

Honorary Fellow Citation for **Jennefer Nicholson**



The vision that Jennefer Nicholson brought to IFLA has resulted in the strong and vital federation seen today, an IFLA truly able to say it speaks on behalf of the world's libraries and noted as a role model for international associations.

Following years of service with IFLA's Education and Training Section and Management of Library Associations Section, Jennefer became IFLA's Secretary General in 2008. She brought an extraordinary drive and energy to the position, initially building and developing the IFLA staff to form a strong team with high professional values and competencies. In an era of financial difficulty and falling membership, Jennefer's business, human resources and management skills were essential in steadily actualizing a secure financial situation for the federation.

With an eye focussed on strategy, Jennefer supported a number of IFLA Presidents and Governing Boards, often ensuring that they decided on what not to do as well as what to do. She understood how IFLA's political representation could support the cause of libraries in society and established the conditions to build the advocacy agenda with organisations such as the United Nations, WIPO and UNESCO. This is long term work requiring determination and perseverance and which was continually supported while also assisting libraries at the national and local level. The result has been the positioning of IFLA as the global voice and world leader in representing library and information services and their users.

The creation of partnerships with others in the field such as Blue Shield and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation was critical to initiatives such as the Building Strong Library Associations programme which has so successfully strengthened the role of library associations worldwide and brought IFLA unequivocally to all regions of the world. Another of Jennefer's great contributions is in the identifying, training and coaching of young talent and future leaders through the IFLA International Leaders Programme and her generous and compassionate encouragement of librarians at meetings around the globe.

At a personal level, Jennefer provided vision, rigor, toughness, order, inclusiveness, approachability and good humour to the role of Secretary General. Her professionalism, commitment and reliability raised the image and influence of IFLA at all levels.

Jennefer Nicholson's outstanding leadership and exceptional service have brought distinction to IFLA and libraries in the international arena and make her a worthy recipient of IFLA's highest honour of Honorary Fellow.