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It's my great pleasure to welcome you all to iConference 2020, jointly hosted by the Swedish School of Library and Information Science at Borås University and the Oslo Metropolitan University Department of Archivistics, Library and Information Science. Over the years, the iConference has become a leading conference bringing together researchers and scholars from around the world with complementary expertise from Information and a range of cognate disciplines, demonstrating the richness of the research activities undertaken by the global iSchools community.

A unique feature of this year's conference – Sustainable Digital Communities – is the move from a physical to an all-virtual format. The conference clearly highlights the opportunities as well as challenges presented by digital technologies that form the lifeblood of today's society and world around us. It also demonstrates how well the iSchools can work together despite adverse conditions. The depth and breadth of research reported in the selected papers and posters at this year's iConference demonstrate the key role that the global iSchools research community can play to build a sustainable digital future and society.

I am honoured and humbled by being given the opportunity to work with you all as the Chair of the iSchools Organisation for the next two years. In my view, iSchools are defined by five distinct characteristics that can be summarised as: People-Centred, Research-Intensive, International, Diverse and Evolving (or **PRIDE**, in short).

- iSchools are **people-centred**: our teaching and research aim to develop and use human- or user-centred digital technologies and policies for everyday living, learning and well-being.
- iSchools are **research-intensive**, and that is one of the key selection criteria for the iSchool membership.
- Although our members operate within a national framework for higher education and research, each iSchool has an **international outlook** in most of their activities ranging from recruitment of students to fostering research and industry partnership, and so on.
- **Inclusiveness and diversity** are key attributes of the iSchools community that are demonstrated by the expertise of faculty achieved through different disciplinary training and research activities which add unique and often complementary value to teaching, research, scholarly and professional activities within the iSchool.
- And, needless to say, the iSchools are an **evolving organisation** as demonstrated through membership, stakeholders, policies and engagement activities.

I hope the next few days will inspire us all through exciting discussions, debate and knowledge exchange activities, and we all depart having enjoyed an enriching and memorable experience.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to our colleagues at Borås and Oslo Met for their tireless efforts in hosting iConference 2020. I'm sure I speak for everyone in thanking them for providing this unique opportunity.