

# ALMA 2019 Final Document

Theme:

**Strong Professional Association – Strong Libraries – Strong Communities**

25 April 2019

M.I. Rudomino All-Russia State Library for Foreign Literature in Moscow

## **Introduction**

On April 25, 2019, Library for Foreign Literature hosted a foresight session of the April Library Moscow Agenda (ALMA) programme. It was the third in a series of annual foresight sessions, *Shaping up the Future of Libraries*. Some 80 participants – Russian Ministry of Culture officials, spokespeople for Russian and foreign library associations, including IFLA President elect Christine Mackenzie, as well as journalists – took part in the discussion. Library professionals from four countries and more than 20 Russian regions represented the interests of libraries of different types: public (national, regional, municipal), scientific and academic, special etc.

While working in smaller groups and focusing on particular core directions in the development of the library sector in Russia, the participants drafted the below guidelines for domestic library associations. These guidelines are aimed at making associations and their sections more effective in their work to implement each of the six core directions.

### **I. Furthering library advocacy work**

1. Promoting positive image of library and librarian in the public perception
2. Forging partnerships with government agencies and businesses
3. Preventive actions in the legal environment
4. Increasing professional competencies of library and information specialists as well as their motivation to best serve their patrons
5. Disseminating best practices: success stories and promo cases.

## **II. Library's propelling role in ICT development**

1. Monitoring and strategic analytics: identifying priority domains for research and dissertations
2. Strengthening the ties: "Science – Library". Speedy application of monitoring results to practice in the library sector
3. Strategic planning and supplementary financing of library services
4. Upgrading qualifications of library specialists, including scholars
5. Library as a center of international scholarly communication

## **III. Libraries' role in stimulating children's and young adults' interest in reading**

1. Acquisitions in children's libraries: enriching collections with contemporary quality literature
2. Enacting and upholding high quality standards for children's publications
3. Developing children's library services guidelines of recommendatory nature
4. Need for children's librarians to obtain specialized professional education
5. Methodology support within the legal framework
6. Assisting libraries in their efforts to facilitate social and cultural adaptation and to advocate rights of the disadvantaged social groups

## **IV. Opening new opportunities and vistas for young library professionals**

1. Making the profession of librarian and library as a workplace more prestigious
2. Organizing and holding on a regular basis professional contests for young specialists. Awards: grants to participate in international professional meetings, as well as grants to realize projects in their libraries
3. Encouraging young specialists to join professional associations and take part in high-profile events in Russia and abroad
4. Continuing professional development for young specialists.

## **V. LIS education of XXI century**

1. Russian Library Association (RLA) acting as Visionary  
*RLA forecasts development trends of the library field on the basis of annual monitoring reports.*
2. RLA acting as Marketing Analyst

*RLA endeavors to build up prestige of the profession and boost its popularity among prospective students, university and college students and young professionals.*

### 3. RLA acting as Technologist

*RLA provides methodology support to learning in various formats. It contributes to furthering continuing education in the workplace and encourages familiarization with “IFLA Guidelines on Continuing Professional Development: Principles and Best Practices” as well as their adaptation to Russian library practices.*

*(<https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/cpdwl/guidelines/ifla-guidelines-for-continuing-professional-development-summary-ru.pdf>).*

### 4. RLA acting as Analyst

*RLA effects regular monitoring of the quality of LIS education provided by higher learning institutions as well as libraries licensed to deliver educational activities. RLA introduces standards for library staff development, including staff motivation systems.*

## **VI. Some aspects of securing modern libraries' financial stability**

1. Fundraising
2. Additional sources of income for RLA activities
3. Project activities, including publishing, advertising and other sought-after services

## **Conclusion**

The present ALMA Final Document was approved by participants in the third annual foresight session, *Shaping up the Future of Libraries*, and finalized by the meeting's Steering Committee. To promote the document within the Russian library community a wide awareness raising campaign is planned via professional press and social media. This document is of a recommendatory nature and it is meant to be used as guidelines by Russian Library Association as well as other library associations of Russia.

## **Web-links**

Interview of Christine Mackenzie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXS5f9MqN1Y&t=4s>

Interview of Loida Garcia-Febo

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45Dk\\_xQO3L4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45Dk_xQO3L4)

