



## Academic and Research Libraries Section Online Business Meeting II 13/15 September 2021

### **Recordings:**

[ARL Business Meeting II Sept 13, 2021](#)

Access Passcode: 5b\$4#V!A

[ARL Business Meeting II Sept 15, 2021](#)

Access Passcode: #=pcD+1G

### **Present:**

Mari Altonen, Ursula Arning, Siviwe Bangani, Gulcin Cribb (Chair), Søren Bertil Dorch, Antonio Cobos Flores, Jérôme Fronty, Lorraine J. Haricombe, Marisa King, Vicki McDonald, Sharon Murphy, Mary Ngure, Tuelo Ntlotlang, Jim O'Donnell, Adetoun Adebisi Oyelude, Reggie Raju, Tiiu Tarkpea, Astrid Verheusen.

### **Apologies:**

Xin Li, Jayshree Mamtora.

### **1. Welcome**

Gulcin welcomed everyone to the meeting, acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which she is speaking and paid her respects to their elders past and present.

### **2. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved.

### **3. Minutes Business Meeting I**

The draft minutes of Business Meeting I were approved and seconded in both meetings, and will be published on the ARL web site.

Gulcin congratulated all past and present members of the ARL Section Committee (including corresponding members) for receiving the Dynamic Unit Impact Award.

### **4. Business arising from the minutes**

- a) **Country Trend Reports** – Thank you to everyone who has contributed their reports. This is a great resource for ARL planning and activities. The integrated report is available on Basecamp.
  - Reports from 2018 onwards are in the Documents Archive, and older ones are being collected.
  - Tiiu has volunteered to produce a summary report showing the 5-6 top points (as she did last year). This can be used to plan webinars, Hot Topics, etc.
- b) **ARL Annual Report 2020-2021** – Gulcin thanked everyone for their input. She will submit our Annual Report shortly.



- c) **New IFLA website and ARL pages** – There was a lively discussion of the “new look” IFLA web site and new ARL pages.
  - Adetoun will be keeping the ARL pages updated as our new Information Coordinator.
  - Some minor issues e.g. missing information, have been uncovered that are being addressed. For example, on the Conference page, the most recent information available is for 2018.
  - Some members felt the new site is a little harder to navigate than previously. It also seems the previous work that was done to make the site more multi-lingual has been lost.
  - Please advise Gulcin/ Marisaor IFLA of any missing information or other issues you come across on the site. In particular, please check your details on the [Committee](#) page.
- d) **IFLA Journal Special Issue (Reggie)** – Reggie shared the following with the meeting: *‘He has been looking at the criteria and template in anticipation of drafting a proposal. The most significant task will be identifying topics and potential submitters, and the peer review process. Everything else is done by the publisher (Sage).’*
- e) **Proposal for focus/theme for ARL Activities (Reggie)** – This was briefly discussed, but no further progress has been made. Whatever we do will need to align with the IFLA Strategy.
- **Professional Council (PC)** – The new PC has met and is working its way through the new structure and guidelines. The final handbook with all the details is due in December. Patrick Danowski is the Chair of Division D (our division).

## 5. Evaluation of WLIC 2021

Committee members provided their feedback on the online WLIC 2021 Congress, which attracted 2700 delegates. Key points:

- The platform and features were terrific.
- There was a wide variety of interesting presentations.
- The posters worked well in a virtual format.
- Some issues were encountered with the display of different time zones.
- The grouped themes e.g. Libraries Inspire worked well.
- Going to the exhibitions was not so good; people at the stands were not always available.
- The reduced attendance fee was appreciated.

### Action:

- Please complete the evaluation survey if you haven’t already done so.

### 5.1 Hot Topics 2021

Our Hot Topics session attracted 80-90 delegates. There was wonderful engagement with many questions asked. Lorraine shared that *‘The Congress pre-recording team was very accommodating and efficient.’*

Gulcin congratulated Lorraine and the Hot Topics team members (Mari, Jim and Sharon) on a successful session.

### Action:

- Share/promote the Hot Topics session, both free access for those who registered, and the option to purchase on-demand access to the Congress recordings (Gulcin/Lorraine).



- Several members asked why recordings from the Congress aren't made available for free, due to our support for Open Access. Gulcin will follow this up with Patrick Danowski.

## **6. Information Coordination Report**

Adetoun is our new Information Coordinator. She has been receiving significant support from Jayshree as outgoing Information Coordinator. Adetoun has been busy learning to edit the web site and monitoring the Facebook page. She will be working with Reggie and Xin and Jerome to promote the upcoming webinar and get new blog posts published. She will need some help with Twitter, as access to Twitter has been suspended in Nigeria.

Adetoun and Marisa will shortly begin work on an ARL Communications Plan for the next 12 months.

## **7. Action Plan 2021-2022**

The final version of the Action Plan template is due to be provided by 16 September. Our completed 2021-23 Action Plan will be due by 1 November. Gulcin has uploaded the Action Plan template to Basecamp.

The IFLA Strategy will guide our action planning. IFLA's Strategic Directions highlight four areas of focus in delivering our mission:

1. Strengthen the Global Voice of Libraries
2. Inspire and Enhance Professional Practice
3. Connect and Empower the Field
4. Optimise our Organisation

### **7.1. Objectives, Planning & Assignment of Roles and Responsibilities for 2021-2022**

The Committee discussed the assignment of [activities and responsibilities](#), using the document that Marisa uploaded to Basecamp. There were many volunteers for the different areas of focus. A number of the activity leaders are prepared to continue in these roles.

Marisa will compile an updated version of this document after the meeting.

Other points of discussion:

- The various benefits of a virtual Satellite Conference vs. face-to-face, whether it should be linked to the IFLA Congress, and when it should be held. To be discussed further by the Satellite Conference team. Guidelines on Satellite Conferences will also be provided by IFLA at a later date.
- Following this year's virtual Congress, there may be some changes to the format of future Congresses, and this could affect our planning for a Joint WLIC 2022 Session with other Committees. Guidelines on Joint Sessions will also be provided by IFLA.
- Tiiu suggested we hold "community calls" – webinars on very specific topics e.g. research data management. These could be run as a follow-up to our regular webinars or as a separate activity, and might later lead to the creation of ARL Communities of Practice.
  - Gulcin suggested we put this on our 2021-23 Action Plan as a potential new initiative. If it goes ahead it would be best to start small, given the range of activities we are already working on.

## **8. Webinars**



Our next webinar on “Disasters in Libraries” is scheduled for 11 October. The final arrangements are being put in place by the webinar team (Reggie, Xin and Sivivwe), including the sourcing of funding for AI translation for a German speaker.

## **9. Blogs**

Jerome provided a report on ARL blog posts for the last 12 months. There has been a very diverse mix of subjects and countries covered in the blog. Currently we have new blog posts in the pipeline until November.

Obtaining statistics on blog readership has been a challenge. Some statistics were provided by IFLA but they were difficult to interpret. This will be investigated further as part of the Communications Plan. It has also been suggested the blog be translated into other languages besides English.

NB: ARL Section Committee members are welcome to write a blog post or solicit a colleague to do so.

## **10. Travel Grant**

This was previously coordinated by our corresponding member, Liz State. We no longer have a corresponding member status under the new IFLA Governance. It will be possible to co-opt members and mentors on to the Committee in future; we are awaiting firm procedures from IFLA. It will need to be done in a very transparent and fair way. We need a volunteer member to coordinate the travel grant applications.

The Travel Grant is jointly sponsored by Ex Libris and Sage. Ex Libris has not contributed their part of the sponsorship for 2020 and 2021. IFLA has chased them many times. Gulcin will follow up on this, and will also contact both organisations to discuss sponsorship for 2022.

We have a few continuing members who undertook assessment of Travel Grant proposals. Ursula for Latin America, Jayshree, Mari and Gulcin for Asia Pacific, Lorraine and Adetoun for Africa. It will be good to have others join the team. Antonio has volunteered to help assess Latin America proposals.

## **11. Additional Business**

### **a) Committee diversity**

We currently have no members from Asia on the ARL Committee. This is something to be considered further once we have the IFLA procedures for co-opting members and mentors. It will be important to consider the specific expertise we need on the Committee as part of this process.

### **b) Next meeting**

Our next ARL Committee meeting is proposed to be held in the second week of November. We will also schedule a social catch-up (Cocktails, Chat and Conversation) in December.