



Sharing learning beyond GL ‘family’

IPA specialists’ commitment to spread the word

Overview

This review is based on “Developing impact planning and assessment at national level: addressing some issues” by David Streatfield, Kristine Paberza, Ugne Lipeikaite, Marcel Chiranov, Luba Devetakova, and Renata Sadunisvili.

As more countries joined the Global Libraries initiative, its Impact Planning and Assessment specialists became a cohesive team that meets regularly, including at international conferences. They have drawn attention to issues relevant to other IPA specialists and library services managers working in similar roles in other countries.

The IPA aspects of GL are continuing to evolve in the direction of greater compatibility of approach across countries. Specialists have learnt from their experience of developing IPA in their own countries as well as from each other. In short, the learning continues, as does the specialists’ commitment to share what they have learnt beyond the GL “family”.

Although IPA plays an important part in assembling the evidence to help guide the development of public libraries, in the end it will fail if it does not engage the policy shapers and decision makers on their own terms. Impact planning needs to be embedded in government priorities and international strategies.

There are a host of possible approaches to cross-country sharing of information and experience about public library development. From creating a clearing house or repository for reports and research tools, enabling interested people to get hold of useful examples and models, to exploiting pan-national organizations for public library staff/researchers to spread ideas and learning.

IPA Specialist Information Sharing is done in a number of ways: through project dissemination workshops, national and regional conferences organized by the local library association as well as international conferences such as the International Federation of Library Associations congress. Journals and newsletters are key to sharing IPA work.

Comment

As IPA specialists in countries involved in the GL initiative share experiences, this paper describes opinions and findings about: (1) sharing learning within the country, (2) sharing beyond that country, (3) ensuring IPA evidence reflects government and international priorities, and (4) combining qualitative and quantitative evidence-forming strategic collaborations and telling stories.

References

Streatfield, D., Paberza, K., Lipeikaite, U., Chiranov, M., Devetakova, L., and Sadunisvili, R. (2012), “Developing impact planning and assessment at national level: addressing some issues”, *Performance Measurement and Metrics*, Vol. 13 No 1, pp. 58-65. ISSN: 1467-8047

Potential quotations

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The common incentive among all the GL IPA specialists is to share their learning.

Keywords: Global Libraries initiative; Public libraries; Library management