


Honorary Fellow Citation for Alex Byrne



Alex Byrne has made a lifetime's commitment to the library and information profession. He brings to this a strong sense of history and heritage, a passion for books and literature, a drive for innovation, and a strong motivation to advance Indigenous oral tradition.

Alex's involvement with IFLA began in 1993 with his membership of the University and General Research Libraries Standing Committee. In 1997 he was invited by the Governing Board to lead a new programme for IFLA: a new strategy to promote freedom of access to information and to fight censorship, now known as FAIFE. He led FAIFE for six years, transforming it from a project to the IFLA Core Activity.

His term as President-elect 2003 - 2005 and President 2005 - 2007 was guided by his theme of 'partnership' as he sought to strengthen IFLA through building strong relationships with other peak bodies, governmental agencies and businesses. This included IFLA's engagement in the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society where IFLA was successful in shifting the focus from the technologies to also include social, cultural, educational and economic priorities.

At a national level Alex has been a leader in the university and research sectors and has held the position of President of the Council of Australian University Librarians. He was the architect of the ground-breaking Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Library and Information Resources Network Protocols which have had a significant influence on the information sector in Australia and internationally, raising awareness and establishing a foundation for continued dialogue to take place around the management of Indigenous cultural collections.

Alex Byrne is a worthy recipient of IFLA's highest honour of Honorary Fellow.