

Gothenburg, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010

## **Draft resolution for the IFLA General Assembly, Saturday August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

### **Topic:**

IFLA`s position on and future activities related to the promotion of Open Access to Scholarly Literature.

### **Background:**

We highly welcome that IFLA`s president so strongly has placed Open Access on top of IFLA`s agenda.

In line with this and as a follow-up to the statement on 'Open access to Scholarly Literature and Research documentation` taken by the Governing Board in 2004, we ask that IFLA in its relevant activities and communications take an explicit and clear stand on the Open Access issues and that it develops a strategy for action. As an organization of library groups and librarians, we now wish to point IFLA even more energetically to a desired endstate of widest possible information access for all: where possible, in collaboration with other partners in the academic, public, publishing, and other communities.

Libraries and librarians are among the most important drivers in the global movement for Open Access. Open, unrestricted and immediate access to information is a fundamental requirement for the development of societies, for participatory governments and for the improvement of global health and human well-being. Such access also enables libraries and librarians to become maximally effective in supporting these societal needs.

The current predominant model – for example, of high-priced subscriptions to academic journals – is not sustainable and is not optimal for societal benefits in an age of new technology and communications.

For example, about 300 universities, research centers, research funders, academic and library associations have signed the Berlin Declaration on Open Access and bodies of research and higher education as well as political bodies all over the world have publicly endorsed the principle of Open access to publicly funded research.

The following recommendations have been compiled by the organizers of the IFLA Satellite Meeting on Open Access and the Changing Role of Libraries that was held on August 9 in Gothenburg:

- IFLA should reduce the definitional confusion by explicitly referring to Open Access according to the definition in the Berlin Declaration. and in relations and discussions with organizations such as UN, UNESCO, WHO, WIPO - etc. take an explicit position, affirming that Open Access

is required in order for libraries to fulfill their role, for societies to develop, for the improvement of global health and human well-being.

- IFLA should work with key organizations that explicitly focus on Open Access and partner with or support initiatives, and community funded services that are in line with Open Access, prepare a joint statement with OASPA (Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association) and support all efforts to develop sustainable business models for Open Access publishing.

- IFLA should encourage its member associations and institutions to build capacity and to engage in activities that promote Open Access, engage its relevant sections, committees etc. in making the Open Access issue strongly visible in their activities and make official IFLA publications available in an Open Access mode.

### **Text of resolution:**

The General Assembly

- calls upon IFLA to sign the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities

- calls upon the Governing Board to request a White Paper on Open Access that clarifies IFLA:s position and strategy for action concerning Open Access and other areas of information.

- The Presidents Working Group for Open Access should be commissioned to prepare this White paper.

- The White Paper will among other matters elaborate on recommendations that have been compiled by the organizers of the IFLA Satellite Meeting on Open Access and the Changing Role of Libraries that was held on August 9 in Gothenburg.

### **Names of those submitting the resolution**

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