INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY (2018-2023)

Our vision for the global library, information and knowledge sector

The creation of knowledge and its dissemination can no longer be viewed only in a national context. The rise of digitised and born digital content and the spread of the internet across the world have made national barriers in the library and information sector almost entirely irrelevant.

Information services and libraries foster literacy, learning, documented heritage and knowledge creation worldwide and are crucial to achieving access to information, freedom of expression and freedom from censorship making a vital contribution to the realisation of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

CILIP needs a strong international voice and international networks to achieve the goals set out below.

International Goals

CILIP’s goals for this International Strategy are to:

- Collaborate with other stakeholders to undertake projects and programmes which advance the international contribution of the library, information and knowledge sector to wellbeing and prosperity, locally and globally
- Advocate in partnership with other organisations on matters of international importance such as intellectual property, digital rights, standards, access to information, freedom of expression, and the protection of cultural heritage
- Fully exploit opportunities to demonstrate how our sector contributes to soft power
- Build social capital and increase the capacity to grow social capital across our sector
- Take full advantage of the international implications and opportunities of new policies and strategies
- Encourage and support members to work with colleagues throughout the world for mutual professional development, on their own projects and in the pursuit of global information access
- Support best practice in library, knowledge and information work internationally and champion good teaching of LIS
- Facilitate awareness and the exchange of knowledge, skills and experience in our respective settings seeking to ensure any benefits accrued by us feed into and enhance what we have to offer others
- Grow our international membership base in cooperation with national Library & information associations worldwide, fully utilising new technologies to achieve this
How CILIP contributes to this vision:

Our profession contributes to strong economic, cultural and social development and to resilience in all countries and makes a vital contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Library, knowledge and information professionals are trained and skilled in the collection, management, sharing and creation of knowledge and information resources and work across all sections of society contributing to the global delivery of high quality services to all people.

Facts and figures:

- We are the second largest library association in the world
- We have 542 members overseas, across 6 continents
- We sell our books in 73 countries
- We have authors from over 30 countries
- We are represented and marketed around the world through a network of agents and reps
- Our print and digital content is sold throughout the world by global suppliers and aggregators including Bertrams, Ingram and Amazon
- Our content is reviewed in the leading international journals in the field
- Our books are translated into numerous languages from Korean to Japanese, Arabic and Croatian.
- Information Professional is sent to all members including international members
- We accredit 9 overseas library and information schools
- Our Professional Knowledge and Skills Base is internationally respected. The Library Association of Ireland has franchised it and offer it as a career development tool to their members
- CILIP has led RDA Steering committee which recently produced the international standard Resources Description & Access replacing Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules

CILIP action plan

CILIP understands international activity to encompass all library, knowledge and information sectors which exist outside of the UK. We also understand “international” to encompass a way of thinking - How our profession positions itself as part of a wider global community.

We will focus our engagement on long term cooperation and projects and programmes which are characterised by mutual learning. We will work to progress strong economic, social development and cultural resilience in all countries.

We will:

Continue with and expand the current contribution CILIP makes internationally. Specifically, we will:

- Partner with other UK stakeholders in the endorsement of international statements relevant to CILIP’s priorities and agree a unified action to support those statements we are endorsing
- Collaborate with UK stakeholder organisations and working groups such as the International Group of Arts Councils to achieve our vision
- Initiate projects and programmes which further our reach in partnership with the British Council, national libraries, the British Council, library development agencies, (K&IM), schools and universities with overseas campuses and other appropriate bodies
• Create models for international partnerships and collaborations which recognises the social, political and economic environment in different regions and countries and responds accordingly without undermining fundamental ethical, policy and professional principles

• Welcome professional colleagues from overseas

• Ensure opportunities in a post-BREXIT world are fully utilised as Government refocuses on “international”

• Ensure that the international implications and opportunities are fully accounted for in new policy developments

• Fully utilise our existing relationships with IFLA and EBLIDA and contribute via working parties and committees

• Participate in leadership programmes which advance the knowledge and skills of young and new professionals

• Create a contact point for the UK which provides information about our sector’s international activities

• Hold regular meetings with our partners in Scotland, Wales and NI and support cross-border working with the Republic of Ireland

• Focus our activities in countries where we already have influence

Clarify how CILIP’s international engagement contributes to the international profile of the UK information sector as a whole. Specifically, we will:

• Invite international speakers for conference with the specific purpose of learning about best practice overseas

• Seek out opportunities to promote UK best practice in other countries through exchanges of conference places between countries

• Promote the contributions our sector makes and increase our influence overseas by undertaking campaigns targeted at our natural stakeholders and other influencers

• Secure a presence at the big international conferences (for example Goethe Institute) to promote culture and libraries

• Encourage and support members to work with colleagues throughout the world for mutual professional development, on their own projects and in the pursuit of global information access

• Continue to grow CILIP accreditation and CILIP professional registration across the globe

• Share UK knowledge and skills through physical and online activities and invite the British Council to promote CILIP’s existing online learning opportunities to overseas partner professionals

• Promote CILIP’s policy and strategic developments to overseas library associations and professionals (eg. Ethics, Information Literacy, KIM etc.)
Identify and promote the benefits of international engagement to CILIP members and the broader information profession. Specifically, we will:

- Run a UK based campaign which highlights the importance of international engagement to our members

- Give higher visibility to ongoing international work of Member Networks
  - Improve the web presence of international activity by pulling together the various strands of activity which are currently dispersed with a prominent link to ILIG
  - Publish details of any bursaries or other opportunities/ awards etc.
  - Facilitate a guest opinion piece by a member of the Virtual Advisory Group for the Presidential Commission

- When resources allow establish a dedicated fund for Member Networks to bid into for an overseas project/ activity. Enrich the professional experience of members by providing opportunities to exchange knowledge and skills, experience, ideas and best practice with their professional counterparts overseas

- Have a clear membership offer for overseas members which is complementary and additional to the offer of the national library association where there is one.

- Investigate the feasibility of having a regional member network for overseas or some other robust platform for the particular concerns and interests of overseas members

- Provide appropriate services to international members and encourage more participation in IFLA by offering financial assistance for CILIP members participating or wishing to participate in IFLA Section Standing Committees

- Increase collaboration between SIGs and Regional Member Networks by facilitating partnerships. Develop a template Memorandum of Understanding for use between SIG’s and between SIG’s and Regional Member Networks when participating in international activities

- Proactively signpost international employment and travel/ learning opportunities for members. Promote Information Professional Jobs for the advertising of overseas jobs

- Publish profiles of individual CILIP members engaged in international work in Information Professional and highlight the work of members on committees who are working towards a specific outcome (standards/ new ethical cataloguing, the SDG’s)

To be reviewed: Not later than December 2021