

# The Librarian Times

Weekly news

Volume 1, Issue 22  
Sun, July 2, 2017

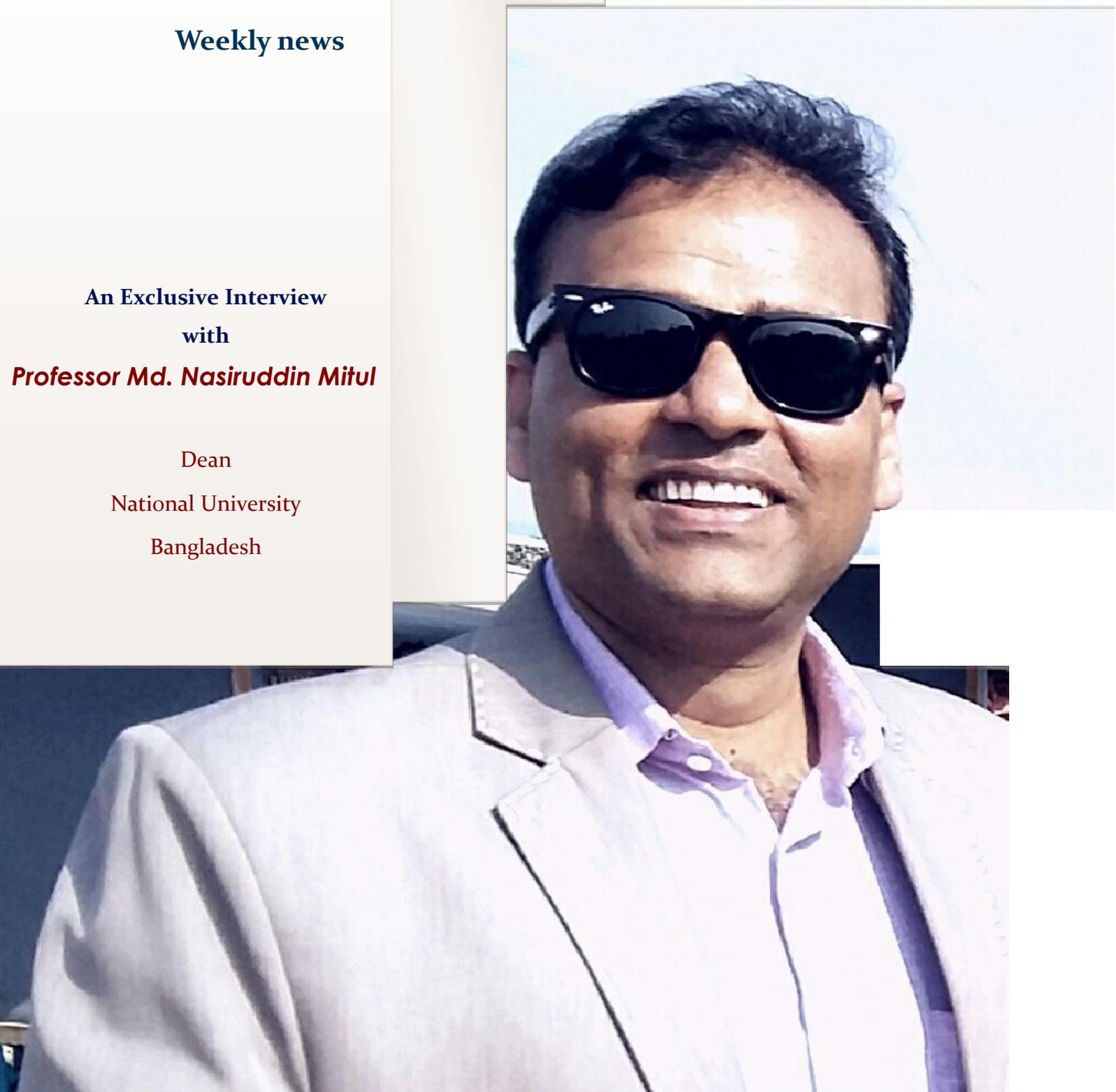
An Exclusive Interview  
with

***Professor Md. Nasiruddin Mitul***

Dean

National University

Bangladesh



<http://www.thelibrariantimes.com>



# The Librarian Times

Weekly news

Professional  
Excellence

Volume 1, Issue 22

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## EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR MD. NASIRUDDIN MITUL

Professor Md. Nasiruddin Mitul has been working an academic and library professional in several reputed organisations since 20 years, but his key focus and passion has always been growth of library sector in Bangladesh. Most recently Professor Nasir has been appointed as Dean of the National University, Bangladesh. The news on his appointment was published in the Librarian Times in vol.1 issue 18.

TLT team was looking for his suitable time for an interview. Finally, Rajesh Kumar Das, one of TLT editorial board members spoke to Professor Nasir and he gave an exclusive face to face interview for the first time since his joining as the Dean of the National University, Bangladesh. The interview was captured at his Azimpur resident, Dhaka. He was quizzed on numerous LIS matters to find out more about his insight and what he hopes to achieve in the new position.



**TLT:** Hello. Today I am here to conduct an exclusive interview with Professor. Md. Nasiruddin Mitul, The Dean, National University, Bangladesh. Thank you Sir for giving us your valuable time and patience be with us.

**Professor Nasir:** You are welcome. Actually it's the first time I am giving the interview after being the dean of National University, Bangladesh. Anyway, I think we can start.

*"... It's the first time I am giving the interview after being the dean of National University, Bangladesh ...."*

**TLT:** We all know that you are a change maker of our discipline in our country right now. So what is your future plan for advancing the LIS field in this country?

**Professor Nasir:** Thank you very much. Basically you called me a change maker. But I would like to draw your kind attention that I am not a change maker. I am just trying to be a change maker. I didn't change yet anything which is visible to all rather than a bit. You know our Library and Information Science (LIS) Profession in Bangladesh is very much marginalized in comparison with other professions. Still I am trying a lot by investing my personal, academic, social and political achievement I can capitalize everything here to sustain my profession and trying to develop the professionals. And I think Inshallah, I will be succeeding in my attempt soon. Meanwhile I am looking for some changes I could do by the help of my professional bodies, my senior colleagues; and full support from my professors and especially my Vice-Chancellors at university level and government and non-government level as well. And they are helping me a lot, as because they believe that these changes can be done by me. I am just going ahead based on their beliefs. Besides these, as our Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced 'Vision 2021', I have been working for advancing the Library and Information Science field in our country to build a Digital Bangladesh for fulfilling our Prime Minister's dream.

*"... I am not a change maker. I am just trying to be a change maker..... Still I am trying hard by investing my personal, academic, social and political achievement I can capitalize everything here to sustain my profession and trying to develop the professionals ...."*

**TLT: What are the major challenges that you have been facing for uplifting our profession in this country?**

**Professor Nasir:** Definitely there were many and some challenges are still I have been facing. But I can mention a number of challenges that I have been faced most. The first challenge I have been faced is – perceptions of people regarding our profession which is still exists. And the second one is- the attitude of our Library and Information Science professionals. They are not conscious to improve their position, their status. So I think these two major challenges have been hindered me a lot to uplifting

*"..... The first challenge I have been faced is – perceptions of people regarding our profession which is still exists. And the second one is- the attitude of our Library and Information Science professionals ...."*



**TLT: How do you define success and how do you measure up to your own definition?**

**Professor Nasir:** To me Success is- something you want to change positively which is accepted by the people and which also gradually changes the perception of the people and they will respect you for such noble purpose. It is success. How you are looking, what you are looking doesn't matter. The first consideration should be the activity and handsomeness of work of a person. And how I also measure up my own definition of success.

*"..... Success is- something you want to change positively which is accepted by the people and which also gradually changes the perception of the people and they will respect you for such noble purpose ....."*

**TLT: Can you share with us your ideas about how we can attract young professionals in the library industry?**

**Professor Nasir:** There are lot of things to be hoped in the library industry in Bangladesh right now. I always use to speak in every public forum, social media and everywhere to attract young generation in the library industry. Our present Prime Minister H.E. Sheikh Hasina stated in her declaration in 2010 that: “There will be no educational institutions affiliated until or unless they have a library or professional librarian.” After her declaration in 2010 Ministry of Education conducted a survey and found that there were 28,500 positions vacant in the LIS profession as librarian and assistant librarian in Bangladesh. Then ministry of education circulated an order and asked National University and UGC to recruit professional librarian and assistant librarian to the vacant post. This is a great opportunity for future library and information professional. Because still now our demand side is higher than the supply side. How much library professionals we are producing is not enough. So young generation, please come to this position, grab the opportunity. As long as you are getting certificates, you are occupying these positions. Therefore, it will not be a wise doing to miss the opportunity.

*“..... still now our demand side is higher than the supply side. How much library professionals we are producing is not enough. So young generation, please come to this position, grab the opportunity ....”*

**TLT: You know the Library and Information science as a discipline have not flourished so much it supposed to be. What do you think, what are the main reasons behind that?**

**Professor Nasir:** I think the reasons behind it are many. I can mention two or three. First of all, the undermined perception of the policy maker towards our discipline that hinders most on the way to go ahead. Secondly, the apathy of changing the position and attitude of LIS academics and professionals in this country. Thirdly, in terms of quality our academic institutions are very few comparing to others. Using this scarcity, there are some so called institution who are selling certificates holding the sign-board. For your kind information, I have written an article in The Daily Star in 2010 titled ‘Stop Selling Certificates and come forward to save the profession. And you know, I am working on that and still my journey is being continued.

*“..... in terms of quality our academic institutions are very few comparing to others. Using this scarcity, there are some so called institution who are selling certificates holding the signboard ....”*



**TLT: In your opinion what qualities should a next generation librarian have?**

**Professor Nasir:** I think two foremost qualities must be acquired by a next generation librarian. Firstly- they need to be smart technologically and secondly- to be curious enough to know the information. Don't do any discrimination. Even if you are working in a school libraries, do it in the right way with full dedication. Don't think you as a service provider, think like a service maker.

*“..... Don't think you as a service provider, think you as a service maker ....”*

**TLT: As a successful academics in the LIS sector what is your message for young and future library professionals in Bangladesh?**

**Professor Nasir:** My message to all of the current and prospective students is- 'you will not spend a single day jobless, if you pass from Library and Information Science from the right institution.' Because I can assure you based on the SWOT analysis, if we produce 2,000 students up to the next 10 years, we can give guarantee you that all will get a good job easily. So don't be frustrated. Choose the right track to live a sound life and to contribute positively for the society.

*"... you will not spend a single day jobless, if you pass from Library and Information Science from the right institution ..."*



**TLT: As a person what do you consider to be your greatest strengths and weaknesses?**

**Professor Nasir:** As a person my greatest strength is my family and of course my wife. For your information my wife, Lutfunnahar Shipu is a BCS admin cadre who is now working in the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperative as a Senior Assistant Secretary. I can undoubtedly say without her support I couldn't be here anymore. She is a wonderful lady with great heart. My path was not so much easier and smooth all the times. She is such a lady from whom I always receive support during crucial moment. When I was facing political oppression by the vested group of BNP and the party alliance during 2001-2007, my wife, family, friends and then the opposition party Bangladesh Awami League supported me a lot.

My another strength is my philosophy and honest intention. Based on these, the existing Vice-Chancellor of National University, Bangladesh Professor Dr. Harun-Or-Rashid has been giving me immense support since 3 years on the way to professional development. He has given me the opportunity to launch 3 programs on LIS at a time such as- Master of Advanced Studies (MAS), M.Phil. And Post-Graduate Diploma based on my proposal. He has also been working to expand the discipline throughout the country. By the support of another existing Vice-Chancellor of Noakhali Science and Technology University (NSTU) Professor Dr. Md Wahiduzzaman, last year I solely succeeded to launch LIS department there. This has received tremendous response by the professionals. I am also really grateful to the existing Vice-Chancellor of Jagannath University Professor Dr. Mizanur Rahman as he is interested to open the LIS department in his university and meanwhile accordingly bit works have been done. All the aforesaid things are my strengths. Besides these all of my professional colleagues, fellows, friends, students and even the professionals working in a very root level. I respect them without any distinction of occupation, creed, class or race. Still I am maintaining a very good communication with all of them by face-to-face and through social media.

If I talk about my weakness I am very emotional, friendly and straight cut. Whenever I commit to do any work, I become very enthusiastic and feel emotion with that. I take the assignment personally and stick last up to the accomplishment. And finally as a straight cut person I never negotiate with work. Work is the first priority to me. But sometimes I have to be flexible considering the situation.

**TLT: What is your philosophy towards your work?**

**Professor Nasir:** My philosophy is- 'Try, try, try and try. Once you will succeed.' I believe there is nothing impossible to do, if we desire honestly. Almighty has given us such kind of patience, determination and perseverance.

*"..... Try, try, try and try. Once you will succeed....."*

**TLT: Who has inspired you in your life most and how does it help you?**

**Professor Nasir:** My mother. I lost my mother in 1993 when I was a student of Honors 3rd year. She inspired me a lot in my life and taught me- 'when you work, when you read, when you play, whatever you do- just concentrate on that.' And I am just following her lesson. I saw in my own eyes that she used to pray to Almighty Allah for us while she was alive by saying: 'Allah, may my son grow up in such a way that people will remember him for his work forever.' Therefore, I am trying hard for the betterment of our society especially for LIS profession so that one day next generation will remember my efforts. I also believe that I have to go for a long way to do many things for my students, professionals and for the society. As long as the blessings and inspirations of my mother remain with me, I will continue my endeavor to do as much as better for the people and society.

*"..... I am trying hard for the betterment for the society especially for LIS profession so that one day next generation will remember my efforts. I also believe that I have to go for a long way ....."*



### Australian Library Design Awards 2017

The Australian Library and Information Association has announced the five winners of its inaugural Library Design Awards at its conference in Melbourne.

Thirty-three stunning libraries were entered in the awards and there is a winner in each category: public, school, academic and special libraries all feature in the entries.

The Australian Library Design Awards were created to showcase the best in contemporary library interiors and exteriors in Australia, and to celebrate the investment in libraries made by Australia's institutions, corporations, local, state and territory governments.

The winners list link: <http://www.designinglibraries.org.uk/index.asp?PageID=1423>



Fleur Morrison  
Reader, writer, blogger at Readability Books



### Library Tourism Could Be The Next Big Travel Trend

Just like any worthwhile tourist attraction, libraries can tell you a lot about a place. It might be a gathering place for the local community, or a hallowed space of hush and grandeur. Their design can vary greatly, from modern domes to historic reading rooms of walnut and gold, depending on the era and place in which the library was built.

More details at: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com.au/fleur-morrison/library-tourism-could-be-the-next-big-travel-trend\\_a\\_22491123/](http://www.huffingtonpost.com.au/fleur-morrison/library-tourism-could-be-the-next-big-travel-trend_a_22491123/)



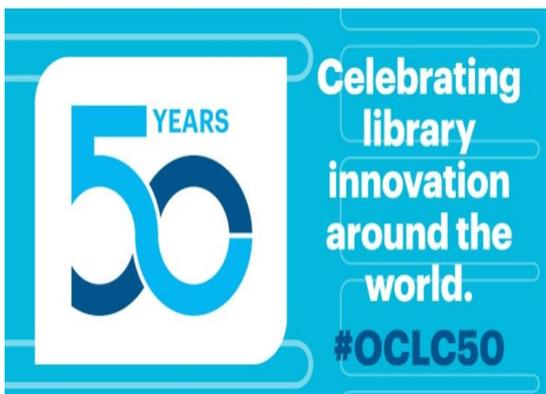
How to help kids navigate fake news and misinformation online

### How to help kids navigate fake news and misinformation online

Young people get a huge amount of their news from social media feeds, where false, exaggerated or sponsored content is often prevalent. With the right tools, caregivers can give kids the knowledge they need to assess credible information for themselves.

Being able to identify the trustworthiness of information is an important concern for everyone. Yet the sheer volume of material online and the speed at which it travels has made this an increasingly challenging task. Platforms like Twitter and Facebook provide a loudspeaker to anyone who can attract followers, no matter what their message or content.

More details: <https://theconversation.com/how-to-help-kids-navigate-fake-news-and-misinformation-online-79342?>



### OCLC celebrates 50 years of innovation and collaboration with libraries worldwide

DUBLIN, Ohio, 23 June 2017—OCLC, the library technology and research organization that changed the way libraries work, is celebrating 50 years of innovation and collaboration with libraries around the world.

On July 6, 1967, the nonprofit Ohio College Library Center was established to create a shared electronic library for Ohio colleges and universities. Frederick Kilgour, founder and first President, had a plan to build a shared, online cataloging system that would effectively merge library catalogs through a computer network and database so that libraries could work collaboratively, save time and share resources.

More details : <http://www.oclc.org/en/news/releases/2017/201721dublin.html>



27 June 2017

### Professional Unit Communication Award - call for nominations - by 31 July 2017

By Joanne Yeomans

Every year the Professional Committee recognizes one or more of the IFLA Professional Units for their outstanding communication activities. The IFLA Professional Unit Communication Award 2017 will be announced at the Closing Session of the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Wrocław, Poland on Thursday, 24 August 2017 and the winner presented with a certificate. Full details of the announcement: <https://www.ifla.org/node/11477>



### Discover The Untapped Potential Of Knowledge At The World's Leading Knowledge Management Event

Nov 6 - 9, 2017, JW Marriott, Washington, DC

Venue

JW Marriott Washington DC  
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20004

The brightest minds in knowledge and information management will gather in Washington DC to share real world examples of how KM and related disciplines can provide enormous value for your organization and transform your business.

Details: <http://www.kmworld.com/Conference/2017/venue.aspx>



### ISKO UK biennial conference

11th - 12th September 2017, London

This will be the 5th biennial conference of the UK Chapter of ISKO (International Society for Knowledge Organization), and a celebration of the 10th birthday of the Chapter.

#### Topics we shall address include:

The historical narrative of KO education

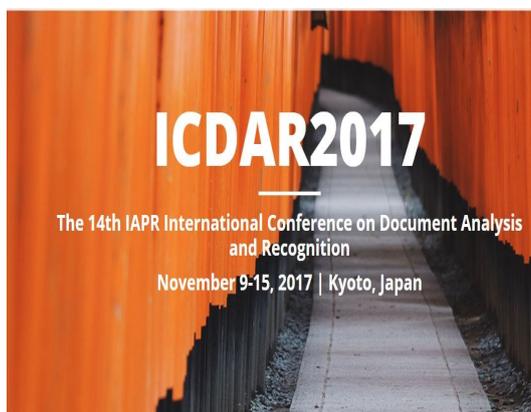
Use of the KO narrative in the workplace

Extracting the stories hidden in images, sounds and dance

Exploitation of Linked Data to follow threads of discovery in news stories

The potential role of KO in a "post-truth" society

Details: <http://www.iskouk.org/content/isko-uk-conference-2017-knowledge-organization-whats-story>



### ICDAR2017

### The 14th IAPR International Conference on Document Analysis and Recognition

November 9-15, 2017 | Kyoto, Japan

The 14th IAPR International Conference on Document Analysis and Recognition (ICDAR2017) will be taken place in Kyoto, Japan. Kyoto is one of the most popular destinations in Japan. Approximately 50 million people visit there every year. Kyoto had been the imperial capital of Japan for more than 1000 years and is known as a city of UNESCO World Heritage, in which about 20% of Japan's National Treasures and 14% of Important Cultural Properties exist.

Details: <http://u-pat.org/ICDAR2017/>

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### Free Webinar

JUL

19

## Wikipedia for Libraries: Preview the Possibilities, Discover the Opportunities

This webinar highlights how you can use Wikipedia to connect more people to your collections and creatively engage your community members.

Presented by: Monika Sengul-Jones, Wikipedian-in-Residence, OCLC; and Tiffany Bailey, Fine Arts Division Manager, Dallas Public Library

19 July 2017 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Eastern Daylight Time, North America [UTC -4]

Register: [http://www.oclc.org/en/events/2017/wj\\_WikipediaforLibraries\\_20170719.html](http://www.oclc.org/en/events/2017/wj_WikipediaforLibraries_20170719.html)

AUG

24

## IFLA's Global Vision: An Interactive Discussion

In this highly interactive webinar, join with the Association for Rural & Small Libraries to discuss the future of libraries as part of IFLA's Global Vision initiative.

Facilitated by: Jennifer Pearson, ARSL board member, IFLA Global Vision North American regional discussion representative, and director Marshall County Memorial Library (TN)

24 August 2017, Time 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Eastern Daylight Time, North America [UTC -4] Details: [http://www.oclc.org/en/events/2017/wj\\_IFLAGlobalvision\\_20170824.html](http://www.oclc.org/en/events/2017/wj_IFLAGlobalvision_20170824.html)

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