Little progress was made in this area – definitely room for improvement.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce and share widely throughout the library community an information sheet about what the IGF is and how to get involved at its various levels; 	New IFLA webpages launched at: http://www.ifla.org/information-society IGF Information at: http://www.ifla.org/node/7406
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare active participation in IGF2013 with partners from other DC's to advance the debate about public access in libraries to other fora and groups; 	PAL-DC representatives presented at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WS 276: Rights Issues for Disadvantaged and Indigenous Peoples, 11.00 – 12.30 [Room 5] – organised by DC on Internet Rights and Principles (Oct 23)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WS 340: Network Neutrality: From Architecture to Norms, 14.30 – 16.00 [Room 4] organised by DC on Network Neutrality (Oct 23) • Focus Session (Access/Diversity): Internet as an engine for growth and sustainable development, 09.30 – 12.30 [Main Hall] (Oct 24) • Focus session on Human Rights, Freedom of Expression and the Free Flow of Information on the Internet, 14.30 – 18.00 [Main Hall] (Oct 24)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose Public Access as a main session theme for the next IGF. 	<p>Submitted proposal earlier in 2013 Also submitted proposal to WSIS+10 review</p>

3. Update on the Beyond Access Campaign

Rachel Crocker (Beyond Access/IREX) updated the meeting on the Beyond Access campaign. Beyond Access is a coalition of 11 organizations (including EIFL and IFLA, organizers of the PAL-DC) supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Beyond Access is committed to the idea that modern public libraries are catalysts for social and economic development. Our approach includes three key components: assembling a community, encouraging dialogue, and forming partnerships.

Beyond Access now has 35 Member teams representing more than 30 countries. In 2013 the initiative brought member teams together at events in Latin America, Asia, and Africa. The events recognized and supported innovative libraries that actively work to improve their communities and that connect access to information with development initiatives and priorities. Through interactive workshops and other activities, the events also encouraged participants to look at best practices for creating bridges between libraries and the government and civil society sectors.

Each event has corresponded with a broader conference related to international development. The most recent event in Asia took place in conjunction with the Internet Governance Forum. These conferences fit into the second component of the Beyond Access approach — working to encourage dialogue on the role of libraries in development. As a result, they help us ensure that libraries are represented in discussions about key policy decisions and document. This includes work with IFLA on advocacy surrounding the Post-2015 development goals.

Finally, with projects in the Philippines, Myanmar, Peru, and Georgia, Beyond Access is demonstrating that libraries are strong, sustainable partners for governments and civil society organizations.

4. Access to information and the Post-2015 Development Framework – Panel and Discussion

The bulk of our meeting took the form of presentations on the process leading to the post-2015 development framework, followed by a discussion among all participants. While the IGF primarily focuses on issues of Internet Governance it clearly has an interest in the use of

ICTs to support development. This topic cropped up across many workshops in Bali, and was discussed in more depth at a Focus Session on the Internet as an Engine for Growth and Sustainable Development on the 24th October where the connection between IGF, WSIS and the Post-2015 process was discussed.

Panellists were:

- Stuart Hamilton, IFLA (Chair)
- Duncan Edwards, ICT Innovations Manager, Knowledge Services Team, Institute of Development Studies (IDS)
- Ari Katz, IREX
- Cedric Wachholtz, Programme Specialist, Communication and Information, UNESCO

The discussion focused on a) the practical processes that will lead to the finalising of the framework, and b) why the post-2015 framework is important to libraries and c) how to ensure that access to information is recognised in the framework as a crucial factor supporting development. To summarize:

A) The Post-2015 Development Framework - Process

Cedric Wachholtz explained the current processes in play. The United Nations is presently reviewing the Millennium Development Goals ([MDGs](#)) so that it can prepare a new development framework for the post-2015 period. The framework will guide developed and developing countries in improving living conditions for citizens. There are several parts to this process:

- The report of the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons (HLP) – delivered [June 2013](#)
- The development of a set of Sustainable Development Goals ([SDGs](#)) by the SDG Open Working Group ([OWG](#)) – mandated by the Rio+20 outcome document and to be delivered in September 2014
- The report of the High-Level Political Forum (formerly the Commission on Sustainable Development) – to be delivered in September 2014
- The report of the Expert Committee on Financing – to be delivered in September 2014

Concurrently, it is reviewing the World Summit on the Information Society Process ([WSIS](#)) to reflect upon its impact and to produce recommendations on WSIS beyond 2015 to the UN Secretary General in September 2014. It is currently thought that the WSIS recommendations will contribute to the Secretary General's thinking regarding any new development framework.

All of the moving parts will feed into UN Member State negotiations starting in September 2014. The negotiations will proceed during the period September 2014 – September 2015 and will lead to an agreement on a new framework to be implemented from January 1st 2016.

The new framework is likely to comprise of a number of goals. UN Member States will be expected to work towards these goals which will contain a number of indicators for measuring progress. Presently, the Report of the HLP is guiding thinking on the areas that

are likely to be covered by concluding that the post-2015 agenda needs to be driven by five transformative shifts:

- Leave No One Behind
- Put Sustainable Development at the Core
- Transform Economies for Jobs and Inclusive Growth
- Build Peace and Effective, Open and Accountable Public Institutions
- Forge a new Global Partnership

B) Importance to Libraries

Ari Katz and Stuart Hamilton picked up the discussion regarding libraries. Whatever the eventual framework looks like, it would be a positive outcome if libraries were able to identify ways to contribute to helping member states achieve the goals. Therefore it is important that libraries are seen as being part of the conversation, and that we gain a profile as an actor who can support the development process. A good outcome would be if access to information is recognised in the framework.

Why? There can be no development without access to information. Libraries provide access to information for all, regardless of their situation. Libraries can work with development practitioners, policymakers and all users to support development in all its forms – in projects, in data collection and dissemination, or in impact evaluation.

A positive outcome from the whole process would be to see libraries engaged as partners in development activities, receiving support from decision makers and continuing to support access to information in all its forms for all users. If at the end of the process the post-2015 framework recognises the role of access to information as a fundamental element supporting development then a concrete space will be opened up for library advocacy in the development sector. All library organisations and institutions will have an opportunity to identify themselves in the framework's language and communicate the value of libraries to users, policymakers and donors, while working to support development through projects, policies and impact evaluation.

IFLA is leading the library efforts relating to the post-2015 development framework and wishes to achieve the following goals:

- Libraries develop a strong, aligned voice on a vision for the post-2015 framework
- The post-2015 framework recognises the role of access to information as a fundamental element supporting development
- The post-2015 framework encourages UN Member State support of the information institutions underpinning development – providing networks, information and human resources – such as libraries and other public interest bodies

IFLA will employ three strategies to achieve its objective:

- IFLA will work with the international library community to develop its position on the post-2015 development framework

- IFLA will work with allies in civil society and the development community to advocate for access to information as an element of the post-2015 development framework
- IFLA will work with Member States to raise awareness of libraries as agents for development access to information in the post-2015 context

As part of the first strategy IFLA has developed a set of [webpages on libraries and development](#) to provide background information for library advocates interested in the post-2015 process. To underpin our policy on the general issue, IFLA has produced [A Statement on Libraries and Development](#).

C) Ensuring Access to Information is incorporated into the framework

The development community has been engaging in the post-2015 process for a considerably longer period than the library community. Duncan Edwards explained to the meeting how difficult it will be to secure a clear goal on access to information, and how many interests are competing to have their priorities included. Despite this, there are many areas where our focus on access to information complements that of other civil society organisations and member states. As part of IFLA's second strategy libraries and development NGOs have been working together to produce a two-page 'ask' to explicitly explain why access to information should be included in the post-2015 framework. Once the 'ask' is finalised we will make it available to the PAL-DC and on the IFLA website.

To begin work on the third strategy and engage with Member States, the 'ask' will be publicly presented for the first time at a side-event at the 6th meeting of the Open Working Group at the UN in New York – on Monday 9th December, 18.15-19.30 EST.

5. The PAL-DC Work Programme for 2014

Before the meeting discussed a potential work programme for 2014 Ellen Broad, the IFLA Manager, Digital Projects and Policy, made a short presentation on the [IFLA Trend Report](#) which was launched in August 2013. The Trend Report could be helpful in identifying areas we wish the PAC-DC to concentrate on. To summarise Ellen's presentation:

What's the Trend Report?

The IFLA Trend Report identifies high level trends shaping the global information environment. The Trend Report doesn't chart the future for libraries; it's a scoping study, in a sense, from which libraries can launch their own discussions. If this is the first time you have heard about the IFLA Trend Report, start by reading the Insights Document, *Riding the Waves or Caught in the Tide? Insights from the IFLA Trend Report*. It synthesizes the enormous amount of information that went into discussions in the twelve months leading up to launch of the report in Singapore. It's a snapshot of the broader IFLA Trend Report, and can be downloaded from the Trend Report platform at <http://trends.ifla.org/insights-document>. The Insights Document poses a number of provocative questions for all sectors working within the 21st century information environment, and considers the implications of technologies like Google Glass, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), increasing government surveillance and censorship alongside increased opportunities for grass roots activism, automated

machine translation, changing concepts of privacy and copyright among consumers, and a wealth of other technological developments.

What can you do with it?

The information environment is evolving rapidly, and libraries are responding to new technological challenges and opportunities. The IFLA Trend Report is your launch pad to discuss developments in your country, in your region, on your libraries. IFLA has created a web platform for libraries to add the outcomes of their discussions to. There's more information at ifla.trends.org on hosting your own discussion. Visit the site and download resources in the event tool kit. Most importantly, let us know what you're doing. Fill out the contact form on the website and tell us when and where your discussion is taking place. Provide links to the website you're promoting your event on. Use the #iflatrends hashtag. Record the discussion, take photos, archive your social media discussions and send a summary to IFLA, to post on the platform – email ellen.broad@ifla.org with your outcomes, and with any questions. Without your input, the platform is just another static resource.

Since launch of the Trend Report in August, IFLA has identified discussions being held in New Zealand; in the United States; in Australia; in Sweden; Norway; Finland; China and the United Kingdom. There's events planned in Latin America next year. The Insights Document has been translated into Spanish, French, Arabic and Norwegian, with translations to come in German, Vietnamese, Chinese, Myanmar and Russian. And don't just involve the library profession – engage with IT industry, technologists, educators, policy makers, lawyers, publishers, creators, digital rights advocates – and consider the broader information environment within which you all operate.

Unfortunately, time was short at the end of the meeting to hold a substantial discussion of priorities. It was decided to hold a consultation with PAL-DC list subscribers about what things the DC should concentrate on over the next twelve months. In closing, Stuart Hamilton recapped that the following are three of the most important issues to consider when we decide on our DC's priorities:

- The [WSIS+10 Review](#) – this ongoing review will see many activities undertaken over the next twelve months, including a high-level event at Sharm el Sheikh in Egypt in April 2014. Will public access to the Internet be incorporated into whatever international policy framework follows WSIS?
- The [Post-2015 Development](#) process – the UN is currently considering a development framework to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Will access to information be considered a key component supporting development?
- Internet governance and the post-Snowden environment – the Internet governance community is currently focused on the [proposed high-level summit](#) (outside of the UN auspices) that Brazil has volunteered to host in April 2014. What can be achieved at this summit, and how much can civil society contribute to any outcomes?

It will be the responsibility of IFLA and EIFL to draft a plan for the DC's activities over the next twelve months. But **the list** input will enable us to consider what issues are important in relation to public access, and suggestions will be taken and incorporated into a set of objectives.

Stuart Hamilton, IFLA
Monika Elbert, EIFL

November 2013