

Satellite Meeting: Leadership roles in international librarianship: how can information professionals from Africa, Asia & Oceania, Latin America & Caribbean be part of it?

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The geographical distribution of information professionals at the IFLA Annual Congresses, with an emphasis on the IFLA Division V Regions

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Abstract:

Critical analysis of the levels of participation and representativeness of countries in the IFLA Annual Congresses, based on the mapping of the geographical origin of the delegates and authors of papers and posters. It discusses and highlights the global and comparative presence between regions at first, and then furthers the discussion on the participation, contribution and impact of professionals from Africa, Asia, Oceania, Latin America and the Caribbean, regions that make up the IFLA Regional Activities Division, entitled Division V. It is a bibliographical and documentary study in four IFLA World Library and Information Congresses from 2015-2018. We analyzed the geographical origins of: (a) 10,756 delegates with an average of 126 countries by years; (b) 2,427 authors from 1,329 papers presented in 242 sessions, with an average of 71 countries per year; (c) besides 1,066 authors from 548 posters, with an average of 46 countries per year. The results show that the IFLA congress promotes greater participation of professionals from both the host and neighboring countries and / or the same region. Yet it shows that there are many countries that still do not use IFLA as a space to share their activities and best practices. Similarly, it is also noted that a large number of countries are still being represented by a very small number of delegates and authors of articles and posters. The largest number of papers and posters presented at the four congresses analyzed came from American authors. In addition to the number that usually come from Canada, we can see the predominance of North American content being disseminated at the IFLA International Congress. As far as posters are concerned, China is the second-largest producing country. Several developing countries, especially Latin America, are represented exclusively at sessions hosted by Division V Sections. We also identified that there is not much collaboration between authors from different countries or even in the same country. The importance of WLIC's annual offer in the different regions of the planet is proven, in order to offer more opportunity to all. However, there are still a number of strategies that IFLA can apply to really offer equity to all librarians in the world. We suggest rethinking the strategies of aggregation of geographically dispersed professionals, along with planning short- and medium-term actions, considering the different levels of development of each country and region.

Keywords: *IFLA international representation. IFLA Division V. Regional Activities. IFLA WLIC participation. International Leadership. Developing countries.*

Resumen

Análisis crítico de los niveles de participación y representatividad de los países en los Congresos Anuales de la IFLA, basado en el mapeo del origen geográfico de los delegados y autores de artículos y carteles. Discute y destaca la presencia global y comparativa entre regiones al principio, y luego promueve la discusión sobre la participación, contribución e impacto de profesionales de África, Asia, Oceanía, América Latina y el Caribe, regiones que conforman la División de Actividades Regionales de la IFLA, titulado División V. Es un estudio bibliográfico y documental en cuatro Congresos de la Biblioteca Mundial de la IFLA y de Información del 2015-2018. Analizamos los orígenes geográficos de: (a) 10,756 delegados con un promedio de 126 países por años; (b) 2.427 autores de 1.329 artículos presentados en 242 sesiones, con un promedio de 71 países por año; (c) además de 1.066 autores de 548 carteles, con un promedio de 46 países por año. Los resultados muestran que el congreso de la IFLA promueve una mayor participación de profesionales tanto del país anfitrión como de los países vecinos y / o de la misma región. Sin embargo, muestra que hay muchos países que aún no utilizan IFLA como un espacio para compartir sus actividades y mejores prácticas. Del mismo modo, también se observa que un gran número de países todavía están representados por un número muy pequeño de delegados y autores de artículos y carteles. El mayor número de artículos y carteles presentados en los cuatro congresos analizados provino de autores estadounidenses. Además del número que generalmente proviene de Canadá, podemos ver el predominio del contenido de América del Norte que se difunde en el Congreso Internacional de la IFLA. En lo que respecta a los carteles, China es el segundo país productor más grande. Varios países en desarrollo, especialmente América Latina, están representados exclusivamente en las sesiones organizadas por las Secciones de la División V. También identificamos que no hay mucha colaboración entre autores de diferentes países o incluso en el mismo país. La importancia de la oferta anual de WLIC en las diferentes regiones del planeta está comprobada, para ofrecer más oportunidades a todos. Sin embargo, todavía hay una serie de estrategias que IFLA puede aplicar para realmente ofrecer equidad a todos los bibliotecarios del mundo. Sugerimos repensar las estrategias de agregación de profesionales dispersos geográficamente, junto con la planificación de acciones a corto y mediano plazo, considerando los diferentes niveles de desarrollo de cada país y región.

Palavras-chave: *Representación internacional en IFLA. IFLA División V. Actividades Regionales. Participación en IFLA WLIC. Liderazgo Internacional. Países en desarrollo.*

1 Introduction

The International Federation for Library Association (IFLA) is an independent, international, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization, whose goals are to: (a) *promote high standards of provision and delivery of library and information services*, (b) *encourage widespread understanding of the value of good library & information services* and (c) *represent the interests of our Members throughout the world* (IFLA ANNUAL REPORT, 2018, p.4)¹

Among the various activities developed by IFLA, the World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) is its major flagship event, with a budget of around EUR 2 – 2.5 million, it attracts up to 4,000 attendees from over 120 countries, making it the most international library conference

¹ <https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/annual-reports/2018.pdf>

² IFLA. **Request for Proposal for PCO**. 2019. Disponible em: <<https://www.ifla.org/node/91941>>. Acesso em: 12 jul. 2019.

in the world (IFLA, 2019)². Annually, in a partnership with local committees, IFLA organizes this congress in several countries, enabling the exchange of experiences and debates on topics of interest in different regions. Obviously, it also aims to offer more opportunities for professionals from different locations to participate, facilitating access to events closer to their countries.

Thus, observing the geographical distribution of the participants of these events can provide an understanding of how this approach is being absorbed by the international community; what has been the real presence of professionals from different regions in terms of quantity of participation (delegates); and the quality of this participation (authors presenting a paper or sharing good practices through a poster).

In this context, this article presents a critical analysis of the levels of participation and representativeness of countries in the IFLA Annual Congresses (2015-2018), based on the mapping of the geographical origin of the attendants (delegates) and authors of papers (open sessions proposed by the IFLA Sections) and of posters (poster session). Its purpose is to discuss and to understand the global and comparative presence between regions at first, and then further the discussion on the impact, participation and contribution of professionals from Africa, Asia & Oceania, and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) - regions that make up the IFLA Division V Regional Activities.

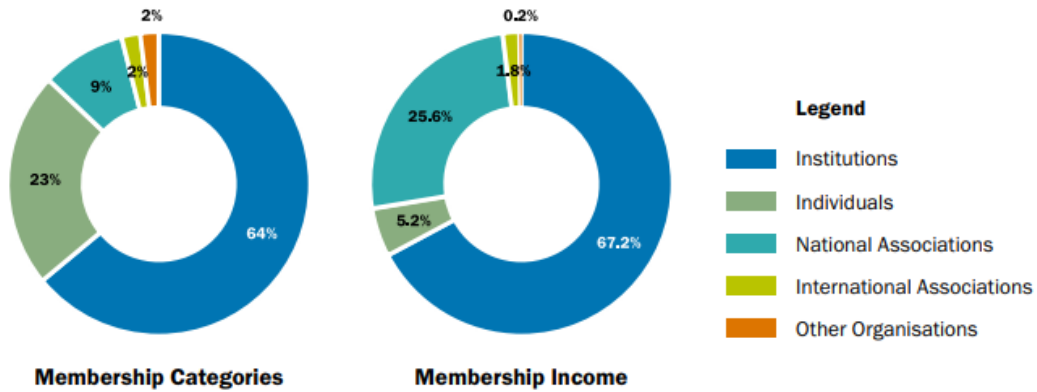
2 IFLA in Few Numbers

According to the newly published IFLA Annual Report 2018, IFLA's current Members³ are 1,333 from 138 countries. Graphic 1 below elucidates the different membership categories and respective holdings, geographical distribution, as well as the percentage of membership income from them.

³ Following the standard used in the IFLA Statute, the word **Members** (with an initial capital letter) will be used to refer to associations, institutions or individuals (as mentioned in Articles 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 e 4.6) that endorse the purposes of the Federation and undertaken to comply with its Statutes.

Graph 1 - IFLA Membership 2018

IFLA Membership Makeup



IFLA Membership by Region*



*Includes all membership categories.

Source: IFLA Annual Report 2018⁴

Institutions (such as Library Schools, libraries of different types, documentation centers and others) rank first in the number of membership and highest income. Although IFLA is a Federation of Libraries Associations, only 9% of its Members correspond to national associations. Individual members are currently in second place in quantity, but at the 2018 Assembly in Malaysia, IFLA's new policy of reducing membership fees was approved to encourage membership growth in this category.

Professionals from Europe have a significant participation, almost three times the number of the second most voted category: Asia, followed closely by the third: North America.

⁴ Available at: <https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/annual-reports/2018.pdf>

Table 1 below shows the number of Members per category versus region, making it possible mainly to compare some growth from 2017 to 2018 in some categories. It also shows the huge discrepancy between the number of Members in different regions. Certainly, developing countries are the ones with the minimal presence.

Table 1 – Number of Members per Category by Region 2017 - 2018

	Africa		Asia & Oceania		Europe		Latin America & the Caribbean		North America		TOTAL		%
	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	
National Associations	15	11	31	30	64	66	17	11	15	14	142	132	8%
International Associations	2	5	2	3	12	9	2	0	5	4	23	21	10%
Institutions	68	73	182	172	458	474	45	50	98	111	851	880	-3%
Individuals	15	14	71	49	63	59	10	14	152	121	311	257	21%
Other Organisations	1	1	3	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	6	3	100%
Grand Total	101	104	289	255	599	609	74	75	270	250	1333	1293	3%

Source: IFLA Annual Report 2018⁵

Africa, a region containing 54 countries, for example, is represented by only 15 national associations. In fact, from the total number of associations also presented in Asia & Oceania (according to IFLA with 62 countries⁶) and Latin American and the Caribbean (55 countries), many countries are not being represented, perhaps due to the lack of association in the country, lack of interest or some difficulty in joining.

Only two regions have increased their membership: Asia & Oceania (with an 8% increase) and North American (with a 3% increase). The other three regions are decreasing, including in Europe.

It is important to know the numbers and distribution of the IFLA Members because they are the ones that nominate and elect the specialists who will make up the standing committees (as members⁷) of the IFLA Professional Units as well as the Governing Board and the Presidency. They are the ones that have immediate inferences in the composition of IFLA structures, both of professionals and managers. The more Members in a given region, the more likely it is to have more representatives (or members) at IFLA decision-making posts.

All the Professional Units (Sections and Special Interest Groups) are responsible for developing various activities, programs and publications in all aspects of the library field.

According to IFLA Annual Report 2018,

More than 1,200 highly experienced and engaged experts participate in 44 Sections, 15 Special Interest Groups and six Strategic Programmes. Individual members come from library associations and all types of library institutions around the world. They commit to activities which enhance and develop libraries and the services they provide to their communities (IFLA, 2018, p.18).⁸

⁵ Available in: <https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/annual-reports/2018.pdf>

⁶ Available in: <https://ifla.org/node/9511>

⁷ Following the standard used in the IFLA Statute, the word **members** (with no capital letter) is used to refer to the experts nominated and elected by IFLA Members to compose the standing committees of the IFLA Professional Units and Governing Board.

⁸ <https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/annual-reports/2018.pdf>

One of its main activities is the World Library and Information Congress (WLIC), which occurs annually and 2019 is the 85th edition. Before 2004, the IFLA Conference was called General Assembly. In 2002, under the chairmanship of President Christine Deschamps, the Board decided to adopt the new title and it was argued that it

... could attract more publicity and have greater impact on the city where the conference was being held. It would also help IFLA sustain the conference as the leading international conference in its field. The existing title would be retained as a sub-title to maintain continuity (IFLA. GB, 2002, p.376).

Currently, the governing board, the president, the president-elect, the secretary general and his staff, the professional committee, strategic programs and the host institution can organize different sessions during the Congress. Yet the major content is organized by the 44 Professional Units called Sections, which can be a business meeting and an open session.

Those open sessions can have different formats ranging from workshops, guest speakers, discussion table with representatives of different points of view on a certain theme to professionals who answered the call for papers and had their papers selected for oral presentation during the WLIC (papers authors).

In addition to these Open Sessions, the congresses also have the Poster Session, in which infographics submitted by professionals from different areas, themes and countries (selected by the Scientific Committee of the Congress) will be exhibited (posters authors).

As a place for information exchange, learning, and networking, the Congress is an endless source of information. It is an important resource to understand how the international community has appropriated the "IFLA environment", what has been the contribution of the international professional community and how the immense cultural diversity of the countries are represented and seen within the institution.

3 Methodological procedures

This is a documentary study; its main sources of data collection and analysis were the IFLA congresses for the years 2015 to 2018. The choice of this study period aimed precisely to define a sample with the following characteristics considered essential: a sequence of recent and consecutive events occurring in different regions.

For analyzing the delegates of the aforementioned events, the IFLA Annual Reports (2015-2018) were used, observing the distribution by region as indicated therein⁹. For analyzing the authors' geographical origin (papers and posters), the professional programs of each event were used, specifically the contents of the open sessions promoted by the 44 IFLA professional unit and the poster session, available online as shown below:

⁹ <https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/annual-reports/2015.pdf>
<https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/annual-reports/2016.pdf>
<https://www.ifla.org/AnnualReport2017/IFLAAnnualReport2017.pdf>
<https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/annual-reports/2018.pdf>

WLIC	INFORMATION SOURCES
2015	a) Open Sessions - papers http://www.professionalabstracts.com/iflawlic2015/programme-iflawlic2015.pdf b) Poster Sessions - List of accepted poster presentations https://www.ifla.org/past-wlic/2015/ifla81/poster-sessions.html
2016	a) Open Sessions - papers http://www.professionalabstracts.com/iflawlic2016/programme-iflawlic2016.pdf b) Poster Sessions - List of accepted poster presentations https://2016.ifla.org/programme/poster-sessions
2017	a) Open Sessions - papers http://www.professionalabstracts.com/iflawlic2017/programme-iflawlic2017.pdf b) Poster Sessions - List of accepted poster presentations https://2017.ifla.org/programme/poster-sessions
2018	a) Open Sessions - papers https://www.professionalabstracts.com/iflawlic2018/programme-iflawlic2018.pdf b) Poster Sessions - List of accepted poster presentations https://2018.ifla.org/poster-sessions

Source: research data (2019)

Regarding the papers, this study selected only those listed in the open sessions organized by IFLA Professional Sections that fulfilled the following specificities: contain a Chair and a structured list of papers selected for presentation (containing title, author (s) and author's country). All paper authors and session chairs were mapped considering their WLIC identification, WLIC session number, title, paper author (s) and country (countries). However, if the Chair also had a role in the same session, it was only counted one time. For the posters, this study included all those listed and presented in the Poster Sessions of the congresses.

For mapping the countries to analyze the geographic distribution of the authors, some criteria were adopted:

- Russia and Turkey are Eurasian, but were counted as Asia;
- The total number of authors in China also includes Taiwan;
- Puerto Rico and Mexico were counted as Latin America and the Caribbean, following the structure used by IFLA to bring together the Spanish-speaking countries of this region of the globe.

4 Data Collection and Analysis

In the period under study, 2015-2018, the IFLA Congress visited four regions: Africa, North America, Europe and Asia, hosted in the cities illustrated below.

Year	IFLA WLIC	City and Country	Region
2015	81th IFLA General Conference and Assembly - 15-21 August 2015 <i>Dynamic Libraries: Access, Development and Transformation</i>	Cape Town, South Africa	Africa
2016	82th IFLA General Conference and Assembly - 13-19 August 2016 <i>Connections. Collaboration. Community</i>	Columbus, Ohio, United States	North America
2017	83th IFLA General Conference and Assembly - 19-25 August 2017 <i>Libraries. Solidarity. Society</i>	Wrocław, Poland	Europe
2018	84th IFLA General Conference and Assembly - 24-30 August 2018 <i>Transform Libraries, Transform Societies</i>	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Asia

Source: research data (2019)

The analysis and results will be presented focusing on (a) first the participants / delegates of the referred events, (b) then the authors of the open session papers, followed by (c) the study with the poster authors and, finally, (d) a comparative study between the two participation formats: paper and poster.

4.1 WLIC Participants / Delegates

The total of full delegates (excluding those registered for one or two event days) can be seen in Table 02 below

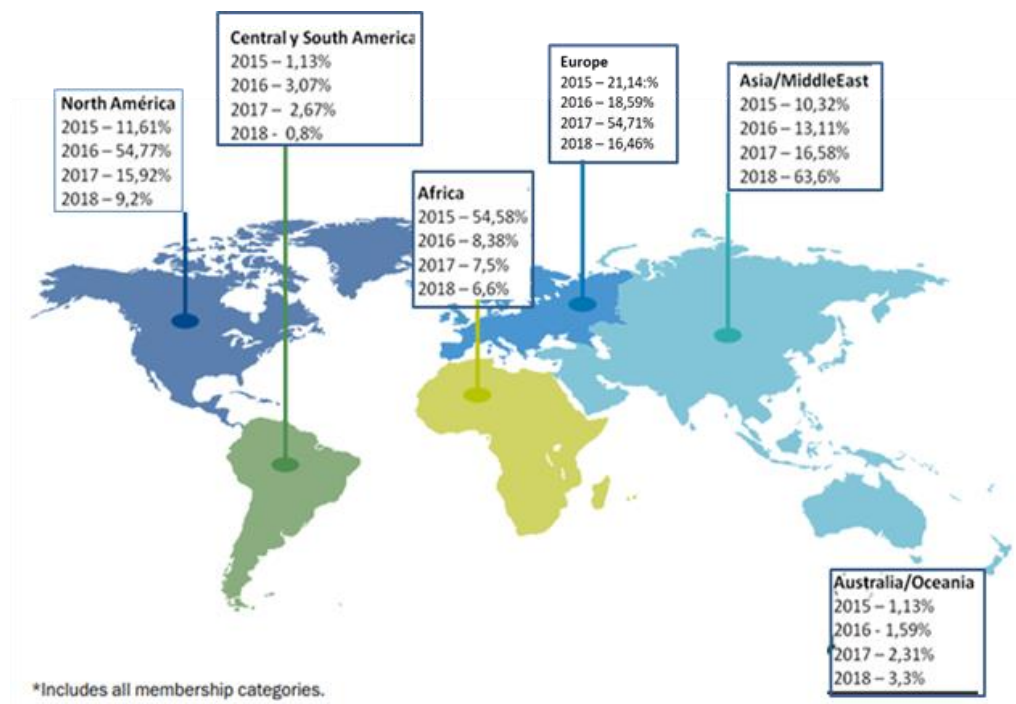
Table 02 - Full time delegates at WLIC 2015-2018

Delegates	WLIC 2015	WLIC 2016	WLIC 2017	WLIC 2018
Full time delegates	2287	2045	3034	3390
Number of countries represented	132	137	122	113

Source: research data (2019)¹⁰

Regarding the distribution by region of these delegates, Graph 2 illustrates the percentage of international participation:

Graph 2 - International participation in the last four years of WLIC



Source: research data (2019)¹¹

A simple look at Graph 2 above makes it clear that IFLA premise of bringing WLIC to different countries to provide opportunities for different professionals in diverse regions has indeed had an effect. The region where the Congress takes place can also be observed to be the one that

¹⁰ Data collected from IFLA Annual Reports 2015-2018.

¹¹ Data collected from IFLA Annual Reports 2015-2018.

takes the largest audience to the event. Not only the host country, but also the surrounding countries, as demonstrated in the following tables.

Based on the IFLA tabulated data for the countries represented by the delegates, it appears that the 10 countries with the largest delegations in the years studied are:

Table 03 - Ten top delegations at WLIC 2015-2018

WLIC 2015 South Africa	WLIC 2016 U.S.A.	WLIC 2017 Poland	WLIC 2018 Malasya
South Africa - 1.358	U.S.A - 1.604	Poland - 475	Malasya - 1.242
U.S.A. - 299	Canada - 105	U.S.A. - 390	U.S.A. - 248
Germany - 99	China - 89	Germany - 176	Singapore - 160
Namibia - 98	Germany - 84	China - 131	China - 155
China - 80	Japan - 69	U.K. - 97	Germany - 97
Canada - 57	Nigeria - 63	France - 90	Australia - 86
Sweden - 54	Denmark - 59	Sweden - 78	Korea - 76
Norway - 53	France - 55	Russian Fed. - 75	Indonesia - 74
France - 50	Netherlands - 52	Netherlands - 71	Japan - 68
Netherlands - 50	Australia - 49	Finland - 64	France - 53

Source: research data (2019)

Among the 10 countries with the largest delegation in the 2015 Congress, in addition to the significant number of South African participants, it is also possible to find Namibia, another country in Africa. But a survey on the list of all the participants of that year shows the presence of representatives from 29 other African countries with 266 representatives, namely: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesoto, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Senegal, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe. This means that, from the 47 countries in Africa, the WLIC 2015 had representatives from 31 countries. European countries and North American countries are well represented, and from Asia&Oceania, China is one of the ten top countries.

It makes sense that Canada ranked second in a number of representatives in 2016, when WLIC was in North America, specifically the US, which contributed with the largest contingent of participants that year. They were followed by countries that are recurrently among the top ten delegations: Germany, France, Netherlands, China and Japan, countries with a high level of economic development.

In 2017, the year of return to Europe, the largest delegation was from Poland, the host country, following the tradition. However, with the second and third places, respectively, the USA and China, all the other places were occupied by European delegations, also evidencing the regional presence.

In 2018 in Asia, it was Malaysia's turn to occupy the first place in delegation size, with a performance similar to that exhibited by South Africa in 2015. In addition, in that year, excluding the presence of USA, France, and Germany, Asian countries and Oceania filled the gaps between the top ten delegations: Singapore, China, Australia, Korea, Indonesia, and Japan. In the total participation, 25 other countries from the Asian region and Oceania were present, namely: Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, India, Iran, Iraq, Jordania, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Myanmar, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zeland, Oman, Pakistan, Phillipines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam.

Graph 02 shows that the region with the least recurrent participation in all the events has been Latin America and the Caribbean. Thus, some information on the only three events in this region was sought to make a comparison. The first was in Cuba, 1994, attended by 938 delegates (a significant number for that time) from 80 countries. Of the total delegates, Cubans lead with 433, almost 50% of the participants, followed by the U.S.A with 116, Spain with 63 and Russia with 62 participants. However, according to the event Report, Latin America and the Caribbean had 187 representatives from 26 countries. (IFLA, 1994¹²).

In 2004, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the Congress had 3,835 participants from 121 countries, with 1,237 delegates attending an IFLA Congress for the first time. IFLA Annual Report 2004 mentioned that

"As in other years, the host country had the largest contingent of representatives with 618 delegates from Argentina. Runners up were the United States (355), Brazil (117), China (110), Chile (109) and the Russian Federation (102). As part of the Professional Programme, 189 papers, 80 posters and many other presentations were presented during 222 meetings" (IFLA, 2004, p. 12)¹³.

In 2011, in Puerto Rico, an unincorporated territory of the United States located in the northeastern Caribbean Sea, the 77th WLIC received 1928 total full-time delegates from 116 countries. Among them were 492 representatives attending the IFLA Congress for the first time. The largest delegations in descending order were the United States, China, Puerto Rico, Canada, and Germany. At that Congress, the US presence has surpassed the host country, which makes a lot of sense if we compare their territorial and population size, and of course, the fact that Puerto Rico is considered part of the same territory. A study by Uribe-Tirado (2011) on this Congress reveals that among the 10 countries with the largest number of posters, Cuba came in second place, right after the USA; in 6th place was Brazil and in 10th place was Puerto Rico. As for papers, Puerto Rico took the second place, Mexico the 6th place, in Chile the 8th and Brazil the 10th.

Thus, also in Latin America and the Caribbean, professionals take the opportunity to participate in IFLA Congresses when held in their territory. This certainly validates the importance of WLIC's presence in Latin America and the Caribbean as a strategic action aimed at providing access to this region and its professionals.

4.2 Paper Authors at the Open Sessions

From the WLIC 2015 to 2018, the 44 IFLA Sections organized 242 Open Sessions, providing 1,329 papers, 2,427 authors, with an average of 71 countries per year, distributed as shown below.

Table 04 - Characterization of Open Sessions: papers x authors x countries

WLIC	TOTAL SESSIONS	TOTAL PAPERS	TOTAL AUTHORS	REPRESENTED COUNTRIES*
2015 South Africa	54	274	473	63
2016 USA	65	376	672	80
2017 Poland	57	331	619	74
2018 Malaysia	66	348	663	68
TOTAL	242	1329	2427	Average of 71 countries / year

* Total countries represented, regardless of the number of authors per country.

Source: research data (2019)

¹² <http://origin-archive.ifla.org/IV/ifla60/60rept.htm>

¹³ <http://origin-archive.ifla.org/IV/ifla70/xpress8-e.pdf>

Recurrently for all the years analyzed, the ratio of papers to total authors shows an average of fewer than 2 authors per paper (1.57 for 2015, 1.35 for 2016, 1.78 for 2017 and 1.98 for 2018). This indicates that most of the papers are individually authored.

In fact, this was noticed in the 2015 data tabulation process, for example, when 104 papers (corresponding to 38% of the total of 274) were identified to have with multiple authorships of two, three, four and even seven authors. Also, among these multiple authorship papers, only 19 papers were found to be international partnerships; the others always had a co-author from the same country. In a future study, it would be interesting to analyze the other countries involved, library typologies, etc.

In theory, it is worth stating that at least one author per paper must be present at the event for its presentation. Thus, establishing a parallel, of the total numbers of 2015 delegates, which was 2,287, 274 or 12% were there to share their experiences and activities through a paper at any of the open sessions of the event. In 2016, this proportion was 18%; in 2017, 11% and in 2018, 10.2%.

Certainly, to compare those results with the geographical distribution of the authors can be interesting.

Table 05 below allows observing the origin of the most widespread ideas, experiences, and culture at IFLA Congresses year by year.

In the 54 sessions analyzed in 2015, 473 authors from 63 countries were counted. In 2016, out of the 64 sessions analyzed 672 authors were from 80 countries; in 2017, 57 sessions had 619 authors from 74 countries; and in 2018, 66 sessions counted on 663 authors from 68 countries.

US professionals have the most authors submitting papers in all the years analyzed, followed by Canada (with the exception of WLIC 2018 Malaysia, when Australia ranked 2nd in the number of paper authors).

Therefore, comparing with the results of the delegates' study, it is clear that the US ranks among the first countries with the largest number of representatives and also the first country in numbers of authors presenting papers in all the congresses, besides always having a great advantage over the second place. Completing North America, Canada is also always among the countries with the most numerous contributions.

From Europe: Germany, France, England and Finland are also among the best performing countries in terms of paper presentation at the Congresses.

Table 05 - Distribution of paper authors by country – WLIC 2015-2018

WLIC 2015 - South Africa Paper's authors	#	WUIC 2016 United States Paper's authors	#	WLIC 2017 Poland Paper's authors	#	WLIC 2018 Malaysia Paper's authors	#
Australia	22	Argentina	3	Aruba	2	Argentina	1
Benin	2	Australia	21	Australia	29	Australia	42
Botswana	2	Belgium	4	Bangladesh	1	Austria	5
Brazil	17	Botswana	4	Belarus	2	Bangladesh	1
Cameroon	3	Brazil	8	Belgium	5	Belgium	5
Canada	25	Cameroon	2	Brazil	11	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2
Chile	7	Canada	30	Cameroon	1	Botswana	2
China	20	Chile	9	Canada	34	Brazil	8
Croatia	6	China	9	Chile	6	Cameroon	2
Czech Republic	5	Colombia	4	China	27	Canada	35
Denmark	2	Croatia	7	Colombia	5	Chile	1
Egypt	2	Cuba	4	Croatia	2	China	30
Estonia	1	Czech Republic	1	Cuba	13	Colombia	7
Finland	13	Denmark	3	Czech Republic	3	Costa Rica	1
France	15	Dominican Republic	4	Denmark	4	Croatia	3
Germany	13	Ecuador	3	Ecuador	3	Czech Republic	2
Ghana	1	Egypt	5	Egypt	3	Denmark	6
India	4	El Salvador	3	Estonia	2	Egypt	6
Indonesia	5	Fiji	1	Finland	19	Finland	10
Iran, Islamic Republic of	10	Finland	12	France	18	France	39
Italy	3	France	30	Germany	12	Germany	14
Jamaica	2	Germany	16	Ghana	2	Greece	2
Japan	6	Ghana	11	Greece	5	India	37
Kenya	8	Greece	1	Hong Kong	1	Indonesia	31
Lebanon	1	Guatemala	4	Hungary	9	Iran, Islamic Repc of	9
Lesotho	1	Haiti	3	Iceland	1	Iraq	1
Macedonia, Yugoslav Rep of	1	Hong Kong	3	India	9	Ireland	1
Madagascar	3	Hungary	1	Indonesia	3	Italy	3
Malawi	1	India	5	Iran, Islamic Rep of	12	Japan	18
Mali	1	Indonesia	3	Italy	6	Kenya	2
Moldova, Republic of	1	Iran, Islamic Rep of	8	Japan	1	Lithuania	1
Mozambique	1	Italy	10	Kenya	3	Madagascar	1
Namibia	6	Jamaica	6	Korea, Republic of	3	Madagascar	3
Netherlands	6	Japan	6	Kuwait	1	Malawi	1
New Zealand	2	Kenya	2	Latvia	2	Malaysia	38
Nigeria	25	Korea, Republic of	6	Lithuania	1	Mexico	3
Norway	6	Kuwait	2	Luxembourg	4	Nepal	1
Pakistan	3	of	1	Malawi	1	Netherlands	4
Peru	2	Mali	2	Malaysia	9	New Zealand	16
Portugal	3	Mexico	6	Mali	2	Nigeria	20
Puerto Rico/USA	1	Morocco	1	Malta	1	Norway	9
Qatar	6	Myanmar	1	Mexico	5	Pakistan	4
Romania	1	Namibia	2	Namibia	2	Peru	2
Saudi Arabia	2	Nepal	2	Netherlands	16	Philippines	9
Singapore	11	Netherlands	20	New Zealand	9	Poland	5
Slovenia	4	New Caledonia - França	1	Nicaragua	3	Portugal	1
South Africa	35	New Zealand	3	Nigeria	21	Qatar	7
Spain	3	Nicaragua	6	Norway	5	Romania	2
Sweden	9	Nigeria	23	Pakistan	3	Russian Federation	6
Switzerland	4	Norway	6	Panama	5	Senegal	3
Taiwan, Rep of China	2	Oman	2	Peru	4	Serbia	1
Tanzania, United Rep of	7	Pakistan	4	Philippines	1	Singapore	8
Thailand	3	Panama	4	Poland	21	Slovenia	2
Tunisia	1	Peru	7	Portugal	7	South Africa	7
Turkey	1	Philippines	3	Qatar	3	Spain	6
Uganda	10	Poland	3	Romania	1	Sri Lanka	7
United Arab Emirates	5	Portugal	2	Russian Federation	3	Sweden	7
United Kingdom	23	Puerto Rico	1	Rwanda	3	Switzerland	2
United States	81	Qatar	2	Senegal	2	Tanzania	1
Vatican City State	1	Romania	1	Serbia	5	Thailand	3
Venezuela	1	Saudi Arabia	6	Singapore	5	Uganda	3
Zambia	1	Singapore	3	Slovenia	6	United Kingdom	15
Zimbabwe	4	Slovenia	3	South Africa	9	United States	122
63 countries	473	South Africa	14	Spain	6	Uzbekistan	3
54 sessions		Spain	1	Sri Lanka	1	Vanuatu	1
		Sri Lanka	7	Sweden	27	Vatican City State	3
		Sweden	18	Switzerland	10	Zambia	6
		Switzerland	6	Tanzania, United Rep of	1	Zimbabwe	4
		Taiwan, Rep of China	2	Turkey	3	68 countries	663
		Tanzania, United Rep of	2	Uganda	4	66 sessions	
		Thailand	2	United Kingdom	17		
		Trinidad and Tobago	5	United States	128		
		Tunisia	1	Zambia	1		
		Turkey	9	Zimbabwe	4		
		Uganda	17	74 countries	619		
		United Kingdom	19	57 sessions			
		United States	188				
		Uruguay	2				
		Venezuela	4				
		Zimbabwe	6				
		80 countries	672				
		64 sessions					

Source: research data (2019)

The Asian country that presented the largest number of papers in the congresses analyzed is China. Except at the 2018 Malaysian Congress, when it is surpassed by India. As regards Africa, the country that stands out in all the events is Nigeria; some other countries stand out in one or another event only. From Latin America and the Caribbean, no country excelled in any of the congresses studied.

As might be expected, the developed countries participating in the Congress (regardless of the region where the event is being held) with the largest delegations are also the most featured papers; they are from several countries from Europe and North America.

Thus, rethinking strategies to broaden the participation of representatives of developing countries, as well as working on improving their skills for more immediate integration and sharing of their experiences, is a political definition that may be taken by IFLA at some point.

The grouping of this data by region can be seen in the table below.

Table 06 - Geographic distribution by region of authors of papers for the 2015-2018 WLIC Open Sessions

REGION	2015 South Africa	2016 U.S.A	2017 Poland	2018 Malaysia
Africa	111	89	56	60
Asia&Oceania	105	112	126	273
Europe	121	167	223	150
LAC	30	88	52	23
North America	106	216	162	157
TOTAL	473	672	619	663

Source: research data (2019)

In regional terms, the countries of Europe account for the largest number of authors in 2015 and 2017, with North America ranking first at the 2016 US Congress and Asia & Oceania at the Malaysian Congress in 2018. However, a third analysis of these data is possible.

Given that Division V Sections structure their open sessions exclusively with representatives of their regions, it may be interesting to note the distribution of papers across countries, but excluding the authors present at their sessions. Countries that had authors subtracted from the total previously shown because they were being presented at Division V Sessions; are marked in red in Table 07 - Geographic distribution of paper authors for the 2015-2018 WLIC Open Sessions, excluding the sessions promoted by Division V Sections.

As can be seen from the table below, there was a marked reduction in the participation of certain countries when the authors who participated in the Open Sessions promoted by Africa, Asia & Oceania and Latin America and the Caribbean Sections were removed. This particularly affected Latin America and the Caribbean, which had most countries eliminated from the table above (countries with zero authors in the right column, such as Ecuador, EL Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua and others). The same was true for some developing countries in Africa and, to a lesser extent, Asia.

Several factors may be occurring to cause this absence of representatives from the countries of those regions in the open sessions of Sections other than Division V Sections, including (a) Developing country authors only seek to share their experiences with their own peers for reasons of familiarity, language, knowledge and / or opportunity; (b) Research papers by authors from developing countries are not approved in the other sections because they do not follow the requirements; maybe they are unaware of the rules and / or deadlines or presenting topics with smaller interest.

In any case, this table 7 shows the importance of the work conducted by the Division V Sections and points to the need for further clear and objective definitions, guidelines and even policies from the IFLA Governing Board in attempting to modify the status quo of current congresses.

Table 07 - Geographic distribution of paper authors for the 2015-2018 WLIC Open Sessions, excluding the sessions promoted by Division V Sections

WLIC 2015 - South Africa Papers' authors #		WLIC 2016 United States Papers' authors #		WLIC 2017 Poland Papers' authors #		WLIC 2018 Malaysia Papers' authors #	
Australia	22	Argentina	2	Aruba	0	Argentina	1
Benin	2	Australia	19	Australia	27	Australia	40
Botswana	2	Belgium	4	Bangladesh	1	Austria	5
Brazil	13	Botswana	4	Belarus	2	Bangladesh	1
Cameroon	1	Brazil	4	Belgium	5	Belgium	5
Canada	25	Cameroon	0	Brazil	9	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2
Chile	6	Canada	30	Cameroon	0	Botswana	2
China	17	Chile	7	Canada	34	Brazil	8
Croatia	6	China	9	Chile	3	Cameroon	1
Czech Republic	5	Colombia	0	China	19	Canada	35
Denmark	2	Croatia	7	Colombia	5	Chile	1
Egypt	2	Cuba	2	Croatia	2	China	29
Estonia	1	Czech Republic	1	Cuba	11	Colombia	6
Finland	13	Denmark	3	Czech Republic	3	Costa Rica	0
France	15	Dominican Republic	0	Denmark	4	Croatia	3
Germany	13	Ecuador	0	Ecuador	0	Czech Republic	2
Ghana	0	Egypt	5	Egypt	3	Denmark	6
India	4	El Salvador	0	Estonia	2	Egypt	6
Indonesia	5	Fiji	1	Finland	18	Finland	10
Iran, Islamic Rep of	10	Finland	12	France	18	France	37
Italy	3	France	30	Germany	12	Germany	14
Jamaica	2	Germany	16	Ghana	2	Greece	2
Japan	6	Ghana	3	Greece	5	India	35
Kenya	8	Greece	1	Hong Kong	1	Indonesia	31
Lebanon	0	Guatemala	0	Hungary	9	Iran, Islamic Rep of	9
Lesotho	1	Haiti	0	Iceland	1	Iraq	1
Macedonia, Yugoslav Rep of	1	Hong Kong	3	India	8	Ireland	1
Madagascar	3	Hungary	1	Indonesia	3	Italy	3
Malawi	1	India	5	Iran, Islamic Rep of	12	Japan	17
Mali	1	Indonesia	2	Italy	6	Kenya	1
Moldova, Republic of	1	Iran, Islamic Rep of	8	Japan	1	Lithuania	1
Mozambique	1	Italy	10	Kenya	3	Madagascar	2
Namibia	5	Jamaica	0	Korea, Republic of	2	Malawi	0
Netherlands	6	Japan	6	Kuwait	1	Malaysia	38
New Zealand	2	Kenya	2	Latvia	2	Mexico	3
Nigeria	21	Korea, Republic of	6	Lithuania	1	Nepal	1
Norway	6	Kuwait	2	Luxembourg	4	Netherlands	4
Pakistan	3	Macedonia, Yugoslav Rep of	1	Malawi	1	New Zealand	16
Peru	0	Mali	2	Malaysia	9	Nigeria	18
Portugal	3	Mexico	2	Mali	2	Norway	9
Puerto Rico	0	Morocco	1	Malta	1	Pakistan	4
Qatar	6	Myanmar	1	Mexico	5	Peru	1
Romania	1	Namibia	2	Namibia	0	Philippines	5
Saudi Arabia	2	Nepal	2	Netherlands	16	Poland	5
Singapore	10	Netherlands	19	New Zealand	9	Portugal	1
Slovenia	4	New Caledonia - França	1	Nicaragua	0	Qatar	7
South Africa	32	New Zealand	3	Nigeria	21	Romania	2
Spain	3	Nicaragua	0	Norway	5	Russian Federation	6
Sweden	9	Nigeria	21	Pakistan	3	Senegal	2
Switzerland	4	Norway	5	Panama	0	Serbia	1
Taiwan, Rep of China	2	Oman	2	Peru	0	Singapore	8
Tanzania, United Rep of	7	Pakistan	4	Philippines	1	Slovenia	2
Thailand	3	Panama	0	Poland	21	South Africa	6
Tunisia	1	Peru	5	Portugal	7	Spain	5
Turkey	1	Philippines	3	Qatar	2	Sri Lanka	7
Uganda	9	Poland	3	Romania	1	Sweden	7
United Arab Emirates	2	Portugal	2	Russian Federation	3	Switzerland	2
United Kingdom	23	Puerto Rico	0	Rwanda	3	Tanzania	1
United States	78	Qatar	2	Senegal	1	Thailand	3
Vatican City State	1	Romania	1	Serbia	5	Uganda	3
Venezuela	1	Saudi Arabia	6	Singapore	4	United Kingdom	15
Zambia	1	Singapore	3	Slovenia	6	United States	114
Zimbabwe	4	Slovenia	3	South Africa	9	Uzbekistan	0
		South Africa	13	Spain	6	Vanuatu	0
		Spain	0	Sri Lanka	1	Vatican City State	3
		Sri Lanka	5	Sweden	27	Zambia	4
		Sweden	18	Switzerland	10	Zimbabwe	4
		Switzerland	6	Tanzania, United Rep of	0		
		Taiwan, Rep of China	2	Turkey	3		
		Tanzania, United Rep of	2	Uganda	4		
		Thailand	2	United Kingdom	17		
		Trinidad and Tobago	0	United States	128		
		Tunisia	1	Zambia	0		
		Turkey	9	Zimbabwe	1		
		Uganda	16				
		United Kingdom	19				
		United States	184				
		United States	2				
		Uruguay	2				
		Venezuela	4				
		Zimbabwe	6				

Source: research data (2019)

4.3 Poster Sessions

The distribution of 548 posters and 1066 authors in the analyzed congresses (2015-2018) can be observed in Table 08.

Table 08 - Characterization of Poster Sessions analyzed: posters x authors x countries

WLIC	TOTAL POSTERS	TOTAL AUTHORS	TOTAL COUNTRIES*
WLIC 2015 - South Africa	132	208	41
WLIC 2016 - USA	206	280	40
WLIC 2017 - Poland	188	336	52
WLIC 2018 - Malaysia	122	242	51
TOTAL	648	1.066	46 / média ano

* Total countries represented, regardless of the number of authors per country.

Source: research data (2019)

As for papers, it is also found here that the ratio of total posters to total authors is below 2 x 1, which means the predominance of individual authors. This is an interesting feature for an area that certainly operates in interdisciplinarity. A quick analysis of the 2015 data shows that of the 132 posters presented, only 46 had multiple authorship, and of these, only 4 were authors from different countries. Further studies in each year should be conducted to identify greater specificities.

The geographical distribution of these poster authors can be seen below - Table 09 - Geographic Distribution of Infographics Authors for WLIC Poster Sessions 2015-2018.

Table 09 - Geographic Distribution of Infographics Authors for WLIC Poster Sessions 2015-2018

WLIC 2015 - South Africa		WLIC 2016 United States		WLIC 2017 Poland		WLIC 2018 Malaysia	
Poster authors	#	Poster authors	#	Poster authors	#	Poster authors	#
Angola	1	Australia	4	Australia	3	Australia	2
Australia	1	Bangladesh	4	Botswana	2	Bangladesh	1
Brazil	7	Brazil	2	Brazil	17	Brazil	8
Cambodia	1	Canada	7	Canada	16	Canada	5
Cameroon	2	Chile	2	China	31	Chile	1
Canada	7	China	35	Colombia	4	China	40
China	34	Croatia	3	Croatia	6	Colombia	1
Croatia	1	Cuba	7	Cuba	6	Croatia	1
Cuba	4	Denmark	5	Denmark	2	Denmark	1
Denmark	1	Egypt	2	Egypt	3	Egypt	1
Egypt	1	Estonia	1	Finland	23	Estonia	2
Ethiopia	1	Finland	2	France	13	Finland	2
Finland	10	France	7	Germany	10	France	7
Germany	11	Germany	8	Ghana	2	Germany	10
India	3	Ghana	2	India	4	Ghana	2
Iran	6	Iran	6	Indonesia	1	India	3
Italy	3	Italy	1	Iran	14	Indonesia	1
Japan	5	Japan	9	Italy	7	Iran	8
Kenya	3	Korea	8	Japan	13	Italy	1
Korea	1	Lebanon	1	Kazakhstan	8	Japan	15
Lithuania	4	Lithuania	9	Korea	2	Kenya	1
Malaysia	3	Malaysia	10	Latvia	2	Korea	2
Namibia	3	Netherlands	1	Lebanon	2	Lithuania	2
Nepal	1	Nigeria	7	Lithuania	2	Malaysia	45
New Zealand	1	Norway	3	Malaysia	7	Mexico	1
Nigeria	3	Panama	2	Mali	1	Moldova	1
Norway	4	Philippines	1	Mexico	1	Netherlands	1
Pakistan	2	Portugal	3	Moldova	1	New Zealand	4
Qatar	1	Qatar	1	Morocco	1	Nigeria	3
Russia	1	Russia	1	Namibia	1	Norway	2
Serbia	2	Senegal	1	Netherlands	2	Pakistan	1
Slovenia	4	Serbia	3	Nigeria	2	Philippines	1
South Africa	26	Singapore	2	Norway	3	Poland	1
Spain	1	Slovenia	4	Poland	11	Qatar	7
Sweden	1	Spain	1	Portugal	3	Romania	2
Switzerland	2	Sweden	2	Romania	1	Russia	2
Thailand	1	Thailand	2	Russia	2	Saudi Arabia	1
Turkey	2	Turkey	6	Senegal	4	Serbia	4
Uganda	2	United States	104	Serbia	13	Singapore	8
United Kingdom	2	Zimbabwe	1	Slovenia	2	Slovenia	1
United States	40			South Africa	3	South Africa	1
				South Korea	9	Spain	4
				Spain	4	Sri Lanka	2
				Sri Lanka	2	Sweden	4
				Sweden	9	Thailand	2
				Tanzania	1	Togo	1
				Thailand	5	Tunisia	1
				Turkey	8	Turkey	5
				Uganda	2	Uganda	2
				United Arab Emirates	3	United States	16
				United Kingdom	2	Zimbabwe	2
				United States	40		

Source: research data (2019)

Regarding posters, the USA is again in first place in terms of a number of authors, except in 2018, when Malaysia, the host country of the event, occupied the first position. It is worth remarking that the United States also presented the largest number of papers at the congresses analyzed.

China ranks second in all four events. Generally speaking, no other country has such a relevant production, regardless of the region to which it belongs.

Table 10 - Presence of poster authors at WLIC 2015-2018 sorted by region

REGIONS	2015 SOUTH AFRICA	2016 U.S.A	2017 POLAND	2018 MALAYSIA	TOTAL*
Africa	39	13	21	13	86
Asia & Oceania	66	89	115	154	425
Europe	45	54	116	43	258
LAC	11	13	28	11	63
North America	47	111	56	21	235
TOTAL	208	280	336	242	1066

*Total authors without separating individuals present in two or more events.

Source: research data (2019)

Looking at the overall total of posters per region, Asia & Oceania could be considered the largest supplier of poster authors in the last four years, accounting for 39.87% of the total. At 24.20%, Europe ranks second, closely followed by North America (USA and Canada) with 22.04%. Africa participated with 8% of the posters, and Latin America and the Caribbean with only 5.9%.

However, a simple closer look at the origin of the Asian posters reveals that the posters from Malaysia in 2018 and from all those from China in the four years amount to 240 authors. Therefore, the absence of these two countries in the overall count would place Asia & Oceania in 3rd. place. This also occurs when counting Congress delegates and paper authors.

As a rule, the Poster Session has less requirements and approval rules as compared to the Professional Units Open Sessions. It is also a space for sharing the best practices of any kind of library and institution. Hence, could one reflect on why the developing countries of Africa and Latin America are not taking advantage of this space, either?

It would be important at some point to analyze not the approved papers, but all those submitted in order to understand why this is happening. Is the absence of developing countries due to their authors not submitting their posters or because their posters have not been selected for different reasons? Certainly, reflecting on this situation can provide interesting insights and generate policies and strategies to increase the participation of developing countries.

4.4 Joint Viewing of Poster and Paper Results

A summation and / or a comparison of the results found in the analysis of papers and posters highlights some more interesting considerations. Table 11 below shows the total number of

authors of papers and posters by region. Table 12 shows the same information linked to the authors' respective country year-by-year.

Table 11 - Total authors of papers and posters at WLIC 2015-2018

Regions	WLIC 2015			WLIC 2016			WLIC 2017			WLIC 2018		
	Paper	Poster	Total	Paper	Poster	Total	Paper	Poster	Total	Paper	Poster	Total
Africa	111	39	150	89	13	102	56	21	77	60	13	73
A&O	105	66	171	112	89	201	126	115	241	273	154	288
Europe	121	45	166	167	54	221	223	116	339	150	43	193
LAC	30	11	41	88	13	100	52	28	80	23	11	34
North America	106	47	153	216	111	327	162	56	218	157	21	178
TOTAL	473	208	681	672	280	952	619	336	955	663	242	905

*Total authors without separating individuals who were present in two or more events.

Source: research data (2019)

An analysis of the origin of paper authors in regional terms shows a peculiar situation. For example, although at the 2015 Congress in South Africa there was significant participation of professionals from the countries in the region, in terms of the regional distribution of paper and poster authors, the African region ranks 4th place. This situation only changes in 2017 as it goes to the 5th. position.

In 2015, the region that occupies the first position in terms of papers and posters is Asia & Oceania. This happens again in 2018 with the event in Malaysia.

Europe remains in first position only in 2017 and North America in 2016, when the events were in Poland and in the United States, respectively.

The performance of the Asia & Oceania region is very impressive, but it is worth pointing out that it is possible to find there are several developed countries that greatly contribute to this, such as China, Japan, Australia, Singapore, and others. The situation of the developing countries from that region is the same as the others.

The grouping of tables 07 and 9 provides a comparison of the number of paper and poster authors, respectively, with a descending ranking of the countries they represent.

Table 12: Ranking of the countries by papers and poster's authors at WLIC 2015-2018

WLIC 2015 - South Africa			WLIC 2016 - USA			WLIC 2017- Poland			WLIC 2018- Malaysia		
Papers & posters authors	#	#	Papers & posters authors	#	#	Papers & Posters Authors	#	#	Papers & Posters Authors	#	#
United States	81	40	United States	188	104	United States	128	40	United States	122	16
South Africa	35	26	China	35	9	Canada	34	16	Malaysia	45	38
China	34	20	Canada	30	7	China	31	27	Australia	42	2
Canada	25	7	France	30	7	Australia	29	3	France	39	7
Nigeria	25	3	Nigeria	23	7	Sweden	27	9	India	37	3
United Kingdom	23	2	Australia	21	4	Finland	23	19	Canada	35	5
Australia	22	1	Netherlands	20	1	Poland	21	11	Indonesia	31	1
Brazil	17	7	United Kingdom	19		Nigeria	21	2	China	30	40
France	15		Sweden	18	2	France	18	13	Nigeria	20	3
Germany	13	11	Uganda	17		Brazil	17	11	Japan	18	15
Finland	13	10	Germany	16	8	United Kingdom	17	2	New Zealand	16	4
Singapore	11		South Africa	14		Netherlands	16	2	United Kingdom	15	
Uganda	10	2	Finland	12	2	Iran, Islamic Rep of	14	12	Germany	14	10
Sweden	9	1	Ghana	11	2	Cuba	13	6	Finland	10	2
Kenya	8	3	Italy	10	1	Serbia	13	5	Norway	9	2
Chile	7		Malaysia	10		Japan	13	1	Philippines	9	1
Tanzania, United Rep of	7		Turkey	9	6	Germany	12	10	Iran, Islamic Rep of	8	9
Iran, Islamic Republic of	6	10	Chile	9	2	Switzerland	10		Brazil	8	8
Japan	6	5	Lithuania	9		Malaysia	9	7	Singapore	8	8
Norway	6	4	Brazil	8	2	India	9	4	Qatar	7	7
Namibia	6	3	Cuba	7	4	South Africa	9	3	Sweden	7	4
Croatia	6	1	Croatia	7	3	Hungary	9		Sri Lanka	7	2
Qatar	6	1	Peru	7		New Zealand	9		Colombia	7	1
Netherlands	6		Sri Lanka	7		South Korea	9		South Africa	7	1
Czech Republic	5		Japan	6	9	Turkey	8	3	Spain	6	4
Indonesia	5		Iran	6	8	Kazakhstan	8		Denmark	6	1
United Arab Emirates	5		Norway	6	3	Italy	7	6	Egypt	6	1
Slovenia	4	4	Zimbabwe	6	1	Portugal	7	3	Zambia	6	
India	4	3	Jamaica	6		Spain	6	4	Poland	5	1
Switzerland	4	2	Korea, Republic of	6		Croatia	6	2	Austria	5	
Cuba	4		Mexico	6		Slovenia	6	2	Belgium	5	
Lithuania	4		Nicaragua	6		Chile	6		Turkey	5	
Zimbabwe	4		Saudi Arabia	6		Colombia	5	4	Zimbabwe	4	2
Italy	3	3	Switzerland	6		Norway	5	3	Netherlands	4	1
Cameroon	3	2	Egypt	5	2	Mexico	5	1	Pakistan	4	1
Pakistan	3	2	Denmark	5		Belgium	5		Serbia	4	1
Spain	3	1	India	5		Greece	5		Madagascar	4	
Thailand	3	1	Trinidad and Tobago	5		Panama	5		Thailand	3	2
Madagascar	3		Panama	4	2	Singapore	5		Uganda	3	2
Malaysia	3		Bangladesh	4		Thailand	5		Croatia	3	1
Portugal	3		Belgium	4		Denmark	4	2	Italy	3	1
Denmark	2	1	Botswana	4		Uganda	4	2	Mexico	3	1
Egypt	2	1	Colombia	4		Luxembourg	4		Senegal	3	
New Zealand	2	1	Dominican Republic	4		Peru	4		Uzbekistan	3	
Turkey	2	1	Guatemala	4		Zimbabwe	4		Vatican City State	3	
Benin	2		Pakistan	4		Egypt	3	3	Russian Federation	2	6
Botswana	2		Slovenia	4		Indonesia	3	1	Romania	2	2
Jamaica	2		Venezuela	4		Czech Republic	3		Kenya	2	1
Peru	2		Portugal	3	2	Ecuador	3		Lithuania	2	1
Saudi Arabia	2		Singapore	3	2	Kenya	3		Slovenia	2	1
Serbia	2		Philippines	3	1	Nicaragua	3		Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	
Taiwan, Rep of China	2		Argentina	3		Pakistan	3		Botswana	2	
Angola	1		Ecuador	3		Qatar	3		Cameroon	2	
Cambodia	1		El Salvador	3		Russian Federation	3		Czech Republic	2	
Estonia	1		Haiti	3		Rwanda	3		Estonia	2	
Ethiopia	1		Hong Kong	3		United Arab Emirates	3		Ghana	2	
Ghana	1		Indonesia	3		Senegal	2	4	Greece	2	
Korea	1		New Zealand	3		Korea, Republic of	2	3	Korea	2	
Lebanon	1		Poland	3		Ghana	2	2	Peru	2	
Lesotho	1		Serbia	3		Latvia	2	2	Switzerland	2	
Macedonia, Yugoslav Rep	1		Slovenia	3		Lithuania	2	1	Bangladesh	1	1
Malawi	1		Kenya	2	8	Mali	2	1	Chile	1	1
Mali	1		Thailand	2	2	Namibia	2	1	Argentina	1	
Moldova, Republic of	1		Qatar	2	1	Sri Lanka	2	1	Costa Rica	1	
Mozambique	1		Cameroon	2		Aruba	2		Iraq	1	
Nepal	1		Egypt	2		Belarus	2		Ireland	1	
Puerto Rico	1		Kuwait	2		Botswana	2		Malawi	1	
Romania	1		Mali	2		Estonia	2		Moldova	1	
Russia	1		Namibia	2		Lebanon	2		Nepal	1	
Tunisia	1		Nepal	2		Russia	2		Portugal	1	
Vatican City State	1		Oman	2		Romania	1	1	Saudi Arabia	1	
Venezuela	1		Taiwan, Rep of China	2		Tanzania, United Rep of	1	1	Tanzania	1	
Zambia	1		Tanzania, United Rep of	2		Bangladesh	1		Togo	1	
73 countries			Uruguay	2		Cameroon	1		Tunisia	1	
			Czech Republic	1	3	Hong Kong	1		Vanuatu	1	
			Spain	1	1	Iceland	1		75 countries		
LEGEND			Estonia	1		Kuwait	1				
Blue = papers authors			Fiji	1		Malawi	1				
Yellow = posters authors			Greece	1		Malta	1				
Gray = no authors			Hungary	1		Moldova	1				
			Lebanon	1		Morocco	1				
			Macedonia, Yugoslav Rep	1		Philippines	1				
			Morocco	1		Zambia	1				
			Myanmar	1		83 countries					
			New Caledonia - França	1							
			Puerto Rico	1							
			Romania	1							
			Russia	1							
			Senegal	1							
			Tunisia	1							
			90 countries								

Source: research data (2019)

Table 12 above allows understanding how many countries were present at the respective congresses analyzed, either by presenting papers and/or posters. On average, IFLA Congresses are attended by 71 countries, representing 36.78% of the 193 UN-linked countries.

With this new sum, it is now possible to compare the total number of countries present in the professional program activities versus the number of delegates per country year by year. Thus, in 2015, delegates from 132 countries were present, of which 73 (55.30%) shared experiences and made their actions public in papers or posters. Looking more closely at these data, we have 20 countries with papers and posters from Africa, 21 from Asia & Oceania and 07 from Latin America and the Caribbean. That is, 36.37% of the delegates and authors of papers and posters were from countries of Division V. This and the other years can be seen in the table below.

Table 13 - Total countries with papers and / or posters compared to the total delegates at WLIC 2015-2018

	2015 South Africa		2016 USA		2017 Poland		2018 Malaysia	
Delegates countries	132	100%	137	100%	122	100%	113	100%
Total authors countries	73	55.30%	90	65.69%	83	68.05%	75	66.37%
África	20	15.15%	16	11.68%	18	14.75%	16	14.15%
Asia & Oceania	21	15.90%	26	19.00%	24	14.75%	22	19.46%
Latin América	07	5.3%	27	19.70%	29	23.77%	28	24.77%
Europe	23	17.42%	19	13.86%	10	8.19%	07	6.29%
North America	02	1.51%	02	1.45%	02	1.63%	02	1.76%

Source: research data (2019)

With the total number of delegates from each Congress, the total number of paper and poster authors, as well as the total members of professional units, IFLA staff and volunteers could be excluded. In theory, an approximate number of how many delegates would only attend the Congress as listeners would be obtained. Is this a group of professionals open to captivation, motivated to participate more actively in IFLA itself?

Still in Table 12, among the top 10 countries with the largest number of authors at IFLA Congresses (either papers and/or posters), the USA, China, Canada, Nigeria, Australia, and France are always present. The difference from the USA, in the first place, to the others is 2 or even 3 times larger, and the other positions vary between countries according to the WLIC locality. Other countries from both Europe, Asia, and Africa also appear at one or the other event. From Latin America, the only country that appears in the top ten is Brazil, but only in the 2014 and 2017 WLICs.

It is worth mentioning the number of countries that present in both modalities, countries that only use the open sessions and those that only present in the paper sessions. Even more importantly, however, this table shows that there is a percentage of countries that have been present, but their representatives have not yet felt comfortable to share their activities and projects. Baseline work with these countries and their representatives could perhaps be developed by IFLA Regional Sections, from a clear and strategic focus provided by the Governing Board itself.

5 Final Considerations

According to J. Stephen Parker (1977), at the Lausanne General Council in 1976, the 39 delegates from developing countries constituted only eight percent of the total attendance,

although the total number of IFLA Members from those countries had (at that time) reached 50 % according to IFLA directory (IFLA, 1976) .

The growth in Third World membership of IFLA has not, however, been matched by the level of participation of librarians from the developing countries, either in General Council meetings or in the running of IFLA itself. (J. Stephen Parker , 1977, p.145)

The situation in 2018 is different. Led by Asia (which is the second largest region in the world in terms of IFLA Members this year), Division V regions now account for 34.80% of the Members. Although the distribution of affiliated Members in terms of countries of origin is not known, it is reasonable to assume that most of them come from the developed countries of the region, such as China, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Korea and perhaps even South Africa. Analyzing the real and individual situation of the current affiliated Members from developing countries is certainly a critical resource for IFLA to devise clear and objective strategies on how to cohesively and permanently bring them together.

Regarding the diversity of countries at the last IFLA Congresses, it has been found that there are many countries that do not yet use IFLA as an environment to share their activities and best practices. Also, a large number of countries are being represented by a very small number of delegates as well, as from the authors of papers and posters.

Representatives of the USA dominate both in terms of the number of delegates and in the number of authors presenting their papers or posters. Another prominent country is China; the others do not have significant quantities.

In regional terms, Asia and Oceania together have presented very similar results in numbers of authors of papers & posters with Europe, surpassing the latter when the event is in their region. However, the African region does not perform as well, and Latin America and the Caribbean have a very low participation.

Regardless of the region, it is observed that the very same countries always participate in the WLIC, with small changes for more and for less year-by-year. In any case, it is clear that the figures presented here are strongly enriched by the developed countries of their respective regions, and never the opposite. This may be a point for further study and care by the GB to define clear strategies and policies to promote greater equity in the participation of authors from different countries in WLICs.

Other important information obtained from the data is the low participation and contribution of the authors among the different countries. Studies (papers and posters) are characterized by research conducted almost essentially by authors from the same country. Since IFLA is a global space for exchange, it is essential to seek better conditions to motivate interregional work and countries.

The participation of a considerable number of representatives from developing countries, exclusively in the sessions promoted by the Division V Sections, shows that the presence of the Africa, Asia & Oceania and Latin America & Caribbean sections has been fundamental and relevant and bring more representatives to their meetings. It is a work that needs to be continued. However, this highlights the need for a strategic plan by both GB and all the IFLA Sections, aiming at promoting greater integration and real internationalization of its sessions.

The importance of WLIC's annual offer in the different regions of the planet is proven, in order to offer equal opportunity to all. The effort of the representatives of the different countries is verified and valued, especially those from developing countries, to bear the high costs involved (travel, visa, registration and hosting).

Recently, the German Institute of Economic and Social Research (WSI Minimum Wage Database, 2018) analyzed the minimum income guaranteed by law in 37 countries per hour of work. This study presents the ten countries with the highest minimum hourly wage: the minimum wage in the United States is 5.83 euros / hour.; In Canada 7.96 euros / hour; Australia - 9.47 euros per hour as minimum income; In France - € 9.18 / hour; Netherlands - € 8.79 / hour; Germany - EUR 8.57 / hour; New Zealand - € 7.82 / hour; United Kingdom - € 7.62 / hour; Japan - € 6.27 / hour; Slovenia - € 5.96 / hour; South Korea - 5.82 euros / hour and Poland - 5.28 euros / hour. In this study, two Latin American countries were also mentioned, Argentina, whose value is 2.53 euros / hour and Brazil, which is 1.67 euros per hour. Simulating the investment of a Brazilian (lower minimum wage indicated in the study) to cover the registration of WLIC 2019, as a Member of IFLA and in the lowest cost period, would have to invest 505 Euros, not counting the IOF. Converting this application fee to 1.67 euros / hour means that he/she will need to work 302.4 hours, i.e. 39 days of 8h / day. By comparison, an Australian (whose minimum wage is 9.47 euros / hour) will have to work 53.3 hours, i.e. 7 days to cover the registration fee for the event.

Rethinking other strategies for aggregating geographically dispersed professionals, perhaps using current technologies, setting tariffs and fair registration for all considering their different levels of development, and planning short- and medium-term actions to effectively bring the library area together can be an important strategic definition to be adopted by GB and professional units at this time.

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