

Public Libraries Section 2019-2023 candidates' profiles

Name	Title	Institution	Country	Brief summary
Annie Brigant	Deputy director	Bibliothèque publique d'information	France	Having spent a large part of my career in public libraries (in the French cultural network abroad, in the Grenoble public libraries network and at the Bibliothèque publique d'information) and truly dedicated to the cause of public reading, I am highly interested in the activities of this section and willing to participate. I have developed skills in digital matters, cultural projects and building renovation with a special taste for management, marketing and communication. The Bibliothèque publique d'information where I have started working as deputy director 2 years ago serves a wide range of publics with a great diversity of social backgrounds and cultural origins. Equality of access and free and anonymous service has been a motto since the creation of the library in 1977. Bpi has always acted as a kind of lab in the landscape of French libraries and has developed a strong experience in lifelong learning, cultural and artistic education and content production. As a national library, our library also plays an important part in the current professional discussions about the evolution of public libraries through the organization of workshops and seminars.

Jane Cowell	Chief Executive Officer	Yarra Plenty Regional Libraries	Australia	<p>I have over 20 years expertise in Public Libraries at senior levels which includes managing a large public library service in Queensland, 3 years as a National consultant for libraries & community development, 8 years at State Library of Queensland, and have recently taken the role of CEO at Yarra Plenty Regional Libraries, a Corporation that manages the public libraries of 3 Councils. I have conducted key research projects into Public Libraries including Vision 2017 The Learning Strategy for public library workforce, Next Horizon Vision 2017 for Queensland Public Libraries, State Library's Literacy Framework Libraries for Literacy every day, every way, and The Library Dividend: the socioeconomic value of Queensland Public Libraries. My consultancy services were in demand across Australia on strategic planning, library service models and community consultation in the areas of library and community services. I have also served as President of Queensland Public Library Association. I am passionate about public libraries as creative community spaces and their role in connecting communities with technology trends and am a sought after speaker at Public Library conferences in Australia on public library trends and future opportunities and actively contribute to the industry conversation through my blog - found here https://medium.com/me/stories/public</p>
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Jieyin Feng	Reference Librarian	Shanghai Library (Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of Shanghai)	China	<p>I received a MLS from the University of South Florida, USA in 1998, and began working as a reference librarian in the Shanghai Library in 1999. I help provide public services to readers in Shanghai and from all over the world, establish websites to offer our readers convenient access to library resources, and conduct various public library activities to widen the areas of library services and reach out to more readers. I served two terms as a standing committee member of the IFLA Reference and Information Services section (2003-2011), then two terms as a standing committee member of the Government Information and Official Publications (2011-2019). I hope my experience working for these two sections and as a long-term librarian in a big public library can allow me to make more contributions to the Public Libraries Section.</p>
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Adriana Cybelle Ferrari	President	Brazilian Federation of Library Association and Institutions	Brazil	Librarian, with Specialization and MBA in Quality Management. Technical Director of the "Florestan Fernandes" Library of the Faculty of Philosophy, Letters and Human Sciences (FFLCH), from 1996 to 2002, and the Integrated System of Libraries (SIBi), from 2002 to 2007, both from USP. Idealized and coordinated the project of the Library of São Paulo, inaugurated in February 2010 and the Biblioteca Villa Lobos Park inaugurated in December 2014, which are considered national references in reading promotion. Has several works published in national and international books and periodicals. She was the Coordinator of the Library and Reading Unit and the São Paulo Literature Prize, both of the São Paulo State Secretariat of Culture. Advisor to the Office of the Dean of the University of São Paulo from 2015 to 2017. She is currently Advisor to the Board of the Faculty of Philosophy, Letters and Human Sciences of USP and President of the Brazilian Federation of Library Association (FEBAB). I will be in the second term in the Committee with focus to work in the update of the Guidelines of Public Libraries.
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Jakob Guillois Lærkes	Library Director	Gladsaxe Public Libraries	Denmark	I am Director of Gladsaxe Libraries, Denmark, and former Director of Ørestad Library and Blågården Library. My main interests are design of library spaces and service, change management and, in general, development of future libraries. As Director of Orestad Library, I was in charge of the design and building -process of a new library which offers manned and unmanned opening hours and that functions as both school-library, high school library and the local community library. I am a member of the International Network of Emerging Library Innovators (INELI) – a network of library professionals formed by the Bill & Melinda Gates foundation, with focus on public libraries in the 21st century. In INELI I also co-authored the report: Building Libraries for tomorrow. I am vice-chair of the Danish National Library Association and board-member of the national e-book service and a regular speaker at international conferences, including several IFLA WLIC and pre-conferences. I am on the jury and working group of the IFLA Library of the year Award and will continue working for making WLIC the central most interesting conference for library professionals by implementing IFLAs new global vision.
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Vahe Khumaryan	Librarian, Project Coordinator	National Children's Library after Khkno Aper	Armenia	I have around 2 years experience as a librarian and a much bigger expertise in project management in NGO/CSO sector. I have been an active contributor to IBBY Armenia's activities these years, apart from my main responsibilities at National Children's Library of Armenia. I have also contributed and participated to organization of events and dealing with correspondence and translations of the Armenian Library Association, a member of IFLA.
Kyung Cheol Kim	Deputy Director	National Library of Korea	Republic Of Korea	I thought that public libraries were founded to the aim of enhancing the knowledge competitiveness of the nation. If I will have a chance to join to this committee, I trying to exchange of case studies and in-depth discussions and researches on public library excellence policy between Korea and other countries during the IFLA section committee activities periods. Thank you.
Ulrike Kraß	Deputy Director	Public Library Freiburg	Germany	For many years I have been working in public libraries. After concentrating on marketing, I am now focusing on organization and customer services. Further I'm also responsible as deputy director for the branch libraries (including our mobile library), section for children, music and reference services in the central library. My main motivation as a librarian is to enable people participating in society through free and equal access to information in any format. This is my vision for a progressive forward looking viability for libraries. Since the beginning of my professional career I have been active in the German Association of Information and Library Professionals (BIB). My main emphasis here is to support professional development at libraries in general. I have been observing the IFLA activities since many years. I have participated at the WLIC in Glasgow, Oslo and Berlin. At Lyon and Wroclaw I intensified my participation with a poster presentation. Now I feel ready to work more active in the international library movement with a focus on public libraries and their concerns - in the Public Libraries Section. The Action Plan with the objectives and activities is challenging and ambitious. I would be happy to contribute with my experience.

Martin Memet Könick	Head of Section	Malmö City Library	Sweden	I think public libraries have been of tremendous importance to the development of society historically. My main drive is to ensure that this importance continues and grows in the future, I think it's paramount to creating a sustainable and healthy democratic society. I know work as Head of Section for the section for 9-25 year olds at Malmö City Library. Before I have been Head of the departments for circulation and the department for general services. With my knowledge and experience I will contribute to the Public Libraries-section's important work.
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Hege Kristine Myhrebakken	Consultant	Østre Toten folkebibliotek	Norway	My name is Hege Kristine and I'm 29 years old. I am educated in creative writing and cultural project management, and I've been working fulltime as a youth librarian at the municipal library of Østre Toten in Norway since August 2015. In my time there I have created several offers for the youth in our municipality, including a "creative room" with books, games, event and more. In 2017 I attended my first IFLA congress, thanks to a scholarship from Norwegian Union of Municipal and General Employees (Fagforbundet). After IFLA17 I became a member of Fagforbundets library interest group, which gives guiding advice on library politics. I received yet another scholarship this year, and attended IFLA in Kuala Lumpur. There I attended several Public Libraries business meetings/sessions, and found that I would like to be a part of this section. As a librarian and a member of my union, I am interested in further development of public libraries and the access to knowledge and information. I would like to work for strengthening the role that the public library has in society, both as a free and equal place to meet other people and as a democratic arena for debates and discussions.
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Byung Joon Na	Library director	Chungnam library, south Korea	Republic of Korea	To contribute sustainable development of IFLA, I would like to carry out the following activities as a member of the Public Library Division with creative passion. First, Contributes to the development of public libraries by carrying out various projects, Second, Developed a standard manual for the operation of public libraries to disseminate them to libraries in member countries and provide the basis for library operations, Third, I will develop an online community space for mutual cooperation and communication, which is a public library in the world, Finally, I want to establish a network of libraries through cyber space to promote all public libraries in member countries.
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Kenton (Kent) Oliver	Library Director	Nashville Public Library	United States	I have served professionally at the administrative level of several U.S. public libraries for 35 years. In addition, I have been an active participant in the governance of ALA at various levels. My current library, Nashville Public Library (NPL) was the 2017 Gale/Library Journal 2017 Library of the Year and two of my libraries, including NPL, have received the National Medal for Library Service. In the area of library service development I have always focused on meeting community challenges that are consistent with our library's mission. This includes innovation and assertive program development collaborating with leaders in the community. In ALA I have been part of association policy development serving on Council, the Executive Board and chaired several section and ALA committees including the Committee on Legislation and the Intellectual Freedom Committee. I am also a past President of the Freedom to Read Foundation. My career has been committed to ensuring that public libraries address community challenges (such as literacy) as they evolve with society. Due to my board experience and perspective I believe I will bring a positive influence to any professional board of which I am chosen to be a member.
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Raneetha Rajaratnam	Deputy Director	National Library Board	Singapore	<p>A professional librarian for 20 years, I recently formulated a 5-year services masterplan, targeting children and teens, for all public libraries in Singapore. Recent achievements include piloting a skills enhancement framework for librarians which involves redesigning jobs and building competencies to align staff with new expectations and specialised services; spearheading a national reading programme to inspire children and teens to read for pleasure, and introducing awards to recognise best practices in creatively cultivating reading in preschools, primary and secondary schools. I also oversaw the development of new teens' and tweens' services at newly upgraded public libraries, and a very popular Book Bugs reading incentive programme across public libraries. Current involvement includes expanding services to the underprivileged communities and people with special needs. I was awarded the 2016 Library Association of Singapore Passion Award for outstanding contribution to the library profession. I have shared my innovative initiatives at conferences, including IFLA 2016, Conference of the Library and Information Community of Quebec 2015, Asian Festival of Children's Content 2015. Being a standing committee member in the Public Libraries section enables me to foster collaborative partnerships amongst libraries, share best practices and promote the amazing work that is happening in public libraries globally.</p>
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Hitomi Takeuchi	lecturer	IJssen Women's University	Japan	<p>I was firstly involved in activities of IFLA Public Library Section in 2011 IFLA Conference. From then on, I had many valuable experiences through attending the conferences and the Mid-Term Meetings in Malmo in Sweden, Barcelona, and the other several cities. I was inspired by the new public library services, for example providing the space in the public library in Birmingham and Sydney, emphasizing the communication among the residents and immigrant people especially children, in Paris and Barcelona, and the other many new functions. I also translated the second Public Library Guideline titled "IFLA Public Library Service Guideline, 2nd completely revised edition" into Japanese with some colleagues. In 2019, PLS will discuss the Public Library Building at the Pre-Conference in Rome. In Japan many public libraries were suffered by disasters, for example the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in 2011. In the process of restoration, public libraries have played the role as the center of damage information and local hub for people. I would like to share these experiences and lessons with librarians in the world. I am now the first-term member of PLS and willing to contribute to the public libraries in the world as the second-term member.</p>
Sander van Kempen	Senior Advisor	Koninklijke Bibliotheek	Netherlands	<p>I have been active since 2011 within public libraries and since 2015 at the Royal Dutch Library (Koninklijke Bibliotheek). I have a background in ICT and digitization but more recently have broadened my expertise to include digital inclusion, digital innovation and supporting local libraries. My main focus is the connection between the local library and our national digital library infrastructure, which includes a digital library catalogue, ID system, Datawarehouse, etc. I love to work with all kinds of public libraries and feel that we all have something to contribute to achieve the mission set out in the public library manifesto. A part of my drive to work in the public library domain is that I feel that reading is an essential part of the upbringing of my two small boys. I also strongly believe in the mission of the public library as being central to freedom and equity of access to knowledge and information for all people. I would like to contribute to a stronger relationship between public and scientific libraries.</p>

Inês Vila	Librarian	Ílhavo Public Library	Portugal	<p>I am interested in applying for this Section, because I believe that my experience combined with my knowledge in libraries field will help to serve better the Portuguese libraries and our communities. In particular, as an example of my experience: •I have been working as a Director of a Public Library for 13 years. Since my responsibilities and duties included project and staff's coordination, participation in local, regional and national librarian network. ♣I'm an active member of my National Library Association, representing the Association on European events like: "Generation Code: Born at the Library" and "IFLA GLOBAL VISION". ♣I'm in the Coordination of the National Network Group of Public Libraries of our National Library Association. I truly believe that I can make a significant contribution to this Section, and that I will help to promote the work and its vision among our colleagues and Libraries all over the world, assuming my commitment to be an active member on the Section.</p>
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Elizabeth White	Head of Strategy Development	British Library	United Kingdom	<p>I joined the British Library in 2013, after more than a decade working in the UK Civil Service and bring strategic policy skills, significant experience of partnership working and an interest in public sector innovation gained through my Executive MBA. I led the development of the British Library's Living Knowledge Vision, published to a positive reception in 2015 and in 2016 introduced a new and innovative partnership with 22 public libraries, the National Library of Scotland and the National Library of Wales, sharing professional knowledge and providing joint offers to audiences. I represent the British Library at a national-level Taskforce for public libraries and am a Board member of Libraries Connected, a sector-support body for public libraries in England and Wales. I currently lead a project for the UK public library sector to consider ways to use digital to enhance the civic role of public libraries and to reinforce their public and social value. I'm a regular speaker at international library conferences and it would be a privilege to work with other committee members on developing and implementing a shared international strategy for public libraries at a time when they are arguably needed more than ever before.</p>
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Simona Žilienė	Deputy Director	Central Library of Vilnius City Municipality	Lithuania	Work at public libraries field 17 years and recognise public libraries as the main institutions at modern society which are able to provide relevant services to every community group especially to socially disadvantaged community groups members. I have an interest to develop public libraries psychosocial services for communities as today public libraries become spaces where everyone can to have activities which help for persons non-formal education, help to solve psychosocial issues using such methods as bibliotherapy or reading promotion activities, lifelong learning, learning self-help methods and achieving new skills at digital literacy. Public libraries are important at global processes such as: social inclusion, protection of multicultural societies and help to understand each others, culture diversity preservation, digital literacy learning, lifelong learning, help to understand and accept democratic processes as well public libraries can be enabled to become (or already are) "solicitors" of local communities when help to unite for solving local issues and promote creativity for all communities members.
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