

## Iranian Perspective vs IFLA Projects

**Saleh Zamani** | Attended by more than 3000 librarians from around the world, the 85<sup>th</sup> edition of the IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) was held in Athens, Greece, on August 24-30. In this annual congress many sessions were held about the most important challenges and opportunities of libraries throughout the world in which librarians tried to exchange their experiences. Unveiling the IFLA's five-year strategic plan (2019-2024) and introduction of the new elect-president of IFLA, Christine Mackenzie, for the next three years were among the most important programs of this congress. So, a great deal of working sessions and general dialogues were about this plan and also the motto of the new elect-president, Let's Work Together. In this two-part note, I will try to initially explain about the relationship between IFLA and Iranian librarians through the first part and then to analyze their relation with the content of the unveiled plan in the second part.

It must be in our mind that Iranian librarians have kept alive their relationship with IFLA for a full half a century. Although

the relationship have found a considerable growth and speed through the very past decade, for the first time in Iran's history it was TEBROC, as the first Iranian organization, became member of IFLA before the Iran revolution(1979) and took advantage of adjoining IFLA and its benefits.

Despite numerous problems and challenges, it must be said that this constructive relationship with IFLA has been continued so far and Iranians try to transform it into a sustainable relationship. On the other hand, IFLA has always expected some measures from the world librarians generally and Iranian ones especially and has repeated them many times. So, it is necessary for Iranians to try to meet these expectations in order to keep alive their relationship with IFLA and make their country one of active members of

IFLA in the field of librarians' discussions.

IFLA asks everyone across the world to follow its plans through librarians. This expectation is the sole available ring to keep a mutual relationship and any passivity from each party of this chain will lead the atmosphere towards stagnation and depression. The most important plans of this category in the recent years are related to participation in the Global Vision project, providing feedbacks of measures of libraries on IFLA's strategic documents, especially DA21, the world map of libraries and also synchronizing the librarian measures with the sustainable development ideals of the United Nations.

In fact, libraries are tasked with reflecting their measures related to these projects to IFLA, which it lets IFLA to design to the next plans more wisely and properly.

Iranians need to know that today IFLA is their occupational compass and without considering it they cannot become capable librarians which are able to propose their up-to-date services. Therefore, it is necessary that Iranians follow the global thinking for offering better local services and take more effective strides towards the professional development.

In the second part we need to try to tie our librarian plans to the IFLA's strategic document in the first place. We need to know that this document has four intertwined rings: Connect, Enable, Engage, and Inspire which support and protect its content. The content shows itself through four separated routes, which are as follows:

1. Strengthen the global voice of libraries strategic direction
  2. Inspire and enhance professional practice strategic direction
  3. Connect and empower the field strategic direction
  4. Optimise our organisation
- To enumerate the ... [continued to Page 4]



## "Read with me" in Japan

Through a meeting called "What's Going on in the Iran's Children Literature?", (one of meetings held to introduce the world's children literature) on June 16, 2019 "Read with Me" Program was introduced in the Japan's International Library of Children's Literature. In this program, Kiko Ayko and Sauri Katagiri, who are both Persian to Japanese translators, spoke about attractions of Iranian children literature and book-reading in Iran and introduced "Read with me" program as one of successful promoting reading programs in Iran. Accordingly, in order to be introduced with the program more, Kiko Ayko visited Zohreh Ghaini, director of Read with Me, and Hoorzad Attari, one of the facilitators of Read With Me, "What's Going on in the Iran's Children Literature?" meeting is the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of What's Going on in the World's Children Literature meetings which are supported by International Library of Children's Literature and National Branch of the Japan's World Pen Association. This meeting is



held on the occasion of running a fair on Iranian children books, named "Land of Poetry and Myth-Iran Children Book" which it itself is a part of a plan held on the occasion of 90th anniversary of beginning of diplomatic ties between Iran and Japan in the International Library of Children's Literature.

## Vita, an Event to Launch Library Technologies Ecosystem in NLAI

In summer 2019, the National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI), in collaboration with a startup accelerator, Novin Tech, launched an entrepreneurship event called VITA.

In this one-month event sponsored by the Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology of Iran, Information Technology Organization and Innovation Center of the University of Tehran, the NLAI's data, considering privacy policy, provided for data specialists and startup groups on artificial intelligence.

So, these resources could be used for developing new businesses as well as new technologies. The event was primarily aimed on solving National Librerie's challenges.

Also, due to the huge amount of historical and official data stored in the NLAI, there were opportunities for new businesses.

On the other hand, since one of the main challenges of developing artificial intelligence and data mining businesses is the lack of appropriate format and volume of Persian data, NLAI provided developers a good opportunity for using huge data records.

The event took place in two steps from 5<sup>th</sup> July to 5<sup>th</sup> August.

First, the resume of the registrants was reviewed and about 300 participants were selected for the opening session to

learn about the details and challenges of the event in different panels. Then, participants submitted their proposals for the event in a week. 92 proposals received and 42 of them selected for the next process.

In the next two weeks, the workplace and needed infrastructures were provided



for the startup groups. Also there were workshops in the areas of artificial intelligence, business development and NLAI value chain. Mentors supported the groups during the event.

At last, 12 startup groups presented their projects at the closing ceremony.

The most notable ideas include projects on natural language processing for Persian resources, machine learning, Optical Character Recognition (OCR) for Persian texts, recognition of ancient texts and handwritten documents, metadata extraction, object detection in image processing, retrieval algorithms, recommendation systems, publishing platforms, and specialists social networks systems.

The outputs of the event for startup groups were different depending on their field of activity; some of them collaborated with the NLAI's projects.

In other cases the final product purchased by NLAI and the others supported by Novin Tech start up accelerator for fundraising.

## Children Book Reading Cup

Children and young adults' cup of book reading clubs is a competition between book-reading clubs across cities and villages of Iran. This competition is held in different categories such as chosen club, chosen letter, chosen movie, chosen book, chosen facilitator, and chosen bookseller. According to 4<sup>th</sup> call-for the promoter of book reading is someone who promotes book reading through designing and implementing continuous activities or makes more joyful, deeper and more effective the process of reading.

The participants can take part in both groups and individual categories, governmental and non-governmental organizations. Another section of this festival is competing in the international sector in which Persian-language promoters of reading outside of Iran and active foreign people and groups who are working



on promoting reading inside Iran are active and it covers activities of promoting reading across Persian language countries or countries which have a great population of Persian language citizens.



## The Future of Libraries Meeting

Paul Hawkins, Director of South Central Kansas Library System and South Central Kansas Library Foundation, and Zerehsaz, Member of Board of Directors of Iranian Library and Information Science Association (ILISA) and Scientific Secretary of the Fifth Congress of Information Science Specialists, spoke in the "Future Meeting of Libraries".

Title of Mr. Hawkins speech was planning for Public Libraries and Proverb Tethering the Camel, while the title of Zerehsaz speech was The Future of Information Sciences, Libraries and Archives Given the Emerging Developments in Iran and the World. The Meeting was held in the Cultural Think Tank of the National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI) on July 23, 2019. In this meeting, the factors which would affect the future of libraries, especially, technologies, digital accessibility and changed behavior of users were considered and analyzed.



## Book Reading League for Marginalized People

With the aim of promoting reading, Book Reading League in Prisons was arranged in 2018. It was aimed at extending cultural justice, declining social harms, increasing social justice and equipping various social classes with country's capacities and opportunities. The reading league was held for the first across ten provinces of Iran. According to this program, in certain times of the week, the inmates are gathered and discuss about books and they compete with each other in two sections: the best book and the best author from the viewpoint of inmates. Three to five selected works of each section are sent to Tehran where they will be analyzed.

another related program on book reading was held in title "With Mehr to Mehr" Campaign



in Tehran Book Garden, the largest complex of books and scientific entertainments of Iran, on June 20, 21 2019. It was attended by a number of cultural and artistic institutes, associations and publishers. People contributed in this campaign through purchasing books, toys and stationary.

The main purpose of this campaign is preparing and distributing cultural packages including books, toys and stationeries among children and students living in down town areas.

## Summer Reading Campaign

Upon the end of schools' examinations season, Cultural and Art Organization of Tehran Municipality, a public and non-governmental and independent organization whose budget is funded by the Tehran Municipality run a book reading campaign. Having certain facilities such as house of cultures, libraries, museums and other relevant cultural and artistic centers and facilities, this organization also held variable programs under the title of book reading for students of various age groups during summer.

"Four HodHod mobile bookstore buses (buses which are equipped with books for children, young adults and adults on different subjects and a librarian who consults people who are interested in books) organized their reading promotion plans and programs across various districts of Tehran. Holding gatherings of poem-reciting, and story-telling, making audiences familiar with the new published books and also with the authors and writers, free-of-charge membership in the libraries of Cultural and Art Organization of Tehran Municipality were among the plan followed in the HodHod mobile bookstore buses."



## NLAI in anniversary of ICOM

According to the definition released by the ICOM, all international libraries, national archives and other related organizations are considered as museums, because they are a part of cultural, historical, artistic and natural heritage of mankind and must be protected, identified and introduced. Accordingly, and as the results of Broujerdi's supports, NLAI, for the first time, was recognized as a museum and became member of Iran's National Museums Committee and along with its other activities it deals with transferring culture from a generation to another.

Announcing it, Ahmad Mohit Tababaei, Head of Iranian Museums' National Committee, said, "For the first time, NLAI, as a museum, participates in the 12<sup>th</sup> course of selecting the best museum and will be evaluated by the jury. The ceremony for choos-



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF MUSEUMS

ing the best museum of the country is held concurrent with the anniversary of ICOM establishment and participants will compete in different aspects such as management, creativity, making museums appropriate for handicaps, education, research, collection, visiting museums, introduction, keeping and protecting, applying physical and technical standards, efforts to survive and children and young adults to each other.

## NLAI: Pakistan, India, Turkmenistan

There was several international meeting were held in NLAI. The following are the most important ones.

•Rafat Masood, Pakistan's Ambassador to Iran, visited different parts of National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI) in July 2019. Masood, who already has visited the library of Astan Quds Razavi (one of the largest museums and libraries of Iran) in Mashhad City, stated his happiness and said, "NLAI is a very nice place and I saw here very valuable books and references." Masood described National Library of Iran as a very larger and richer library than Pakistan's national library and added, "Most Pakistanis involve with the politics and their jobs and they do not pay attention to books. Moreover, reservoirs and the manner used to keep old books and archives are not as good as it must be, so we ask NLAI to start its cooperation and interaction to improve this procedure. In this regard, it is necessary to sign a MOU between Iran and Pakistan. It will help us to take advantage of valuable experiences of Iran on repair and maintenance of books and archives through holding educational workshops in this regard." In this meeting, pointing to presence of various resources in Persian, English, French, German, etc, languages in the National Library of Iran, Broujerdi, the Director of NLAI, said, "There are 40,000 manuscripts in this place. Stating hopes about holding workshops and using knowledge and experiences of Iranian experts and professors in Pakistan, she said, "We believe that Pakistani nation's heritage is ours and at the same time is the mankind's, so we need to spare no efforts to keep and save them."

•While appreciating the library's management for paving the way for this meeting, in a meeting with Broujerdi, Director of National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI), Atagely Shamuradov, Turkmenistan's Minister of Culture, said, "intensifying and extending ties with NLAI has been



always one of our priorities, because library is considered as one of wealth resources and is thought as the second house of a nation."

He also said, "NLAI is one of the richest libraries of the world in terms of having archives and resources." Pointing to the resources one may find in the national library of Turkmenistan, he said, "These resources can be useful in improving relations and ties between Iran and Turkmenistan. So, we are obliged to take ad-

vantage of Iran's rich resources and archives."

•Grayeli, Director General of head office of NLAI said, "There are deep cultural commonalities between Iranian and Indian nations and NLAI will take advantage of this as much as possible."

Abhay Kumar Singh, the Head of Iranian Cultural Center in India, along with an eight-member entourage including wives of Indian diplomats visited Grayeli and different parts of the organization on June 24.

Welcoming the posted propositions, Grayeli emphasized the necessity of extension of relations between libraries of Iran and India. She also said, "Despite being separated from their common habitat because of ecological and geo-historical reasons, Iranian and Indian nations have deep cultural commonalities and it is necessary for NLAI to take advantage of this issue in order to strengthen relations across different arenas and aspects."

"NLAI is bedrock to produce science and knowledge and it appreciates scientists and development of discourses among cultures, especially those who have many commonalities with Iran," she added. Later in this meeting, Abhay Kumar Singh, the Head of Iranian Cultural Center in India, said, "We ask and try to postpone the MOU signed between NLAI and National Library of India in Calcutta." She also asked for implementation of certain articles of this MOU, especially those which are related to exchange of experts between libraries of Iran and India.

Professor Kumar Singh also pointed to seminar of Panini, Sanskrit Grammar (works and thoughts, run in the last year and said, "National Library and Archives of Iran showed a good interaction and cooperation to hold this seminar and it is necessary to appreciate again the efforts of this organization in various fields."

## Call for Paper, Best Practice & Lightning Talk

5<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress of Iranian Information Experts

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### Topics

- Futuristic Research in LIS
- Future structure & content of LIS education
- Libraries & archives & challenges of technological developments
- Libraries & archives as space
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## Iran and Greece Cultural Cooperation

In a meeting with Ali Emad, head of the library and information center of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, and visiting the labara and museum of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Dimitri Alexandrakis, the ambassador of the Republic of Greece to Iran, analyzed the joint cultural obstacles between library of Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran and the Republic of Greece.

Referring to the importance of status and position of Iran in the legal system of Asia, Ali Emad explained about how MPs and other clients, researchers and pundits of Library, Museum and Document Center of Iran Parliament are served. He also emphasized the necessity of cooperation between parliamentary libraries in the framework of IFLA's international meetings given the current commonalities. He also said, "Two valuable collections of Greek historical books have been identified in our library resources and we are ready to start cultural interactions with the Greece's parliamentary library and other famous and well-known libraries of Greece." The Greece's Ambassador announced about the inclination and readiness to start mutual cooperation and interactions including printing books about Greece which is kept in the library of Islamic Assembly of Iran.



## Iranian Author Nominates for iRead-iBbY 2019 Award

Co-established by International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) and Shenzhen iRead Foundation of China, the IBBY-iRead Outstanding Reading Promoter Award is a biennial award for reading promoters worldwide who have made outstanding contribution to children's reading. The Award is established with the hope to inspire a lasting commitment to the cause of reading promotion in the hope of spreading this Dedication to others around the globe.

This award is an incentive for people who have worked creatively and innovatively at least three years

on reading for children and young adults and its different methods and they need to show continuity in their work. It can cover various activities such as development of book-reading projects and implementing dynamic activities in such projects, effective promotion of reading and the relevant strategies as well as supporting children's right for reading. Children's Book Council (CBC), as the national branch of IBBY, introduces the nominees for this award. In 2019, CBC nominated Aliasghar Seidabai, as the Iranian Nominee for taking iREAD for following reasons:

•30-year activities in the field of promoting variable and creative book read-

ing, as the rural library director and journalist who promotes book reading;

• Active and effective membership in selecting short list for the "Flying Turtle" (a list of the best children and young adults books in Iran);

• Author of educational books about promotion of book reading;

• Working with Iranian Association of Writers for Children and Youth;

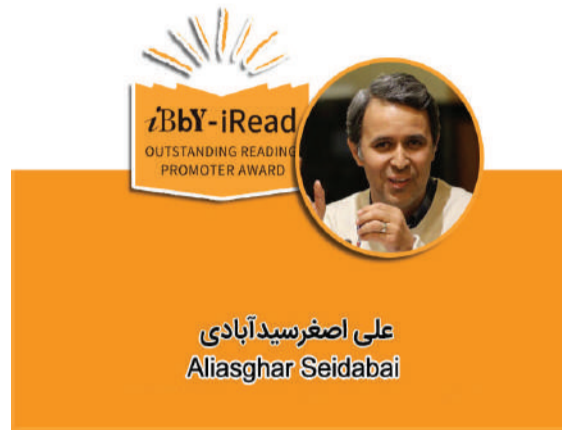
• Launching national activities to promote book reading in Iran including Children and Youth Book Reading Clubs Cup, Iranian network of book-loving

villages and nomads, Iran's Book Capital, network of book reading promotion groups.

• Holding educational workshops for the children and youth living in the deprived areas of Iran to promote reading;

• Brainstorming and designing events and facilities to promote non-governmental book-reading activities such as book vow (binding one of Iranian religious traditions with book reading promotion across the deprived areas);

• Proposition of launching Mehr Award (a book-reading plot which is run and judged by orphan and Afghan girls living in the Tehran dorms.)



علی اصغر سیدآبادی  
Aliasghar Seidabai

## "Bamdad Libraries" in Asahi Award

ASAHI is the most authenticated award on book-reading promotion in the world which is granted biannually to a group or institute which has played a sustainable role in implementing reading promotion programs for children and young adults. In Iran, Children Book Council, the national branch of International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) introduces the nominee for this award.

The inclusion criteria for this award are sustainability and continuity, promotion and effectiveness, enjoying the national support, ability to be modeled, ability to be repeated, high-quality of readable materials and availability of them and also measurable results in the implemented projects.

The Promotion Award committee of CBC introduced "Bamdad of Libraries and Promotion of Reading" Project to the board of directors of CBC. "Bamdad of Libraries and Promotion of Reading" Project is the oldest book reading project in Iran, whose fundamental aim is sending high-quality books to the children living in the deprived areas of Iran who mostly have never read books except their educational ones. This project was founded in 1996 by Children Books Council when a young adult named Bamdad died.



## Iran Participates in IFLA WLIC 2019

IFLA's 85<sup>th</sup> World Library and Information Congress was held in Athens, Greece, on August 24<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> 2019. This event was attended by delegates and volunteers from various countries around the world.

Participating in the IFLA's World Library and Information Congress has been grown in the last years. As six experts from National Library and Archive of Iran (NLAI), two researchers from Islamic Consultative Assembly's library, an expert from Iran Public Libraries Foundation (IPLF), and an expert from Shahid Beheshti University Library participated in the IFLA's annual congress.



At the opening meeting of the Public Libraries Panel, which was held on August 24, Fatemeh Pazooki, Head of the International Relations Committee of ILISA, and member of IFLA's Standards and Public Libraries Committee, presented an article entitled Public Libraries and Crisis Management in Iran.

On the sidelines of the 85<sup>th</sup> IFLA World Congress in Athens, the Iranian delegation met Ms. Gloria Pérez-Salmerón, the IFLA's President. The participants discussed about the areas of cooperation with IFLA. The Iranian delegation appreciated the efforts of Ms. Gloria Pérez-Salmerón during

her tenure as IFLA's President. This year Iranian Experts presented five articles in IFLA WLIC 2019; these articles are as follows:



•A problem-solving approach to clinical practice: Evidence-based Nursing in Iranian Scientific Publications and assessing using American Association of Critical Care Nursing-Levels/ Maryam Kazerani, Fatemeh Babaei and Azam Shahbodaghi;

•National Library of Iran as a platform for social dialogue: an analysis of an Experience/ Fariborz Khosravi and Saeedeh Akbari-Daryan;

•A conceptual framework for organizing Persian seials based on the PRESSoo model/ Negin Shokrzadeh and Mohsen Haji Zeinolabedini;

•Perceptions of Love in telling the love story of Leily and Majnoon using images of the products derived from it among adolescents in the library of the 5th district of Ekbatan, Tehran/ Esmat Momeni and Farnaz Daneshjoo;

•Free access to information in Iran, in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals/ Mahboubeh Ghorbani and Saeedeh Akbari-Daryan.

•Two Iranian papers were presented in a satellite meeting, which was held on August 23. Papers are as follows:

•Gray literature as valuable resources in the Natural Library of Iran: from Organizing to Digitization/ Reza Shahrabi Farahani and Somayeh Sadat Hashemi;

•Survey of Grey Literature of National Library and Archives of Iran/ Afsaneh Teymouri Khani.

Historically, various experts, such as Ms. Poori Soltani, Ms. Zahra Shadman and others, were members of IFLA committees and played a key role in its decisions. Fortunately, in the last few years we have had young and dynamic Iranian librarians who joined the IFLA's specialized committees and participated in decisions taken by these committees. However, it is not enough to fulfill capacity of our libraries. Iranian librarians and the related institutions need to have a se-

rious plan to support Iran's active presence in IFLA's management and board of directors.

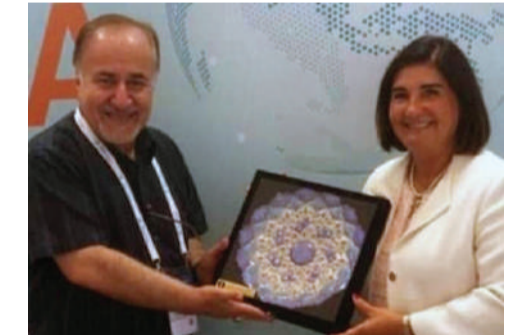
He also claimed that holding IFLA's sessions in Iran is one of the issues that has been considered for many years, but has never been concluded. It is for several reasons: first, an event, which attracts between three to four thousand librarians and information science professionals from around the world, is a matter of national endeavor and effort. This is especially the case in countries, where even the most senior political and governmental officials are involved with the affairs of the IFLA Congress. But in our country, such cohesion and



harmony will not reach easily. There is also the issue of tourism, so hospitality and infrastructure, such as hotels, transport, guides, security, etc. are not easily accessible in our country.

Moreover, IFLA seeks a global dialogue, peace, and relations far from political turmoil among the member states. It is while we should invite the countries which we are not allowed to politically. Finally, the capacity, membership, presence and activity of our country's librarians should be strong enough to be able to gain the privilege of hosting IFLA. Such capacity has not yet been formed in our country. In his article he also says that another important issue that is certainly important to deeply utilize the IFLA's capacity, is the cohesion and purposefulness of our communications with IFLA. Currently we have no strategy for cooperating with IFLA. The two most important librarian organizations in our country, i.e. the National Library and the Parliament Library, have been members of IFLA for many years and have tried to attend IFLA's annual meetings. The rest experts participated in IFLA relying on their own personal interest and activity; they submitted their articles in IFLA or have appointed as a member of its committees. There is no single coordination between the programs of the two Iranian affiliated organizations in IFLA, the National Library and the parliament library;

There is no single coordination between the programs of the two Iranian affiliated organizations in IFLA, the National Library and the parliament library;





## Iranak Childhood Museum in NLAI

Iranak Childhood Museum with the cooperation of NLAI and cooperation of Research Institute of Children Literature History was launched for a single your course in the Ganjineh building of NLAI. The Research Institute of Children Literature History is a non-governmental institute which works in the field of children culture and literature.

Through preparing complete identification card for all museum things and archives, this institute opened Childhood Cultural Museum since 2012/11/11 through IRANAK website and virtual world for all. This year, in the same direction and with the



aim of launching actual museum for children, this institute with the cooperation of NLAI and supports of private sector loving childhood culture launched Iranak Childhood Museum. The aim of this museum is showing, representing and promoting Iranian children culture and making lovers of childhood culture familiar with a bit if childhood history and culture of Iran.

## Librarians in IPLF Storytelling Festival

Regarding the importance of storytelling in transferring educational concepts to children and young adults and in order to intensify the storytelling skills among the librarians of the public libraries of the country, the first Storytelling Festival of Iran Public Libraries Foundation was held through releasing a call-for in November 2018. Accordingly, the participants sent their storytelling multimedia file on the subject pivots of the festival in order to participate in this festival.

In the closing ceremony of the festival, Alireza Mokhtarpour, the Secretary General of Iran Public Libraries Foundation, said, "Since children and young adults showed a good inclination to libraries, librarians need to strengthen the skill of making relations with the audiences and storytelling is one of them. Storytelling helps librarians to transfer social and cultural concepts to children and young adults. All participants who were active in all steps of the festival are selected and are tasked with some heavier duties tomorrow."

This festival was finished in June with introducing 4 winners and 3 selected ones.



## Iranian Universities in the Best Universities List

The world QS Ranking which is carried out by British Quacquarelli Symonds Institute has been started since 2010. The methodology of this ranking is based on a wide range of academic activities which are evaluated the world's universities separately. According to QS ranking, universities are analyzed through six indexes in the framework of four general aspects of education, researches, capability to be recruited by the labor market and internationalization.

Six Iranian universities including Sharif University of Technology, AmirKabir University of Technology, Iran University of Science & Technology, University of Tehran and Univer-



sity of Shahid Beheshti & Shiraz University are among the best universities of the world.

also MIT: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University & Harvard University, Oxford University, California Institute of Technology, Zurich Institute of Technology, Cambridge University, UCLA, Imperial College of London and Chicago University were arranged as the ten first best universities of the world in 2020.

## Child Labor Exhibition in NLAI

With the aim of making children labor with the atmosphere of libraries and institutionalizing the culture of reading among such children, National Library of Iran intends to hold an exhibition of works created by children labor in this organization. Every year, for different occasions and excuses including the world day of children, the week of books, Yalda Night etc. some cultural plans and educational workshops are held for children and young adults in the national library of Iran.

However, this time, children labor and children with improper parents are supposed to be invited into the National Library of Iran in order to make them familiar with environment and atmosphere of the library, which is a useful step to help intellectual growth of children.

Accordingly, various and attractive plans and programs have been predicted for these children and it has been supposed that their drawings and paintings, titled "library as safe place for children" which are showed to be collected and finally an exhibition to be held in the NLAI.



## Iranian Perspective vs IFLA Projects

[continued from Page 1] ... most important elements of these four routes, we can point to the sustainable development and its ideals, joint ventures and contribution with councils, paying attention to the public sphere and accessing to information, mobilizing resources and the ways to reach financial sustainability and trying to empower librarians. This document has tried to reflect the common challenges and opportunities among librarians as best as possible and make them close to each other more than before.

So, what Iranians need to do to approach this document? It is a very serious question which must be considered before establishing a sustainable relationship with IFLA. The first joint measure and activity of Iranian librarians must be putting an optimistic eye glass for watching the global thinking. Without accepting this global plan positively and effectively, the second measure would not be realized. The second measure Iranians need to take is compiling local and regional strategic documents in which elements of IFLA'S documents are used. Actually, they need to match their local and aboriginal plan and measures with this document.

Unfortunately, many Iranian libraries including the National Library of Iran, public libraries and even Iranian Library and Information Science Association have not a strategic plan. We see seasonal achievements and failures in the country and unlike the advanced libraries of the world, we experience a short-term cultural life. We need a long-term life for developing and extending our libraries and it would not be possible except under lights of long-term plans of IFLA.

The third measure is preparing feedbacks for our compiled local plans and documents and let them be analyzed by IFLA and our other colleagues in the

world. In the coming years, instead of internal evaluation, we need to outsource it.

And the least measure is that we need to take serious "advocacy" issue in the field of librarianship. We need advocator librarians. It is nothing but empowering librarians in favor of the society. Without advocacy librarians today cannot meet the needs of the Iranian society. A society which everyday experiences cultural, demographic and identical changes needs serious advocators to meet its daily needs. Accordingly, the only people who can manage Iranians' cultural consumption and interest are advocator librarians whose number must be increased every day.

Finally, it is necessary to point to role of cultural organizations in Iran in order to be aware that how they can manage the space of libraries in favor of implementing the five-year plan of IFLA. It seems that the most important solution for organizing the cultural measures in the libraries is referring to the "civil society" and using popular forces. There is no doubt that Iranian Library and Information Science Association, as a free and independent organization, can be a proper representative for this. If the expectations of these two important current in Iran are not met, surely we cannot expect any reform across the public and national libraries of the country.

We need to keep in mind that the IFLA's strategic document is a golden opportunity to test capabilities of Iranian librarians. Along with other librarians across the world, we can share our experiences and decrease challenges we may face in this face. In this route, we need to be able to recognize problems and don't mix them with fantasies and imaginations. We need to move forward based on collective wisdom and attract more fellows to conduct our plans.

## Iranian Works in MOW

The Secretary of National Memory of the World Committee announced about registration of three exquisite works through the recent meeting of the National Memory of the World (MOW) Committee. The meeting was attended by the majority of members. While registering three exquisite works, we discussed about how to hold the second regional Asia-Pacific gathering of the World Memory Program which will be held in the following September through working with the UNESCO office in Tehran and relevant professors and experts.

He also added, "In this meeting three series including works of Houshang Moradi Kermani (contemporary novelist), collection of pamphlets of Qara-Khitai Quran (Turkan Khatoon's 18 slices) of Shah Nematollah Vali's threshold in Kerman and collection of geographical maps drawn by Master Sahab were approved by the evaluation committees and considered as qualified to be recorded in the list of Iranian National Memory."

"Works of Houshang Moradi Kermani are considerable because of their very high effectiveness both inside and outside of Iran for various cultural- social groups with different ages and genders and also because of their concerns about important and pristine subjects. Likewise, the collection of pamphlets of Qara-Khitai Quran (Turkan Khatoon's 18 slices) was registered in this meeting. This collection belongs to 7th AH century which has been handed down to us with exquisite decorations and the head and drawings and Quranic signs."

The National MOW Committee, as a branch of UNESCO's national commission has been founded in 2005. Its aim is implementing the goals of the UNESCO's MOW which was formed based on recognizing, informing and making available the documented heritage of countries in 1992.

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