



IFLA Section Academic and Research Libraries

Minutes Academic and Research Libraries Section Committee Business Meeting (online) 19 & 21 September 2022

1. Welcome, attendance and apologies

Gulcin welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land on which she is speaking.

Present:

Mari Altonen, Ursula Arning, Bertil Dorch, Karen Downing, Antonio Cobos Flores, Jérôme Fronty, Gülçin Cribb (Chair), Lorraine Haricombe, Marisa King (Secretary), Lily Ko, Jayshree Mamtora, Vicki McDonald, Tuelo Ntlotlang Adetoun Oyelude, Shaharima Parvin, Reggie Raju, Tiiu Tarkpea.

Apologies:

Siviwe Bangani, Xin Li, Mary Ngure, Jim O'Donnell, Astrid Verheusen.

Guests/Observers:

Joeri Both, Elisavet Chyantavaridou, Mark Allen Mattson, Neda Zdravkovic

2. Approval of the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

- 3.1. Lorraine kindly recorded the minutes for the face-to-face/hybrid meeting at WLIC 2022. They have now been approved and [published](#) in the online repository. Thank you to Jérôme for making sure those who could not attend in person were able to connect on Zoom.
- 3.2. Matters arising: Tiiu has the tidying up of our Basecamp files underway. Thank you, Tiiu. There is now a separate folder for all documents regarding the WLIC Satellite Meetings. Jérôme reminded the committee that Basecamp training is available from IFLA through Megan Price. Basecamp provides easy access to all important documents in the one place. It's important that Section Committee members use it as much as possible to share information, documents, etc.

4. Professional Committee

4.1. Announcements from the Professional Committee

Gulcin attended the most recent PC meeting as an observer, and also their meeting in Dublin. The PC Chair, Adjoa Boateng, has resigned. There was an announcement from IFLA Governing Board about the replacement process, and we have since been advised that an election process is underway for an interim PC Chair, following the procedures set out in the IFLA statutes and bylaws. It is likely to take until 1 December for the interim Chair to be elected, and then there



IFLA Section Academic and Research Libraries

will be consequent vacancies. The permanent PC Chair will commence their new term in August 2023.

The PC also discussed whether it is possible to have hybrid satellite conferences. The Rotterdam conference will be fully hybrid (face-to-face and online). Nothing has been concluded regarding satellite conferences but Gulcin will keep the Committee informed (satellite conferences are not funded by IFLA but by the organisers and hosting institution).

5. Information Coordinator's Report – Jerome Fronty

The full report is on Basecamp. Jerome discussed some highlights of the report at the meeting:

- Earlier this year the SC approved a new ARL Communications Plan that is focused on taking a more proactive approach, in addition to our regular communications around “trigger” events such as webinars. An example of this proactive approach is the new bi-monthly newsletter.
- Visits to the ARL blog have increased five-fold over the past four years. We have also added 1000 new Facebook followers a year in the same period. Our Twitter page is continuing to grow.
- ARL events e.g. webinars, new blog posts, are promoted using all of our communication channels – web site, distribution list, social media, etc. Each channel has different users.
- We should be proud that many people participate in our communications work. A very big thanks to all the people involved: Adetoun, Antonio, Marisa, Mary, Sharon and Vicki.
- There is still much more we can do. How can we boost our audience? The organisation is there. How can we go further?

Gulcin thanked Jerome for his very comprehensive report.

6. Action Plan 2021-2023

Gulcin thanked all of the project leads for contributing to the recent Action Plan update. The next update will be in March 2023.

6.1 Strategic Direction 1: Strengthen the Global Voice of Libraries

6.1.1 WLIC 2023 Satellite Conference (Lead: Jim)

Jim and Gulcin made contact with a potential host – Erasmus University Library in Rotterdam – at WLIC 2022 in Dublin. Jerome, Lorraine, Jim and Gulcin subsequently met in Dublin and brainstormed theme ideas. The tentative theme is “Open” which could translate into open access, open science, open mindedness, etc. At this stage we want to keep it as high level and strategic as possible. We already have some potential names for keynote speakers.

We have been approached by two IFLA sections – CPDWL and Management & Marketing – as potential partners for the satellite conference. Watch this space. Jim and Gulcin will meet again with Erasmus University representatives next week. The University Librarian there is moving to a new position in Utrecht but he is very keen to



IFLA Section Academic and Research Libraries

support the satellite conference being held at Erasmus, as are his colleagues. Erasmus University is a short subway ride from Rotterdam.

6.1.2 Blog (Lead: Vicki/Sharon)

We have got a really good line-up of upcoming posts. The most recent blog is on open science in Singapore. Soon we will be publishing blogs from at least one of our Travel Grant recipients. We have a research ethics post coming up in October and commitments right through until March. We aim for one post a month. If you have a burning issue you would like to write about, please contact Sharon.

6.1.3 Hot Topics (Lead: Lorraine)

Lorraine thanked the team that was instrumental in developing Hot Topics this year (Karen and Siviwe), and Jerome and Jayshree who provided excellent presentations. We had five speakers, all top quality and engaging. We had about 60 people in the room and just under 40 people stayed for the roundtable discussion. There was deep discussion evident at each table. Lorraine has videos of all of the presentations and these will be uploaded to our YouTube channel. Unfortunately Adetoun was unable to deliver her presentation due to not being able to obtain a visa.

6.2 Strategic Direction 2: Inspire and Enhance Professional Practice

6.2.1 IFLA Journal Special Issue (Lead: Reggie)

There is not much to add to the report that was submitted at the last business meeting. Reggie has a new colleague on board who will help to fast-track the project. The two papers that are to be presented at the upcoming webinar (see below) will be “banked” for the Special Issue. Then we can start looking at developing guidelines and such in the next couple of months. The Special Issue is likely to be published in late 2023.

6.3 Strategic Direction 3: Connect and Empower the Field

6.3.1 Webinars (Lead: Reggie/Xin)

The topic for the next webinar has been finalised ([The call to action – academic libraries responses to the SDGs](#)) and the webinar is now scheduled for Wednesday 2 November. Reggie shared the abstract for the webinar at the meeting. Bertil will be the facilitator.

6.3.2 Joint WLIC Session (Lead: Vicki)

A joint session was not held at WLIC 2022.

6.3.3 Travel Grant (Lead: Astrid)

We have over 11,000 euros in our Travel Grant “kitty” which has accumulated over a number of years and we need to make plans to use up these funds. One suggestion is to increase the number of grantees; another is to increase the amount of the grant. There



IFLA Section Academic and Research Libraries

was broad support on the committee for the latter option, particularly as international air fares have increased significantly in recent times. Gulcin will discuss these ideas with Astrid. The workflows also need to be refined.

The low number of applicants from Latin America was discussed (most applications come from Africa and Asia). More publicity would help and Ursula is happy to assist with publicity in Latin America.

Sage are happy to continue to support the Travel Grant but we need confirmation from Ex Libris.

6.4 Strategic Direction 4: Optimise our Organisation

6.4.1 Communications Plan (Lead: Marisa/Jerome)

Planning is underway for the next issue of our bi-monthly newsletter to be published shortly.

As we already have a significant number of committee members engaged in our communication activities, we will not proceed with the proposal to establish a Communications Sub-Committee. However, all SC members are welcome to contribute to our communication activities at any time.

7. Planning for 2022-2023

7.1 Roles and Responsibilities

Gulcin has updated the Roles and Responsibilities document which is on Basecamp. Thank you very much to everyone for volunteering for the various projects. Jayshree and Ursula volunteered for the new IFLA Open Access Working Group.

7.2 Trends in Member Countries (See:

<https://3.basecamp.com/3833672/buckets/4958023/uploads/5340240867>)

Thank you to Marisa for collating the trends and to Tiiu in advance for compiling the summary document. Please provide your report if you haven't already done so. Marisa volunteered to write a blog post on the summary of trends.

7.3 Future Program & Partnership Ideas

7.3.1 Satellite Meeting 2023

Already discussed above.

7.3.2 Hot Topics 2023

Lorraine is happy to continue leading this project with a small team. Anyone is welcome to contribute ideas for topics. Please let Lorraine know if you would like to be on the team.

7.3.3 Joint Session 2023



IFLA Section Academic and Research Libraries

Due to Vicki's election as IFLA President-Elect, she can no longer be a member of ARL as she is a member of the IFLA Governing Board. Gulcin will lead this project in the meantime with Karen and Marisa assisting. We usually run the session in collaboration with another IFLA section. Initial discussions have taken place on a possible topic and collaborating partner. We will keep you informed of developments.

7.3.4 Blogs & Webinars
Nothing to add.

7.3.5 Travel Grant
Already discussed.

7.3.6 IFLA Journal Special Issue
Already discussed.

7.3.7 Ideas for New Activities
There were no ideas for new activities. But we are already doing a lot.

8. Annual Report

Thank you to everyone for contributing. The report has been submitted to our Division D Head, Patrick Danowski, and once he approves it, it will be published on the web site.

9. Additional Business

There was no additional business.

10. Next meeting

Our next meeting will be scheduled for late November.