IFLA Section Academic and Research Libraries

Minutes
Academic and Research Libraries Section Committee
Business Meeting (online)
27 Feb & 1 March 2023

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

   Present:
   Mari Aaltonen, Bertil Dorch, Antonio Cobos Flores, Jerôme Fronty, Gülçin Cribb (Chair), Marisa King (Secretary), Lily Ko, Jayshree Mamtora, Sharon Murphy, Tuelo Ntlotlang, Jim O'Donnell, Reggie Raju, Tiiu Tarkpea, Astrid Verheusen.

   Apologies:
   Siviwe Bangani, Mary Ngure, Shaharima Parvin.

   Observers:
   Jacky Li, Mark Mattson, Irina Shubina, Jesse Xiao.

2. **Approval of the Agenda**
   The agenda was approved (moved Jerôme, seconded Lily).

3. **Matters arising from the previous meeting (minutes available [here](#))**
   - None to report.

4. **Announcements from the Professional Committee (Gülçin)**
   - All updates from the new Chair of the Professional Committee, Te Paea Paringatai, have been shared on Basecamp.
   - Gulcin has shared the report from the PC Meeting on our Basecamp site.

5. **Upcoming elections (Gülçin)**
   - Nominations closed on Friday for the seven vacancies on the ARL Standing Committee.
   - Marisa and Gülçin received many enquiries from potential candidates during the nomination period. The final number of nominations received is 23.
   - Reggie noted that the term of office of each SC member is no longer published on the web site. Gülçin said this is an IFLA decision.

6. **ARL Action Plan 2021- 2023**

6.1. Strategic Direction 1: Strengthen the Global Voice of Libraries

6.1.1 WLIC 2023 Satellite Conference, Erasmus University (Lead: Jim)

Theme: Inclusiveness through Openness.
Conference link: https://www.eur.nl/en/library/ifla/inclusiveness-through-openness

Gülçin provided a report in Jim's absence at the first meeting. Jim gave a report at the second meeting. Everything is progressing to plan. Erasmus University is a wonderful partner. A keynote speaker is yet to be confirmed. We are hoping to secure a keynote from someone with a global view of the theme e.g. a UN or UNESCO background. It is a huge team with many partners. But we have made a lot of progress. Special thanks to ARL team members who are serving on the organising team. The Satellite Conference website developed by the Erasmus University library team is at: https://www.eur.nl/en/library/ifla/inclusiveness-through-openness

NB: The call for proposals has been issued since our business meeting, with the due date recently extended to 27 March 2023.

6.1.2 Blogs (Lead: Sharon)
There continues to be a steady flow of new blog posts each month, with a variety of topics and geographical coverage.

Some visitors to our blog site are receiving an error message regarding the security certificates on the site. This is being investigated by IFLA. New posts can still be made, but it is obviously an inconvenience to readers.

6.1.3 Hot Topics (Lead: Lorraine)

Theme: From Gutenberg to ChatGPT: Will AI change libraries and their mission?

The proposal for our Hot Topics session is due with IFLA by 13 March. There will be three speakers (8-10 minutes each) from different global regions. The Hot Topics team has received the names of potential speakers but will appreciate your continued help in identifying speakers to submit proposals for review.

Reggie noted that speakers may be invited to convert their presentation into an article for the ARL Special Issue of the IFLA Journal (see report below).

6.2 Strategic Direction 2: Inspire and Enhance Professional Practice

6.2.1 IFLA Journal Special Issue (Lead: Reggie)

The team (Reggie, Jayshree and Bertil) meets once a month. So far they have received all past ARL webinar and Hot Topics presentations, and invited a number of speakers to convert their presentations into full papers for the journal. They hope to secure four or five papers.

6.3   Strategic Direction 3: Connect and Empower the Field

6.3.1 Webinars (Lead: Reggie/Xin)

Planning for our next webinar at the end of March (see https://www.ifla.org/news/webinar-series-next-iteration-on-29-march-2023-re-social-justice-diversity-and-inclusion-save-the-date/) is on track, led by Siviwe, and promotion is well underway. Special thanks to Lily for securing a Hong Kong speaker and to Xin for the webinar planning document.

6.3.2 Joint WLIC Session (Lead: Gulcin)

We had planned a joint session with the Library Education and Training (LET) section on the theme: Creating diverse, equitable and inclusive work environments, services and collections. However, IFLA rules allow each section to lead just one session at the Congress, and both ARL and LET are already leading a session. Therefore our joint session will not be going ahead.

6.3.3 Travel Grant (Lead: Astrid)

The call for applications was published in November, with a deadline of 6 March. So far 37 applications have been received. (NB: As at 16 March, we had received 95 applications.) The assessment period will run until 15 April. There is an assessment team for each region (Africa, Asia and Latin America), with two grants per region of 850 euros each to be awarded.

6.4   Strategic Direction 4: Optimise our Organisation

6.4.1   Communications Plan (Lead: Marisa/Jerome)

We published the latest issue of our bi-monthly newsletter on February 13, covering the IFLA Elections, upcoming webinar, ARL travel grant, recent blog posts, and how to keep in touch with ARL.

Unfortunately our newsletter platform provider, Mail Chimp, has announced that the distribution of newsletters with more than 500 subscribers (that's us) will require a paid subscription in future. We plan to apply to IFLA for a special grant to cover the cost of subscribing. We will keep you informed of progress.

Jerome has been busy cleaning up the ARL website, removing out-of-date information and links that are no longer working, and adding new projects and initiatives.

At our last meeting we held a brainstorming session on how ARL could expand its reach and reputation among the "younger generation" of librarians. Thank you everyone for your ideas. Jerome is leading this project, and plans to establish a working group to take this forward. Ideas to be given priority are:

- Building a closer working relationship with IFLA's New Professionals SIG;
- Involving ARL Travel Grant recipients of previous years, who tend to be "up and coming librarians";
- Promoting ARL activities to Library and Information Science tertiary education programs; and
- Investigating the use of new communication tools such as Tik Tok.

If you know of any young or up-and-coming librarians in your organisation who would be willing and able to contribute, please put them in touch with Jerome. Remember it isn't necessary for them to be a member of our Committee, or even of IFLA, to be involved.

7. Other business

7.1 IFLA Journal and Open Access

IFLA's Open Access working group is collecting ideas for a business model to deliver the IFLA Journal as an open access journal. Financial data has been requested from and will be provided by IFLA HQ to inform this work. An Open Access webinar series is planned by the group bringing together the expertise of the IFLA volunteer base. The group will meet at WLIC in Rotterdam.

8. Next meeting

Our next business meeting will be held in May 2023. More information to follow.