On behalf of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), I would like to congratulate Qatar Foundation on the inaugural issue of their new online journal, Perspectives in International Librarianship. The principle theme of the journal adds to the discourse on international librarianship highlighting the core principles of collaborative and cooperative practices at an international level. International librarianship has been, and continues to be, characterised by co-operation in respect of document supply, bibliographic standards, preservation and other technical areas. More recently, the issue of improving access to knowledge and information, given its ubiquitous nature, has strongly come to the fore. Libraries, in driving access to knowledge and innovation, are bringing the world together to enhance innovation, growth and development.

I must state that I am delighted and feel a great sense of honour in contributing to this inaugural issue. Given that this opportunity has been presented to me, I think it would be remiss of me not to share the vision and mission of IFLA as discourse of LIS issues, at an international level, contribute to shaping this dynamic organisation.

IFLA is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services (LIS) and their users. It is the global voice of the library and information profession. Therefore, it is fitting that IFLA is associated with this international journal.

The new vision and mission statement firmly positions IFLA as the leading international member organisation within the knowledge society of today, strengthening not only the library and information field, but also focussing on society as a whole by driving equitable access to information and knowledge for all. The vision (IFLA, 2010) states that,

**IFLA is the trusted global voice of the library and information community, and drives equitable access to information and knowledge for all.**

The mission of IFLA is to advance the interests of its members by:

- furthering accessibility, protection, and preservation of documentary cultural heritage;
- supporting a library and information profession which anticipates and responds to the needs of communities worldwide;
- driving high standards in library and information services and professional practice;
- encouraging widespread understanding of the value and importance of high quality library and information services in the public, private and voluntary sectors;
- promoting libraries as vital institutions that enhance people’s lives through equitable access to knowledge and information;

IFLA does this by creating strategic alliances; enhancing professional education; developing professional standards; disseminating best practices and advancing relevant scientific and professional knowledge. Therefore, to reiterate, it is fitting that IFLA is associated with Perspectives in International Librarianship as the aims and scope of this journal is in alignment with the vision and mission of IFLA. The aims and scope of the journal is to create an awareness of the world at large, beyond our daily boundaries which is essential for the successful integration of new, fresh perspectives on how best to serve library communities in the 21st century. Even more exciting is the fact that the journal will bring to the table new perspectives especially from those parts of the world which is not deemed mainstream—broadening the information world base.

As indicated, strategic alliances for the delivery of an efficient service to member organisations is imperative. However, those strategic alliances must delve into other forms of partnerships such as
those provided by academic journals which will unearth new debate that will contribute to the
shaping of the LIS profession. It is a significant decision by Qatar Foundation to launch *Perspective in
International Librarianship* as it fills a void left by a dearth in the literature on the developing world
perspective of international librarianship. I would like to applaud Qatar Foundation for the launch of
this title and appeal to potential authors to publish in this journal to ensure that it grows from
strength to strength and that the rigour of the debate gets stronger and stronger. The profession is in
need of rigorous debate and I hope that I will soon find time to conduct research myself and have it
published in this exciting journal.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Ms. Ellen Tise is the IFLA President 2009—2011. She has also served on the Governing Board and
Executive Committee of IFLA between 2001 and 2005, and between 2007 and 2009; the IFLA Free
Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) Advisory Board, 2003—2005; the IFLA
Africa Section Standing Committee, 2001—2007 and was chairperson of the National Committee for
the IFLA 73rd World Library and Information Congress, held in Durban, South Africa, 19—23 August
2007. Tise’s experience at senior management levels in the profession includes being the first
President of the Library and Information Association of South Africa from 1998—2002; Director of the
Sabinet Board from 2003; OCLC Members Council Delegate from October 2005 to May 2008, and
Ms. Tise is currently the Senior Director, Library and Information Services at the Stellenbosch
University, South Africa.

**Reference**

IFLA 2010, IFLA Strategic Plan 2010—2015, retrieved December 5th 2010 from