

# IFLA Intellectual Freedom Checklist

# LIBRARIES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

This checklist is intended to help support discussion within library associations and libraries about intellectual freedom. Drawing on the [IFLA Statement of 1999](#), it looks at the different ways in which the broader climate of intellectual freedom impacts on libraries, as well as the work libraries and librarians themselves can do to defend and promote it.

There are three sets of questions, focused on your country, your library association, and your library or libraries. For each question, respond on a scale of 1-5, where:

- 1 = Strongly Agree
- 2 = Agree
- 3 = Neutral
- 4 = Disagree
- 5 = Strongly Disagree

This checklist is not intended to lead to comparison between countries (or associations or libraries). However, looking at where scores are higher could help identify where it may be worth developing advocacy materials, or working to improve internal practice.

There are different ways you could use it:

1. Look at the checklist individually. What do you think the main challenges are in your country?
2. Form a discussion group within your association or institution in order to discuss and agree on answers to the questions. If there are different opinions, talk about these – it can be a good opportunity to learn
3. Use the checklist as a basis for collecting evidence – laws, practices, news stories – about the state of intellectual freedom
4. Use the checklist to identify where you and colleagues can develop tools or guidance, or where it would be helpful for IFLA to do so.

Let us know how you get on!

## 1. Your Country

Question	Score
<p><b>1A.</b> The law in your country (including at the regional/state level) protects the right to freedom of expression, as well as the freedom to seek, receive and impart information.</p>	
<p><b>1B.</b> Citizens in your country have an effective right of access to public or government information (at least where privacy concerns do not prevail).</p>	
<p><b>1C.</b> There are no other unreasonable restrictions – including from non-governmental actors – on people’s ability to express opinions freely.</p>	
<p><b>1D.</b> There are no other unreasonable restrictions – including from non-governmental actors – on the ability of people to access information freely.</p>	
<p><b>1E.</b> The law in your country ensures adequate protection for the privacy of individuals’ personal data.</p>	
<p><b>1F.</b> Groups at greater risk of not being able to enjoy their fundamental rights of access to information, freedom of expression and privacy benefit from protections and support in order to avoid this happening.</p>	
<p><b>1G.</b> Libraries in your country are not subject to political, moral or religion-based limitations on the books they can acquire and lend.</p>	
<p><b>1H.</b> Libraries in your country are seen as spaces where people can freely share information and learn.</p>	

## 2. Your Library Association

Question	Score
<p><b>2A.</b> Your library association has a comprehensive and updated code of ethics that highlights intellectual freedom as a core principle.</p>	
<p><b>2B.</b> Your library association promotes intellectual freedom, including the right of freedom of access to information and freedom of expression.</p>	
<p><b>2C.</b> Your library association has a code of ethics that sets standards for protecting users against unjustified intrusions into their privacy, both by libraries themselves, and by third parties.</p>	

### 3. Your Libraries

Question	Score
<p><b>3A.</b> Libraries in your country do not share the identity of users or the materials that they use with third parties without consent.</p>	
<p><b>3B.</b> Libraries in your country have a strong understanding of the privacy impact of different ways of managing personal data held about users.</p>	
<p><b>3C.</b> Libraries in your country provide support for lifelong learning for users.</p>	
<p><b>3D.</b> Libraries in your country provide support for users to develop information literacy.</p>	
<p><b>3E.</b> Libraries in your country support cultural development, including of diverse groups.</p>	
<p><b>3F.</b> Librarians and information workers in your country help users to make better decisions through using information</p>	
<p><b>3G.</b> Libraries in your country support library values of inclusiveness and equal respect for all users.</p>	
<p><b>3H.</b> Library collections in your country reflect the plurality and diversity of society.</p>	
<p><b>3I.</b> Libraries in your country help safeguard basic democratic values and universal civic rights.</p>	
<p><b>3J.</b> Libraries in your country make materials, facilities and services equally available to all.</p>	
<p><b>3K.</b> The professional values of librarians and information workers include a responsibility to uphold intellectual freedom.</p>	