



**International Federation of Library Associations
and Institutions**

Promoting the global information commons:

A statement by the International Federation of Library Associations and
Institutions

- provide an extensive web of internet access points, each supported with advice and training
- offer relevant information in appropriate formats, languages and
- develop literacies and capacity
- support health and education
- advance the position of women
- provide opportunity and choice for children and the benefits of lifelong learning
- promote innovation and economic development
- ensure the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage and diversity
- foster respect and understanding between peoples.

We have three proposals for new wording. First, we propose a new paragraph on financing to appear after paragraph 24 of the operational part of the final document:

“Investment should be applied in partnership with all stakeholders including grass roots communities and civil society and should build on existing infrastructure to create sustainable mechanisms to enable major progress against the goals as quickly as possible.”

Second, in the section ‘Improvements and Innovations of Existing Financing Mechanisms’, the following paragraph should be added:

“We recognise that innovative financial mechanisms that should contribute to bridging the digital divide may rely on lowering the costs of access to information and software resources and on making those resources freely available to all. Such innovative efforts should include:

- a) supporting the implementation of open access initiatives to scientific, technological, cultural and educational information; and
- b) raising awareness about the existence and use of free software, open source software and low-cost proprietary shareware.”

We also have a specific recommendation for an additional clause in paragraph 6 on the achievement of targets and objectives. We suggest the addition of:

“enhancing capacity and sustainable access to content by improving connectivity and otherwise investing in existing infrastructure including the global network of libraries, archives and information services”.

Finally, we invite you to our pre-Summit conference in the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria, Egypt, on 10 and 11 November 2005 at which we will show how libraries and information services around the world are realising the global information society for all.

IFLA, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, thanks you Madam Chair and Delegates for the opportunity to be heard and reminds Delegates of the urgency of applying the financial and human resources of the world to achieving a truly inclusive global information society.

Alex Byrne
President-elect

Contact:

Peter Johan Lor
Secretary General
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)
PO Box 95312, 2509 CH
The Hague, Netherlands
Tel +31 70 31 40 884
Fax +31 70 38 34 827
Email ifla@ifla.org

22 February 2005 