IFLA Section Academic and Research Libraries

Academic and Research Libraries Section
Joint Committee Welcome Meeting
29 & 31 May 2023

1. Welcome, attendance and apologies

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

Present:

Mari Aaltonen, Bianca Amaro, Ursula Arning, Mimi Calter, Karen Downing, Adriana Cybele Ferrari, Antonio Cobos Flores, Jerôme Fronty, Gülçin Cribb (Chair), Lorraine Haricombe, Marisa King (Secretary), Lily Ko, Xin Li, Jayshree Mamtora, Sharon Murphy, Mary Ngure, Tuelo Ntlotlang, Jim O'Donnell, Shaharima Parvin, Tiiu Tarkpea, Astrid Verheusen.

Apologies:

Siviwe Bangani, Bertil Dorch,

2. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting (27 February/1 March)

The minutes are available on Basecamp:
https://3.basecamp.com/3833672/buckets/4958023/uploads/5970153221
There were no matters arising.

4. Introductions

All incoming and continuing SC members introduced themselves to the meeting.

Gulcin acknowledged all of the outgoing SC members: Adetoun, Bertil, Jim, Mari, Reggie and Sharon, and thanked them very much for their contributions and efforts to make ARL successful.

5. 2021-23 Projects and accomplishments

5.1. Satellite Conference (Lead: Jim). Theme: Inclusiveness through openness

The final programme is now available here. The keynote speaker is Sabelo Mhlambi, a Fellow at the Berkman-Klein Center for Internet & Society and a Fellow at Stanford's Digital Civil Society Lab. We are on the verge of announcing a second keynote speaker. Watch this space!

There is a very low registration fee (75 euro) for the conference to encourage participation. We already have 10-20 registrations. A lot of proposals for presentations were received. There are 12 papers on the programme.

Erasmus University Library has provided wonderful support and we have some great partners for the conference. We are co-sponsored by several IFLA sections, the Max Planck Institute and the British Library.

5.2. Blogs (Lead: Sharon)
IFLA maintains a WordPress site for publishing blogs by different sections. We rely on members to contribute or solicit contributions from colleagues. Most recently we have published a blog about the satellite conference written by Jim.

There was a security issue with the blog platform on WordPress that has been solved.

We are working to keep the pace to one blog post per month. There will be a vacancy to manage the blog once Sharon leaves the committee.

Erasmus University Library has promised to write a blog about Rotterdam that we are waiting for and will publish in June.

We are looking for blogs in July and August. Please let Sharon know if you have a burning topic to share with colleagues.

5.3. Hot Topics (Lead: Lorraine)
ARL holds an open session at WLIC every year called Hot Topics which is very popular. This year we are focused on artificial intelligence and Chat GPT. The session will be held on Tuesday 22 August at 10.15am in Dock 1.

We received 19 proposals from 11 countries this year. Siviwe Bangani and Karen Downing served as the review team.

The programme is in two parts: 30 minutes of "ignite" talks/presentations followed by 30 minutes of roundtable discussion. The three presentations will be:

1. **Presenters**: Cecilia Adewumi and Adetoun Oyelude (Nigeria)
    Title: "*Anfang - Bot - Schluß": Visualizing Future Academic and Research Libraries*

2. **Presenter**: Mimi Calter (USA)
    Title: *Large Language Models: Immediate Challenges, Long-term Opportunities*

3. **Presenters:** Drs. Satveer Singh Nehra (one of this year's Travel Grant winners) and Sadanand Bansode (India)
   Title: *Artificial Intelligence and ChatGPT in Academic and Research Libraries: Challenges and Opportunity*

   Like last year, we plan to have an alternate presenter (likely a pre-recording) available in case it is needed. Lorraine will announce that information once she has confirmation from the presenter.

   The program has been submitted to IFLA for approval. Lorraine thanked the Hot Topics team for their hard work.

5.4. IFLA Journal Special Issue (Lead: Reggie)
The team hasn't been able to meet recently, but there has been some progress. We have some papers ready and hope to include some presentations from previous Hot Topics sessions that will be developed into papers. Going by the range of papers it will be a broad "trends in academic and research libraries" theme.

5.5. Webinars (Lead: Reggie/Xin)
ARL aims to hold three webinars a year. These are scheduled so as not to clash with WLIC. Leadership of each webinar is rotated among the core project members; however, all SC members are involved.

We usually start with a theme for each webinar that is tweaked according to speakers' strengths and interests. We previously had up to four speakers each time but this proved to be hard to manage. We now aim for two speakers per webinar, with a speaking time of about 20 minutes each.

We held a very successful webinar in March led by Siviwe on social justice, diversity and inclusion in academic and research libraries. Our next webinar led by Antonio is tentatively planned for June with the theme: Emerging technologies including AI in academic libraries: challenges and opportunities for innovation in library services. The webinar is likely to be presented in Spanish, with live subtitles provided by Wordly. More information to follow.

Past webinar recordings are available on our YouTube channel. Please promote these among your networks.

Tuelo will organise the next webinar in October. More details to follow later.

5.6. Travel Grant (Lead: Astrid)

Our Travel Grant, sponsored by Sage and Ex Libris, supports three recipients – one each from Central and Latin America, Africa and Asia/Oceania to attend WLIC. This year we had sufficient funds available to award six grants. We received over 100 applications, and a team of 10 assessors selected two winners from each region. Almost half of the applicants were from Asia. The winners will not only attend WLIC in Rotterdam but will write a blog for us about their experiences.

The assessors have some ideas on how we can make the process easier for ourselves and make some tweaks for next time. For example, it has been suggested that we develop an online application tool. Astrid will work on a proposal for the next business meeting and will share it with the assessors prior to the meeting. Assessing the applications is a lot of work so it is important the criteria are clear.

5.7. Communications Plan (Lead: Marisa/Jerome)
Jerome provided an overview of the ARL Communications Plan, the committee members who are involved, and the workflow we use to ensure that important news and announcements are distributed widely and effectively.

The next communications initiative we are planning is an "ARL Watch". Marisa and Shaharima have identified a number of web sites for library associations and important sector organisations around the world that could be monitored regularly for news, initiatives and best practices that could be shared on our social media networks. The list of sites will be shared on Basecamp soon for your feedback.

ARL launched a bi-monthly newsletter last year. This has been a successful initiative, but unfortunately the platform we use (MailChimp) to create and distribute the newsletter has changed its pricing structure so that we will need to pay to use it in future. It's quite complicated to get IFLA funds for this and/or to be reimbursed ourselves.

For the time being we have capped the number of newsletter recipients at 500 so we can continue to distribute it for free. We are exploring the possibility of using IFLA Headquarters' MailChimp platform. This matter will be for the incoming committee to take forward. There will be one more newsletter in July before the new committee and officers come on board.

Rejuvenating the team ("Young professionals") project – Jerome is looking for volunteers to work with him on this. This will also be raised with the incoming committee.

6. What it's like to be an Officer (Gulcin, Marisa and Jerome)

   Gulcin:

It's great fun but also rewarding and exciting. It's tremendous to meet so many different people from different countries. We work with many different people throughout IFLA and learn new things.

Marisa:
The Secretary is a great role supporting the Chair and having an overview of everything that's happening in the Section. Getting involved with IFLA at a wider sense; seeing more of what's going on behind the scenes. It's the kind of role that can be as much or as little as you make it. It's also a great stepping stone to the ARL Chair role.

Jerome:
Endorsed the comments made by Gulcin and Marisa, and added that you need to be prepared to work across different time zones.

Gulcin is stepping down as Chair and this is her last term on the committee. Marisa is stepping down as Secretary but will continue on the committee. Jerome is keen to continue in the Information Coordinator role.

Gulcin encouraged all new and continuing members to consider nominating for an Officer role. Our new division D Chair is Ann Okerson.

7. Officer elections process
   7.1. Officer self-nominations: 1 June to 19 June
   7.2. Officer elections: 26 June to 10 July

8. WLIC 2023
   8.1. ARL Business Meeting – Sunday 20 August, 1.30pm to 3.30pm (UTC +2); open to all incoming and outgoing members. Marisa will investigate booking the IFLA Zoom channel so that those committee members not attending in person can join the meeting.

   8.2. An informal ARL dinner will be organised for those attending WLIC in person.

9. Next meeting

   We will hold a semi-informal meeting in mid to late July, once the new Officers have been elected. Dates to be confirmed.

10. Any other business
There was no other business.