

# ADVOCATING AT IFLA

**T**he manager of Central West Libraries (NSW), JAN RICHARDS, finds great personal and professional satisfaction from being an IFLA committee member.

In IFLA's 89-year history, the Committee on Standards (CoS) is the new kid on the block, having been established in 2012. However, it would be wrong to think that IFLA's standards were a new development. Over the last 50 years, IFLA has produced a wide range of standards in all fields of library and information services, which now form an integral part of IFLA's Strategic Directions.

IFLA standards are internationally reviewed, published and regularly updated documents. Each reflects current consensus on rules, principles, guidelines, best practice or models for a particular activity or service. In their diversity of styles and subject matter, they provide optimum benefit for the international library community.

The CoS was established to provide advice to the IFLA Board and professional units on the strategic and ongoing management of professional standards. The CoS forms the central focus for standards in order to raise the visibility of IFLA's standards within and beyond the IFLA membership, and to manage the development, maintenance, storage and access for all IFLA standards documents.

I was appointed to the committee in 2013 and was almost immediately confronted by the range and complexity of IFLA and related standards. It was also obvious how extensively these standards are used internationally for advocacy, decision-making and project



Jan Richards (right) enjoyed meeting colleagues from around the world at the first Indian Public Libraries Conference in 2015

implementation. IFLA's strength lies in the diversity of interest and expertise among its members and the strong networks to which it belongs. In the multilayered world of standards this is a godsend, and 'collaboration' is the CoS byword, as we work with subject specialists in IFLA's standard development processes to ensure consistent, useable documents.

I admit that I approached the task with some trepidation, but the opportunity to work with the various sections of IFLA in supporting our profession is an honour. 🌟

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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. They now have 1500 Members in approximately 150 countries around the world.

The 83rd World Library and Information Congress will be held in Wrocław, Poland, from 19-25 August 2017.

The website will be launched in August 2016 and you can start registering in October 2016.

You can find out more at [2017.ifla.org](http://2017.ifla.org)

