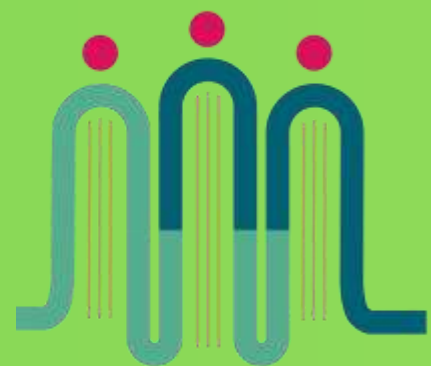


# Shared Knowledge, Shared Future: Strengthening International Library Alliances in an Era of Complexity



<https://www.easygenerator.com/en/blog/knowledge-sharing/benefits-knowledge-sharing/>



MAGYAR  
KÖNYVTÁROSOK  
EGYESÜLETE

56th Annual Conference of the Association of Hungarian Librarians, 10 - 12 July 2025, Debrecen University



# Beyond Borders, Beyond Silos



56th Annual Conference of the Association of Hungarian Librarians, 10 - 12 July 2025, Debrecen University

# The Strategic Need for Global Coordination

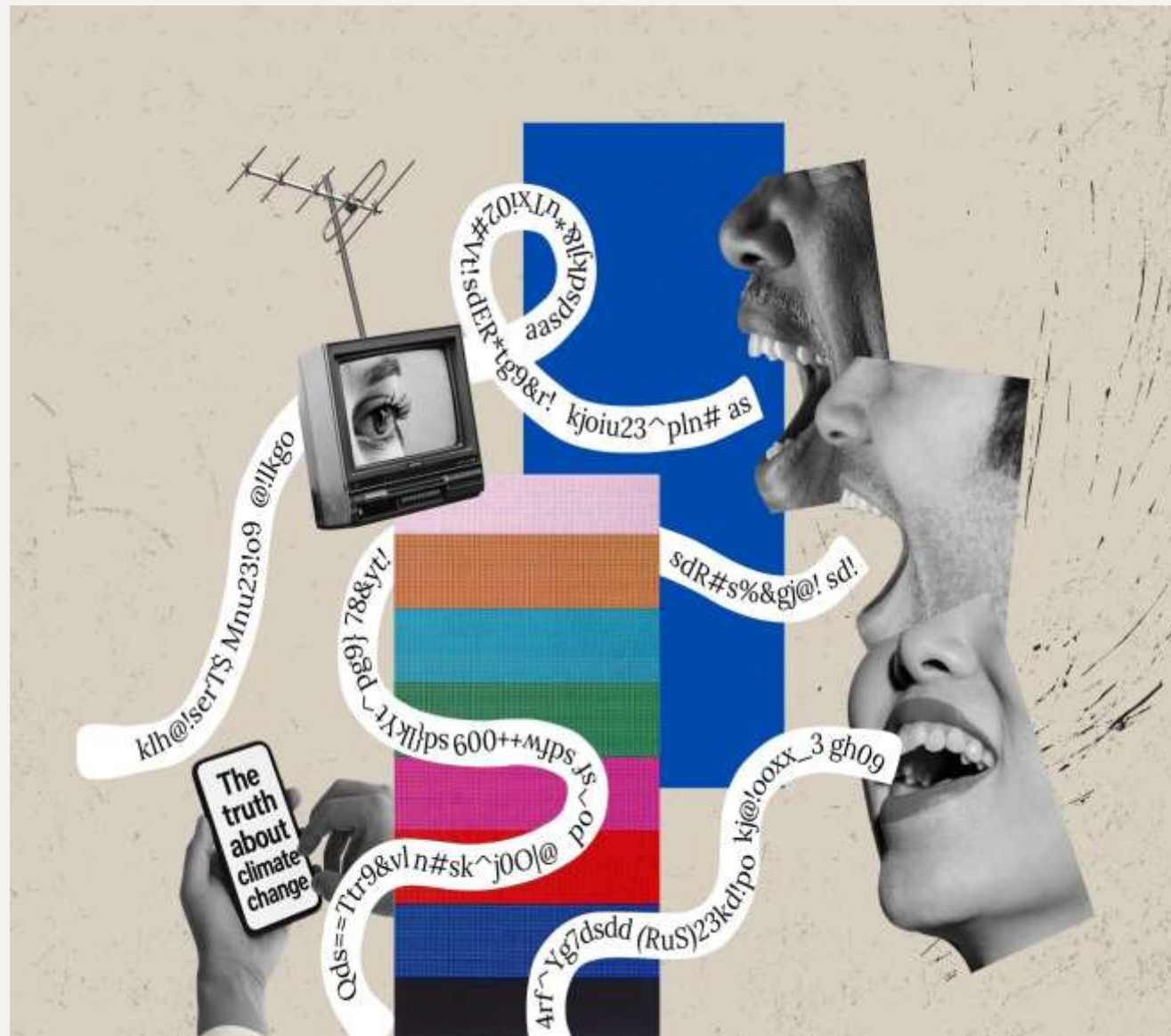
The IFLA Strategy repositions libraries not just as access points — but as agents of systemic change.



Based on IFLA Strategy 2024–2029:

- Knowledge equity
- Climate action
- Resilient library ecosystems
- Multilingualism and indigenous knowledge
- Inclusive data governance

# Emerging Global Challenges



- **Disinformation ecosystems**
- **AI-driven content control**
- **Knowledge nationalism**
- **Geo-political disruption of library networks**
- **Unequal digital infrastructure**

<https://climatepromise.undp.org/news-and-stories/what-are-climate-misinformation-and-disinformation-and-how-can-we-tackle-them>








# Strategic Gaps in Existing Collaborations

- **Critical reflections (less discussed):**
- **Over-centralization in Western frameworks**
- **Underrepresentation of Global South**
- **Language hegemony in metadata and standards**
- **Short-term projectism vs. long-term sustainability**



<https://medium.com/how-come-no-one-ever-told-me/collaboration-probably-is-not-what-you-think-it-is-dd8f1f2cf22d>

# Key Observations on International Library Collaboration

 Topic	 Simplified Observation	 Source (APA)
 Geographical Concentration	Most international library consortia are headquartered in Europe or North America.	UNESCO, 2021; IFLA, 2020
 Global South Representation	Leadership from the Global South remains limited in international library projects.	IFLA PC Reports, 2022
 Short-Term Projects	Many international projects run for less than 18 months, which limits sustainable capacity-building.	SCOSS, 2023; EIFL, 2022
 Language Inequality	Most metadata standards primarily support English or major Western European languages.	IFLA LIDATEC, 2021; IFLA Multilingual Access, 2020

Note: The above observations are based on published institutional reports, infrastructure reviews, and professional trend analyses. Figures represent systemic patterns rather than fixed statistical measures.

# Towards Polycentric Collaboration Models

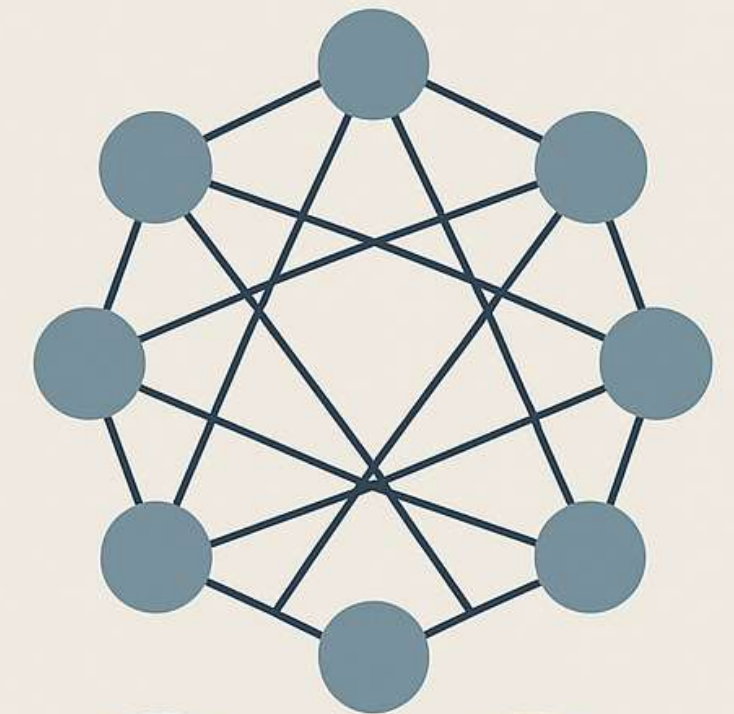
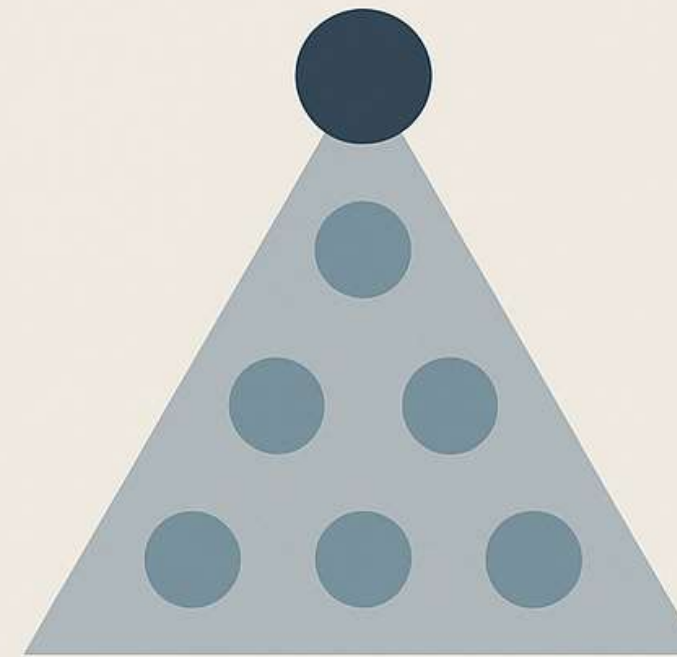
- Encouraging south-south cooperation
- Co-governance of open infrastructures
- Decentralized leadership in global networks
- Cross-sector alliances (libraries + civic tech + indigenous communities)

## POLYCENTRIC MODELS FOR THE FUTURE

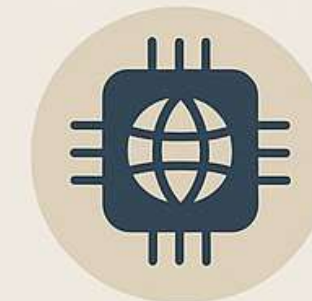
HIERARCHICAL



POLYCENTRIC



LIBRARIES



CIVIC TECH



INDIGENOUS  
COMMUNITIES



DIGITAL  
ACTIVISTS

# Emerging Shifts in Global Library Collaboration Models

## Indicator

Growth in South–South collaboration

Rise in cross-sector partnerships

Shift from top-down governance

## Observed Trend

Regional consortia in Africa and Latin America have increased joint programming and shared platforms.

More libraries now partner with civic tech, indigenous communities, and social justice movements.

Global library networks are exploring decentralized and co-owned models.

## Supporting Source(s)

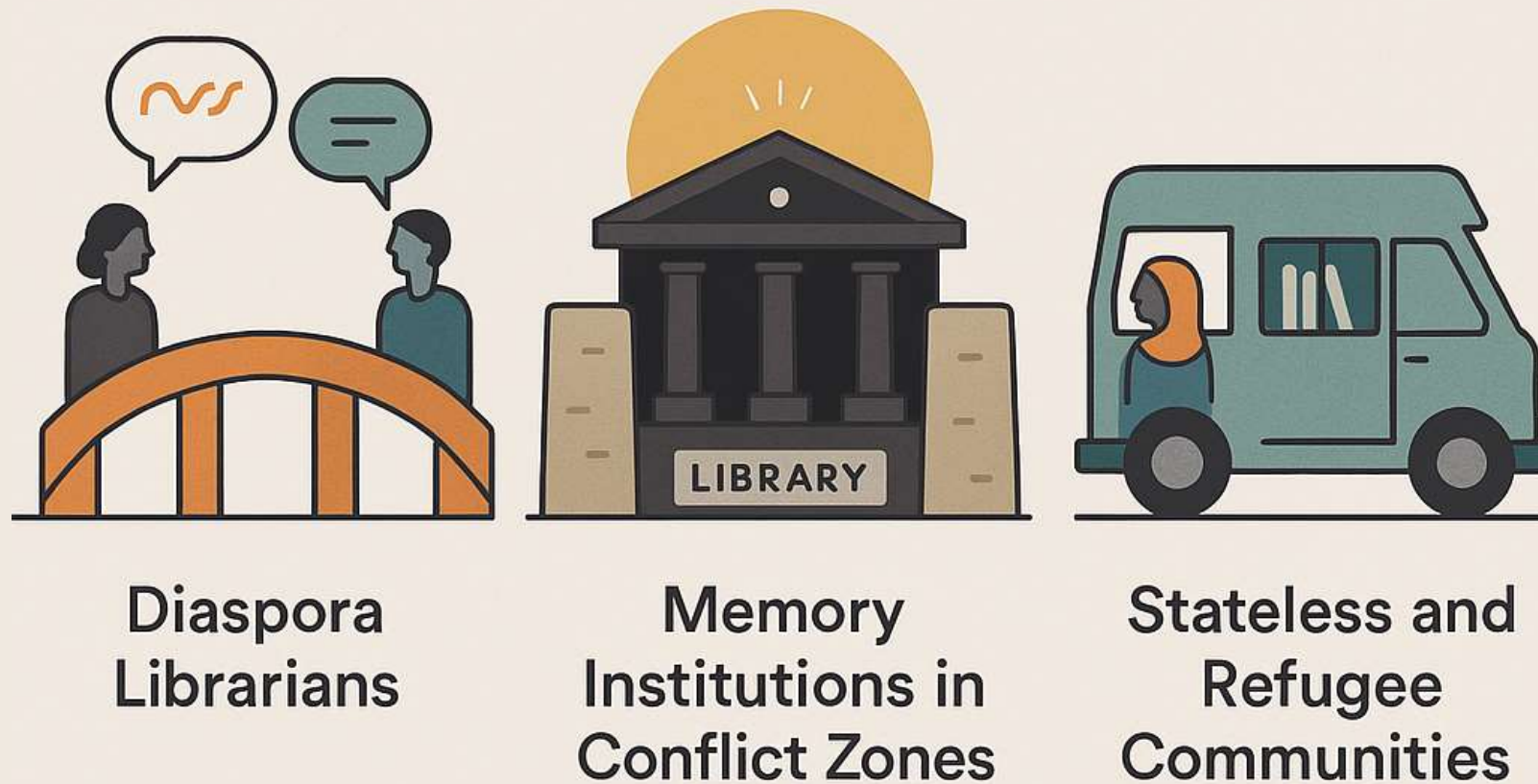
LA Referencia, EIFL, AfricArXiv (2020–2024)

IFLA Trend Report, 2021; UNESCO, 2023

IFLA Governance Review, 2021; LIBER Strategy, 2022

# Hidden Strengths and Untapped Potential

Overlooked contributors in library ecosystems



# Hidden Assets: What We Underutilize Globally

- Diaspora librarians as connectors
- Memory institutions in conflict zones
- Librarianship in refugee and stateless communities
- Student-led library diplomacy

# Knowledge Diplomacy



Multilingual Bookshelf



Cultural Metadata



Ethically Interoperability



Culturally Diverse Elements



Culturally Diverse



Open Policy Spaces

# Radical Inclusion & “Knowledge Diplomacy”

- Building inclusive metadata vocabularies
- Embedding non-Western epistemologies
- Training diplomats in library ethics & information rights
- Cross-linguistic bridges in library policy

# Call to Action: From Participation to Co-Ownership

- Co-owned in vision
- Co-owned in policy-making
- Co-owned in digital infrastructure
- Co-owned in leadership



<https://www.shirelegal.com.au/blog/are-you-buying-a-property-with-friends-or-family-members-what-you-need-to-know-about-co-ownership>

**“Our future is not  
something we inherit  
— it’s something we  
design together.”**

# Thank You !

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