

## **Dr. Ingrid Parent**

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## **FOREWORD**

On behalf of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), I extend my congratulations to Dr. J.K. Vijayakumar and Professor P. Pichappan for honoring the notable work of Dr. T.A.V. Murthy with this publication.

The transformation and rejuvenation of libraries around the world has been a recurring theme during my term as IFLA President. *Rejuvenated Libraries for Empowered Users* offers a unique vantage point on this process, with contributors sharing insights on the shifts underway that are impacting library spaces, systems and collections.

The rapid rate of technological change is forcing libraries to quickly respond to evolving user needs, and impacting the way in which we instruct, recruit and engage. Indeed, the prevalence of increased technology and digital challenges is evident in almost all of the essays included here. Yet even with all the technological advances at our disposal, the core human value of “connectedness” remains – librarians need to offer their expertise and connect with their users, both in-person and virtually. Blended learning, social media and enhanced discovery tools are some ways in which technology is being used to engage, measure and influence user experiences – several of the essays here highlight fascinating examples from Swaziland, India and North America.

Times of change, crisis or upheaval foster *carpe diem* moments – and I am heartened to see that libraries are embracing a rebirth and renewal of ideas, models and opportunities that may not have existed previously. How can libraries help themselves in order to help their users? What kind of skills will tomorrow’s librarians need? And how do we remain vigilant and proactive while embracing new approaches that will reshape our roles? The last section of the book contemplates some of these topics.

In many ways, the digital world is a catalyst for libraries. I would also describe Dr. Murthy as a catalyst, having dedicated much of his professional life to bringing his

expertise to institutions such as the National Library of India, the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and the Central University of Hyderabad, among many others. An ardent leader, Dr. Murthy has held leadership positions with the Society for Information Science India, the Ahmedabad Library Network, the Indian Association for Special Libraries and the Indian Library Association. His work is inclusive, engaging and a legacy for the global information society; this book is a fitting tribute to Dr. Murthy's passion for his profession.

I thank the editors and contributors for their tenacity and enthusiasm in producing this book – I hope it is shared and distributed widely among global librarians, and encourages inspired conversations on the future of libraries.

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