



Approaching a Century of Leadership

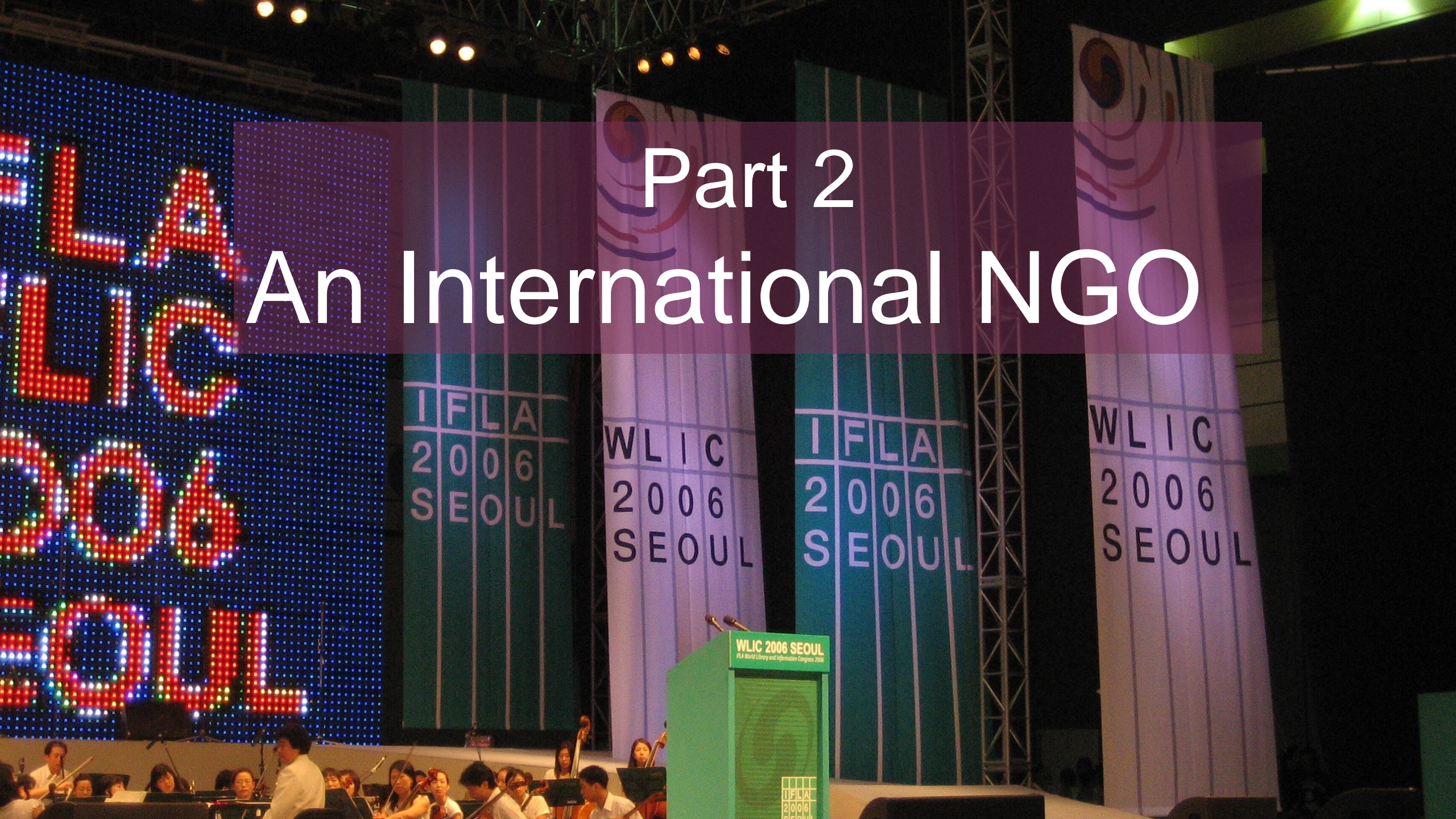
IFLA's journey from a 1920s “gentlemen’s club” to the 21st century “global voice of libraries”

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Part 2

An International NGO





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1. A Fresh Start

- 1945 War ends
- 1945 UN and UNESCO founded
- 1946 May & November: IFLA's Executive meets
- Sponsored by Rockefeller Foundation
- 1947 October: International Library Committee meets (13th annual)
- New President: Wilhelm Munthe
- Sevensma continues as SG



Image: National WW2 Museum, New Orleans,
<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/topics/end-world-war-ii-1945>

2. Partnership with UNESCO

**‘Since wars begin in the minds of men,
it is in the minds of men
that the defences of peace must be constructed’**

— *Constitution of the United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization*

- UNESCO creates Libraries Division
- Headed by Edward J. Carter
- Carter attended IFLA Oslo Session 1947



UNESCO influence

- Formal agreement with IFLA
- IFLA awarded “consultative status”
- Subventions (until 1992) & Grant funding
- Guidance*
- Coordination with other “peak bodies”
- Librarianship in developing countries
- Promoting good library practice



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



3. Professionalization of IFLA

- 1952 Statutes revision: important reorientation
- Focus shifts away from international congresses
- An NGO with permanent head office, staff, programmes
- 1962 Full-time Secretary General (Thompson)
- 1971 Own premises in The Hague
- Expansion of structure (committees, divisions, sections)

4. Growth and Representativeness



IFLA's growth – representativeness?



IFLA Conference participants 1956, S.R. Ranagnathan circled (Photo: IFLA)

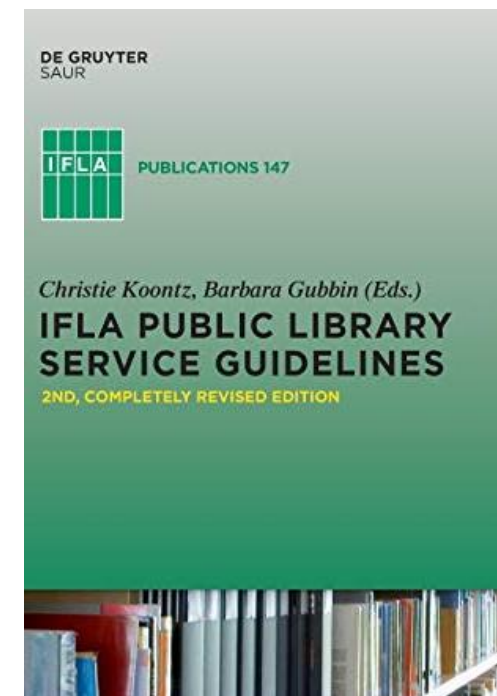
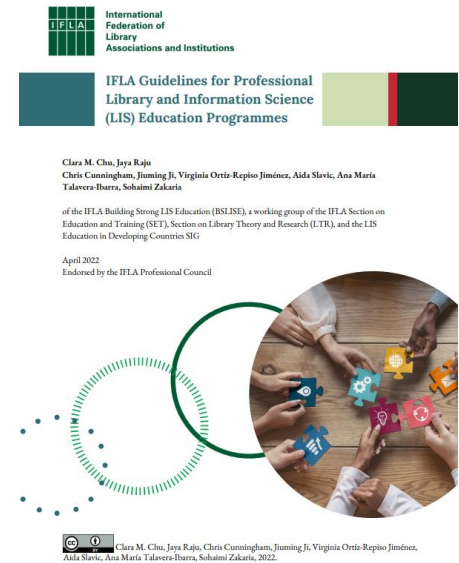
Representativeness

- 1954 Critical article by Ranganathan
- Initial membership 1927: Europe, US & Canada, **China**
- Egypt joined 1936
- 1974: Division of Regional Activities
- 1980: First Conference in Global South: Manila
- Others in Istanbul, Havana, Delhi, Bangkok...
- 1986: ALP → Action for Development through Libraries
- 2000s: Two African Presidents.

MENA region:
20 countries in
IFLA today

5. Professional best practice


- Major thrust since the 1930s: “How to do things good”
- Manifestos, guidelines, standards, manuals, publications
- Library types, services, processes, resources...
- Cataloguing: ISBDs..




6. Advocacy

FAIFE: Advisory Committee on Freedom of Access to Information & Freedom of Expression

- Established 1997
- Broadening IFLA's scope: from technical matters to matters of principle
- Ethical & political-economic issues
- Collaboration with
- IFEX (International Freedom Expression Exchange); Index on Censorship; Article 19, etc.



IFLA Advisory Committee
on Freedom of Access to Information
and Freedom of Expression



**INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS FOR
AUTHORS, PUBLISHERS, BOOKSELLERS
AND LIBRARIES CALL FOR KEY
FREEDOMS TO BE RESPECTED**

In recognition of the increasing efforts to restrict books, those who write them, publish them or make them available to readers, five organisations representing authors, publishers, booksellers and libraries worldwide have issued a joint statement.

Swipe left to read the full statement and join us in signing it.

CSIRVL.COM



FAIFE: the case of Turkmenistan

Saparmurat Niyazov, late President of Turkmenistan.

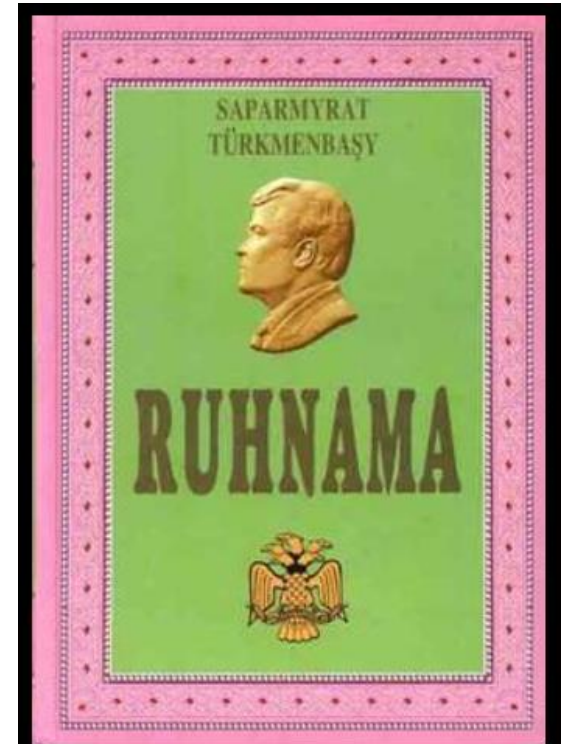
Built an amazing personality cult .

His autobiography, the *Ruhnama*, was made compulsory reading everywhere and for everything.

2005: He closed down **all rural libraries** and hospitals outside of the capital city Ashgabat.

FAIFE responded diligently

To what effect?



FAIFE: from reactive to proactive advocacy

- 2006-7 →→→→Broadened approach:
- Education, training, workshops, **dialogue**
- Missions to countries (e.g. Palestine),
- Manifestos (e.g Internet Manifesto)
- Supporting Library Associations
- Guidance. Keeping up with new threats, e.g. **AI** →



International Federation of
Library Associations and Institutions

IFLA Statement on Libraries and Artificial Intelligence

The adoption of Artificial Intelligence (hereafter “AI”) and machine learning in private and public spheres is rapidly growing. This policy statement aims to outline key considerations for the use of these technologies in the library sector and suggest the roles which libraries should strive to take on in a society with growing AI integration.

AI technologies can have deeply transformative capabilities, and their power can be put to the service of public welfare and innovation. With necessary preparations – and regard for ethical concerns and current limitations – libraries can responsibly use AI technologies to advance their social mission.

AI in the Library: integrating AI and machine learning technologies into everyday work.

As AI technology develops, several AI and machine learning (ML) applications may be

14 well-researched pages & 3 annexes

Joining transnational civil society action: The WSIS learning curve

- WSIS: World Summit on the Information Society
 - Geneva 2003
 - Tunis 2005
- IFLA lobbied for the central place of libraries in the Information Society
- One of many UN Summits
- Learning the ropes:
 - States parties discuss & decide
 - Civil Society in the corridors
 - The Sociology of advocacy groups: Road warriors, Newbies...



WSIS follow-up process – LinkedIn

The Marrakesh Treaty

- Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled
- Adopted 27 June 2013
- After *years* of lobbying with WBU & other partners
- Has *your country* signed up?

Countries in the MENA Region

Contracting Parties of Marrakesh Treaty

Algeria	
<u>Bahrain</u>	
<u>Egypt</u>	
Iraq	y
Jordan	y
Kuwait	
Lebanon	y
<u>Libya</u>	
<u>Mauritania</u>	y
<u>Morocco</u>	y
Oman	
Qatar	y
<u>Saudi Arabia</u>	y
State of Palestine	
Sudan	y
Syrian Arab Republic	y
Tunisia	y
United Arab Emirates	y
Western Sahara	
Yemen	

World Book Capital

- UNESCO initiative
- Recognizes recognises cities for promoting books and fostering reading
- One year starting 23 April
- Advisory Committee:
 - IFLA
 - International Publishers Association
 - International Authors Forum

Cities in the MENA Region

2002 Alexandria

2009 Beirut

2019 Sharja

Newly announced:

2026 Rabat



End of Part 2



مكتبة قطر الوطنية
Qatar National Library

