Report of Benefits from Attending IFLA/WLIC 2015, Cape Town, South Africa

I am indeed grateful to both SAGE and Ex Libris for giving me the opportunity and facilitation to attend this conference as one of ARL winners. As a professional, it goes without saying that benefits from attending IFLA/WLIC are enormous, and accordingly librarians should not afford to miss this profession forum that brings together world librarians and specialists to chart and discuss profession development issues under focused theme and moreover under one roof! From attending IFLA/WLIC as an employee of an academic library (HKMU), my priorities centered on the presentations and discussions on academic and research including hot topics in Academic and Research and others as well. I had been able to access variety of information topics and discussions through various sessions such as Quality Assurance issues, Libraries as Publishers in the New Role, Well Being School Libraries and Health as well as Special Interest Group Discussions and many more just to mention a few. On the other hand from attending IFLA/WLIC I had been able to interact and network with various International Librarians networks and Publishers through Exhibition Pavilions including Sage where I accessed also eresources currently available on the internet and different databases. These are suitable for HKMU Library where I serve. Equally important I had been exposed to different experience, expertise, skills, software and models through which professional best practice is being carried out in different Universities in different countries to provide access and use information satisfactorily.

In summary I must admittedly confess that from attending IFLA/WLIC has opened a new but wonderful opportunity for collaboration through introducing me to international library cooperation, networking and information resource sharing that I have gained on onsite. I was able to visit various presentations as well as exhibitions and therefore:

- *Listened to regional and international case studies and to identify how I can improve information management at my institution*
- *Discovered the recent solutions for improved access to information management, integration, communication and utilization*
- *Explored new effective methods, models and strategies for information resources management*
- *Discovered developments around information governance and standards as presented and discussed interactively and amicably during the conference*

All these in a way imparted practical knowledge and experience of the ongoing best practice in a partnership manner as no library today can work successfully and sufficiently on its own resources independently. In fact as a professional working in an academic library, attending to WLIC/IFLA, had availed an opportunity to exposure to international library and information professional sustainable developments and advancements essential for my career to be deployed back home to development and strength my University Library. And, accordingly being the Head Librarian of HKMU Library, I am in a strategic position to influence decisions towards IFLA's deliberations and resolutions and implementation of the same at institution level. This in turn will be helping me to shape reorganization of our University library in terms of easy access and use of its resources optimum.

Similarly on the case of my Employer, benefits from attending have definitely been dependent on what I have carried and brought back; notably the best practices to the institution, through the broad based professional practical experiences gained that have never been enjoyed before. Attending IFLA/WLIC is a learning process; and as learning is a lifelong process, attending has

empowered me to confidently fulfil this intention from which I am now applying the gathered practical experience and exposure in reorganization of the library services and facilities envisaged to respond to the current information user needs.

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