



Academic and Research Libraries Section Online Business Meeting 29 Nov and 1 Dec 2021

Present:

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

Apologies:

Xin Li, Tuelo Ntlotlang.

1. Welcome

Gulcin welcomed everyone to the meeting from her current base in Istanbul. Happy Thanksgiving to all of our US colleagues.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Minutes Business Meeting II

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

4. Business arising from the minutes

- a) **Country Trend Reports** – Thank you, Tiiu, for producing the 2021 Summary Trends Report. This is always a very useful document for many activities. It is available on [Basecamp](#). Sharon is going to write a blog post in December “looking back” at our previous Country Trend Reports.

5. Professional Committee (PC) Announcements

We have not heard from the PC yet regarding guidelines for various matters, such as co-opting external people to the Committee and plans for WLIC 2022. The next PC meeting is due to be held on Thursday 2 December. Gulcin will provide further updates as they come to hand.

6. Information Coordinator's Report (Gulcin/Adetoun)

The scope of the IC job has been evolving over the years. It is now an officer position after the recent changes to IFLA governance.

As Toun is new to the role, the activities of IC are wide and there is an expectation of some technical skills, we have done some restructuring of responsibilities.

Jerome has kindly agreed to take on the responsibility to upload the blog posts. Thank you, Jerome.

Antonio is now responsible for Twitter. Thank you, Antonio.



The webinar team has agreed to assume responsibility for editing the webinar recordings, uploading them to YouTube/SlideShare, and adding the relevant announcements to the ARL website. Tuelo has volunteered to do this work, but has not been able to do the training yet due to health reasons. Mary has agreed to step in and help with this work in the interim. Thank you, Mary.

There is a small group who will continue managing the ARL Facebook site – Adetoun, Marisa and Gulcin. Jayshree and Mimi are still admins for Facebook as well.

Marisa is now the administrator for the UNISERV email distribution list. Thank you, Marisa

Adetoun thanked everyone, especially Jayshree, who has supported her with the IC role.

7. Action Plan 2021-2023

We have not received any feedback from the Division Chair, Patrick Danowski, regarding our Action Plan for 2021-2023. Thank you to all members for your input and contributions. It is great to see almost everyone involved in various projects. Special thanks to the project leads.

The login details for the Action Plan will be shared with the project leads so they can update the Action Plan as appropriate. Naturally we can add, delete or revise some of the actions as we move forward.

7.1 Strategic Direction 1: Strengthen the Global Voice of Libraries

a) WLIC Satellite Conference (Lead: Jim)

There is not a lot to report at this stage, as we are awaiting guidance from IFLA on Satellite Conferences for WLIC 2022. Jim will review this guidance when it is available and arrange to meet with the working group.

If the planned WLIC 2023 goes ahead in Rotterdam, we would re-open previous conversations with the appropriate contacts around holding a Satellite Conference in Luxembourg.

b) Blogs (Lead: Jerome)

We have been consistent in publishing at least one blog post a month since August.

The most recent one was on Citizen Science and the role of libraries.

Thank you to Sharon for her assistance in editing submitted blog posts.

We have a couple of items in the pipeline, but we could have more. (Some additional people volunteered to contribute during the meeting.) There are still some slots due to be filled.

Jerome will circulate the current pipeline soon so others may fill the remaining gaps.

We still have some work to do on updating the blog guidelines, assessing the blog's readership and increasing the blog's visibility through more effective promotion.

Blog authors are free to choose their own topic. You may also invite a colleague to make a submission rather than write it yourself.

As a guide, aim for a length of one or two pages.

c) Hot Topics (Lead: Lorraine)

We are awaiting IFLA guidelines with regard to WLIC 2022.



Noting that WLIC 2022 is scheduled 3-4 weeks earlier than previous years, work will begin in earnest in early 2022. If you have any ideas for specific topics, feel free to send them to Lorraine, Karen and Siviwe.

The structure of the Hot Topics session will be similar to previous years i.e. rapid sessions by a few speakers, followed by discussion.

Lorraine observed that the availability of speakers will to some extent depend on the congress format i.e. face to face, hybrid or virtual. It's more difficult to get speakers to attend a face-to-face conference. By contrast, this year's virtual congress made it very easy to get speakers from all around the globe.

Lorraine and the team will bring their ideas for topics to the next Business Meeting, and will seek the committee's help in identifying appropriate speakers.

7.2 Strategic Direction 2: Inspire and Enhance Professional Practice

a) IFLA Journal Special Issue (Lead: Reggie)

Reggie will meet with the IFLA Journal's editor-in-chief, Steve Witt, next week. Steve has provided information on roles and responsibilities, and timelines.

Following the meeting with Steve, Reggie and the working group will formulate a proposal for this committee as to how we should move forward.

7.3 Strategic Direction 3: Connect and Empower the Field

a) Webinars (Lead: Reggie/Xin)

We had a very successful webinar in October with well over 100 attendees.

There was some stress as a result of last-minute tasks e.g. getting presentations uploaded. Although it was wonderful to have so many different perspectives, five speakers is probably too many for a webinar and not enough time for any to dig deep into their material, or to allow time for discussion.

We also want to do most of the webinars this coming year in English, but dedicate one webinar to multiple languages, and have simultaneous translation.

We have asked for funding to help with Wordly (AI assisted translation) for next year.

We will hold four webinars in 2022. Topics will be chosen from the ideas submitted by committee members. The next webinar in February (to be led by Reggie), will focus on the Sustainable Development Goals. Each member of the webinar team will coordinate a webinar in future.

Xin has done a lot of work on developing a process and workflow for future webinars. Thank you, Xin.

b) WLIC Session (Lead: Vicki McDonald)

We are awaiting further guidance from IFLA on WLIC 2022 before progressing this work.

Vicki commented that the Summary Country Trends Report was very helpful. One topic that arose from this was "indigenous matters". It could be a broader topic around truth telling, Black Lives Matter, data sovereignty, etc. IFLA hasn't had a lot of sessions on this.

Karen suggested we partner with the Library Services to Multicultural Populations and Indigenous Matters sections of IFLA if we proceed with this topic.

c) WLIC 2022 Attendance Grants (Lead: Astrid)



A lot of work has already been done on setting up the procedures and timelines for the Attendance Grants. Updated documents are now available on Basecamp.
We have a wonderful group of evaluators in place.
Sage has agreed to sponsor the Attendance Grant. Gulcin will follow up with Ex Libris again.
In response to a question, Gulcin advised that the sponsors have resisted previous proposals for any multi-year sponsorship. We may want to consider doing this in the future.
The next steps are to prepare the call for applications and send a timeline to the evaluators. The call will be published in January and evaluation work will start in March.
We have some money left over from last year as WLIC 2021 was held virtually. So we may be able to sponsor four grantees rather than the usual three, as we did this year.
In past years, the Attendance Grant has been very popular, with up to 100 applicants. More information on eligibility and application procedures are available on our [web site](#).

7.4 Strategic Direction 4: Optimise our Organisation

a) Communications Plan (Lead: Adetoun/Marisa)

Marisa and Adetoun have commenced work on a Communications Plan for ARL. The purpose of the plan is to ensure a sustained, consistent and systematic approach for all ARL communication activities.

Marisa pointed out that a lot of ARL communications are already of a good quality; therefore the plan is designed to build on our existing strengths and ensure consistency of messaging across all our communication channels.

We also need to ensure we have clear communication workflows, as a number of different people are now involved in our communication activities (see Information Coordinator's report above).

As part of their discussions, Adetoun and Marisa considered whether the committee should put more effort into promoting ARL in Asia, given our lack of Asian representatives on the committee.

Gulcin pointed out we have had good Asian representation in the past and a number of members from Asia were nominated in the recent elections. However, they were unsuccessful in being elected to the committee.

Vicki suggested that ARL reach out to those unsuccessful candidates to gauge their interest in possibly being co-opted on to our committee for specific projects (noting that we are awaiting final guidance from IFLA on co-opting committee members).

Gulcin will ask Megan Price if we are able to obtain the names of the relevant candidates.

8. WLIC 2022

There is nothing more to report on the Congress until we have news from IFLA.

9. Additional Business

We discussed holding a CCC (coffee, chat and connect) informal session before Christmas as we did last year, with invitations extended to key contacts at IFLA e.g. Helen Mandl, Megan Price, Patrick Danowski. Marisa and Gulcin will look into potential times.

10. Next meeting

To be confirmed.