



For Immediate Release: 21 February 2018

THE TEMPE DECLARATION EXTENDING ACCESS TO INFORMATION THROUGH OFFLINE INTERNET

Tempe, Arizona, USA. Digital technology offers unprecedented means to transmit, store, and utilize information. While a growing number of individuals and communities are able to benefit abundantly from the expanded opportunities that new technologies offer, many people live in regions where access to the internet is rare, inadequate, or non-existent. The resulting divide hampers opportunities for educational, cultural, economic, and social development.

In order to explore these issues and to pursue solutions, Arizona State University Library and Bibliothèques Sans Frontières / Libraries Without Borders, with the involvement of IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations), organized an international summit from January 30 to February 1, 2018, at the ASU Library in Tempe, Arizona, USA.

At the Tempe Summit, 30 participants, representing 15 organizations, all sharing a deep commitment to bringing meaningful, sustainable access to underserved populations, discussed key factors affecting major aspects of providing "offline internet" information to communities, institutions, and regions that currently do not have robust (or any) internet access.

As a result of these discussions, participants framed the "Tempe Principles", which include affirming that access to the information commons should be recognized as a fundamental human right," and that "open source tools and open access tools and content best meet the interests of the communities we seek to support." The full text of the Tempe Principles can be found online at:

<http://www.offline-internet.org/statement-from-the-summit>

The group is founding a consortium comprising people and organizations working together to identify common solutions. A governance group has been formed, along with working groups that will propose objectives and goals in areas of software, hardware, content, operations, and advocacy.

Host James O'Donnell, **ASU** University Librarian commented, "We warmly invite additional players, participants, and collaborators to endorse these Principles and join in this crucial work. We believe this project extends the planet's capacity to shape that future effectively."

"This effort is not one that any one of us is able to take on single-handedly," said Jeremy Lachal, Directeur Général, **Bibliothèques Sans Frontières**. "The coalition unifies our voices in order to raise the voices of those who are not connected to internet; the summit's organizers are strongly supportive of this effort and pledge to remain actively involved."

On behalf of **IFLA**, the global voice of the library and information profession, Governing Board member Ann Okerson noted, "IFLA's key objectives include promoting high standards of provision and delivery of library and information services, and encouraging widespread understanding of the value of good library & information services. This coalition actively furthers our core goals, and we are honored to play an organizing role."

For more information, contact: internet.unplugged@gmail.com

Summit website: <http://www.offline-internet.org>