

IGF 2017 Reporting Template

- Session Title: Policy Changes for Public Access

- Date: Tuesday, December 19th

- Time: 12:30

- Session Organizer: IFLA/EIFL

- Chair/Moderator: Esmeralda Moscatelli

- Rapporteur/Notetaker: Stephen Wyber

- List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations:

- Maria Garrido, Senior Researcher at the Technology and Social Change Group (TASCHA) at the University of Washington
- Janet Sawaya EIFL Public Library Innovation Program and advisor for Initiatives for Africa
- Winston Roberts – National Library of New Zealand
- David Ramirez-Ordonez (remotely), librarian, blogger and teacher.

- Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):

- Internet access not only as an economic or technical issue, but one linked to education, social cohesion, human rights and development.
- Public Access in Libraries is as important as ever in bringing the next billions online, both in terms of raw connectivity, and in terms of the support libraries can provide
- Libraries could – and should – tailor their efforts to help everyone benefit, but in turn needed continued investment and support.
- Governments, for example, could set up and use Universal Service Funds, make access to information an explicit part of development plans, protect copyright exceptions, and promote free speech.

- If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each presentation: n/a

- Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session (3 paragraphs):

The debate looked in particular at the role that libraries played in delivering access to information to people with disabilities. Much depended on whether they were able to get hold of accessible format works in the first place, but for example in Cameroon, the Papillion Plan was doing just this in the case of people with albinism. The debate also continued by addressing ways in which public access could be implemented: TV white spaces, Universal Service Funds.

- Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways (3 paragraphs):

The Dynamic Coalition will work over the coming months on a policy toolkit for public access in libraries, building on these discussions. There was a general consensus about finding ways to

increase public access. The discussion centered around the Universal Service Funds as a tool to support creativity. These tools had been tried and tested, at least in some countries, and worked well. We also needed to make the jump from a general recognition that access to information could help drive development – not least in Sustainable Development Goal 16 – to explicit reference to this, and practical inclusion of public access initiatives in development programs. The general A review of connectivity issues on a sample country will be carried out over the year.

Gender Reporting

- Estimate the overall number of the participants present at the session:

30

- Estimate the overall number of women present at the session:

16

- To what extent did the session discuss gender equality and/or women's empowerment?

n/a

- If the session addressed issues related to gender equality and/or women's empowerment, please provide a brief summary of the discussion: