



IFLA Section Academic and Research Libraries

Academic and Research Libraries Section Online Business Meeting 11 and 13 April 2022

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 Mamtara, Vicki McDonald, Sharon Murphy, Mary Ngure, Reggie Raju, Tiiu Tarkpea, Astrid Verheusen, Xin Li.

Apologies:

Jim O'Donnell, Adetoun Oyelude, Tuelo Ntlotlang.

1. Welcome

Gulcin welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. New Information Coordinator

Gulcin welcomed Jerome as the new Information Coordinator of ARL, and acknowledged Adetoun's contributions as our IC since August. Thank you, Toun. Thank you, Jerome, for stepping up to take on this role and for "hitting the ground running".

Mary has been doing a fantastic job taking care of the ARL website, uploading the Annual Report and minutes, and updating the website with news and announcements. A huge thanks to Mary. She is also taking care of the YouTube and Slideshare accounts. All of our webinar recordings are now on YouTube including the 2020 Hot Topics. We have nine recordings there which is a great resource.

Gulcin also thanked Antonio for taking care of the Twitter account, Marisa for taking care of the Univers list and Toun for taking care of the Facebook page. Facebook in particular is a busy activity. We have many requests to follow us and also frequent requests to post. Thanks to our policy for social media, we are able to reject many inappropriate postings. Thank you, Toun, for managing this, and to Jayshree who did a tremendous job as Toun's predecessor, creating our social media policy and guidelines.

3. Rare Books and Special Collections webinar

Gulcin acknowledged the work Karen did representing ARL at the Rare Books and Special Collections webinar discussion on competency guidelines for RBSC professionals. Her notes are available on Basecamp. Karen commented that over 200 people attended the webinar, and that there is an identified need for more language around cultural diversity and inclusion in the draft guidelines.

4. Minutes of the last meeting

The draft minutes of our last meeting held on 29 November and 1 December 2021 were ratified, and will be published on the ARL website. They are available on Basecamp:

<https://3.basecamp.com/3833672/buckets/4958023/uploads/4452572179>

5. Professional Committee Announcements



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Adjoa Boateng, Chair of the Professional Committee, shared an update last week summarising the deliberations of the last PC meeting on the 1st April. This was shared with the Committee by Marisa.

The policy for co-opting members and mentors has been approved by the PC, but not endorsed by the Governing Board yet. We need to wait until this is published to proceed with this activity. As discussed at our previous meeting, ARL will attempt to connect with unsuccessful SC nominees from the 2021 election with a view to co-opting them to assist with various projects.

A networking event organised by the PC for Professional Division and Regional Division Officers to meet each other on 13 April has been postponed.

Jerome has agreed to represent ARL on the jury to select the winner of the 2022 Dynamic Unit and Impact Award (DUIA). The Division Committee B, E and F Chairs and Jerome representing ARL will comprise the jury for 2022.

Division E chaired by Patrick Danowski had a meeting last week. We will share the recording and minutes once they are available.

6. Action Plan 2021-2023

Gulcin has submitted the Action Plan mid-term report. It is available in Basecamp. Thank you all for your input and contributions. The next update is due in mid-October.

7.1 Strategic Direction 1: Strengthen the Global Voice of Libraries

a) WLIC Satellite Conference (Lead: Jim)

As previously discussed, we are no longer planning a Satellite Conference for WLIC 2022. If the planned WLIC 2023 goes ahead in Rotterdam, we will re-open previous conversations with the appropriate contacts around holding a Satellite Conference in Luxembourg at the National Library. We also need to start planning partnerships for the Satellite Conference. Gulcin will ask Jim to let us know how we can proceed.

b) Blogs (Lead: Jerome)

Jerome thanked everyone on the Committee for contributing to a wonderful, active blog. The new blog guidelines are available in Basecamp. Your comments are welcome. There has been a significant increase in readership of the blog over the past two years, from around 80,000 visits in 2018 to 132,000 visits in 2021. Additional assistance will be needed with the blog so Jerome can focus on his IC duties. Vicki volunteered to fill this role and assist Sharon. Sharon said it is a privilege to read and edit the blog posts. She will discuss the future workflow with Vicki. Gulcin thanked Jerome and Sharon for ably leading the blogs and for developing/revising the blog guidelines.

c) Hot Topics (Lead: Lorraine)



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Theme: Truth, Evidence and Memory: Academic Libraries as Cultural Rights Defenders

The call for papers has been posted on the WLIC web site. Interest has been expressed from the US, France, South Africa, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and the first submission has already been received. The deadline to submit a title and abstract is Monday 2 May.

We are potentially looking at 3-4 speakers, each speaking for 6-8 minutes each, followed by discussion. We are able to have up to 5 speakers.

Previous IFLA President Helen Kay Raseroka is an expert on the topic and is interested in speaking, although she is not attending the Congress. IFLA have granted permission for us to include a pre-recording of Helen's presentation.

Gulcin extended a huge thank you to Lorraine for leading the Hot Topics team.

Helen Kay Raseroka

7.2 Strategic Direction 2: Inspire and Enhance Professional Practice

- a) IFLA Journal Special Issue (Lead: Reggie)
Bertil, Jayshree and Reggie met recently to discuss this initiative. Jayshree has compiled a list of all ARL webinars, blog posts and Hot Topics session from the past few years, with a view to identifying a potential topic or theme for the Special Issue and inviting past presenters to submit a full paper. Reggie will meet with the IFLA Journal's editor-in-chief, Steve Witt, during an upcoming visit to the US. If the ARL Special Issue goes ahead, it is likely to be published in mid-2023.

7.3 Strategic Direction 3: Connect and Empower the Field

- a) Webinars (Lead: Xin/Reggie)
The next webinar, on the topic of "Research ethics in an open research environment", will be held in May and hosted by Karen, supported by Antonio. We have 4 speakers confirmed from the US, Turkey, Singapore and New Zealand (see the overview provided by Karen). The next step is to contact the speakers with suggested dates and times.
- b) WLIC 2022 Travel Grants (Lead: Astrid)
This project is proceeding according to plan. Both sponsors (Ex Libris and Sage) have confirmed their support. We received 31 applications before the 7 March deadline, and these are currently being worked through by a team of assessors: Marisa, Jayshree, Mari, Ursula, Antonio, Mary, Tuelo and Adtoun. We received a lot of applications from Asia, but divided the assessment work evenly among the 3 teams (Latin America, Africa and Asia). Astrid expressed her incredible thanks to the assessment team, particularly Jayshree who ensured the assessment work was evenly distributed. Although WLIC early bird registration ended on the 5th April, we have permission from IFLA for the grant winners to benefit from the early bird registration discount. Gulcin also extended a huge thank you to Astrid for leading the Travel Grants initiative.



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7.4 Strategic Direction 4: Optimise our Organisation

- a) Communications Plan (Lead: Adetoun/Marisa)
Marisa has completed the draft Communications Plan and this is now available on Basecamp. Your comments and feedback are welcome.
Marisa will also discuss the plan with Jerome as our new IC.

7. WLIC 2022

About half of the Committee have indicated they will attend the Congress.

ARL will hold a Business Meeting the day before Congress starts. Marisa will book the IFLA Zoom account for the meeting so that those not attending WLIC can also join in.

There will be no formal ARL dinner this time due to the compressed timeframe of the Congress. An informal get-together will be organised.

Gulcin emphasised that the Congress is a good opportunity for us to network to find collaborators/partners for the 2023 Satellite Conference in Luxembourg and for possible joint open sessions at the 2023 Congress.

Over 1000 registrations for the Congress have been received; a huge success. The number of early bird registrations is unprecedented.

8. Additional business

- a) Russia's invasion of Ukraine

The Committee discussed Russia's invasion of Ukraine and IFLA's response to the situation on 21 March. Members at both meetings expressed their deep concern about the situation and agreed that IFLA's response was not strong enough to put pressure on the Russian government.

Some members stated that they will not attend the WLIC 2022 in Dublin if IFLA does not exclude Russian delegates.

Several members also shared that their institutions and/or their national or regional professional organisations are implementing strong sanctions against Russia; for example, ceasing collaborative research with Russian researchers, not renewing contracts with Russian colleagues, and banning services such as inter-library loans and acquisitions involving Russian institutions.

Both meetings agreed to the following action by ARL:

- Gulcin will make a document available on Basecamp in which Committee Members can share examples of actions taken in various countries by different organisations to show solidarity and support for the Ukrainian colleagues and to sanction Russia. We will then publish it as a blog and share it via ARL's various social media channels.
- Gulcin will write to IFLA's Deputy Secretary-General, Helen Mandl (this was subsequently amended to Acting Secretary-General, Halo Locher) expressing our Committee's concern that IFLA has neglected to take a strong stand against the Russian aggression in Ukraine.



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9. Next meeting

Our next business meeting will be scheduled for late June. Dates and times to be confirmed.