



# IFLA Section Academic and Research Libraries

**Academic and Research Libraries Section  
Business Meeting, WLIC 2023, Rotterdam  
Sunday 20 August 2023, 1.30pm, Port 1 A**

## AGENDA

Present onsite (Section Committee):

Mari Aaltonen, Bianca Amaro, Usula Arning, Siviwe Bangani, Mimi Calter (Incoming Chair), Gulcin Cribb (Outgoing Chair), Patrick Danowski (Division D Chair), Bertil Dorch, Jerome Fronty, Lorraine Haricombe, Sarah Kaddu, Jayshree Mamtora, Vicki McDonald (Incoming IFLA President), Jim O'Donnell, Adetoun Oyelude, Tiiu Tarkpea.

Onsite observers:

Bayan Abusini, Nahla Alhumeed, Maria Barkelud, Talia Chung, Nissrean Abu Hussein, Satveer Nehra (Travel Grant winner), Alessandra Pike, Iwok Shabi, Ellen Tise.

Present online (Section Committee):

Miriam Linda Akeriwe, Bertil Dorch, Karen Downing, Adefunke Ebijuwa, Adriana Cybele Ferrari, Antonio Cobos Flores, Joanna Hare, Marisa King, Lily Ko, Xin Li, Sharon Murphy, Shaharima Parvin.

Apologies: Astrid Verheusen

### 1. Welcome

#### 1.1. Introductions & Apologies

Gulcin welcomed everyone to the meeting, including new, continuing and outgoing Section Committee members; observers; ARL Travel Grant winners; and Division D Chair Patrick Danowski.

### 2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

### 3. Matters arising from the previous meeting

There were no matters arising.



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## 4. Professional Committee

### 4.1. Announcements from the Professional Committee (Patrick Danowski)

The decision to hold WLIC 2024 in Dubai was extensively discussed at the Division D meeting. Some members have concerns about Dubai as a venue.

IFLA has launched a new tool to create and update section Action Plans that is more user-friendly.

There is a new IFLA collaboration format called Networks that can be formed by two or more different areas (e.g. Sections or Advisory Committees).

Patrick thanked the outgoing SC members for their work.

There is no guidance yet for the venue for WLIC 2025. The format may be discussed in future, particularly if there continues to be a low number of bids.

### 4.2. Request for items to be raised to the Professional Committee

There were no items to be raised.

## 5. Information Coordinator's Report – Jerome Fronty

Jerome has distributed his report to all SC members and further discussion is possible at the September business meeting. He highlighted four key pillars of the Section's communication activities:

1. Communications Plan
2. New guidelines e.g. blog
3. Dissemination of information through all available channels
4. Teamwork – Different SC members are responsible for different information channels

All of our channels are continuing to grow in popularity.

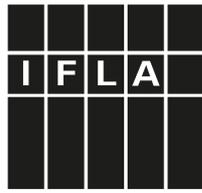
Gulcin acknowledged Marisa and Jerome's work on the new bi-monthly newsletter.

## 6. ARL Action Plan 2021- 2023

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

#### 6.1.1 WLIC 2023 Satellite Conference (Lead: Jim)

This was a very successful conference. Erasmus University was a fantastic partner and meticulous in their preparation. The entire conference was recorded and will be made available online shortly. There were about 45 attendees.



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Unfortunately due to visa and passport issues the keynote speaker was unable to attend in person, but he provided a great presentation via video which set the scene for a very successful conference. There are a number of lessons learned that we can incorporate into future conferences. There were a large number of partners, both IFLA Sections and other organisations, which worked very well.

### 6.1.2 Blogs (Lead: Sharon)

We had some software difficulties through the year, but nonetheless published 12 blogs in the last 12 months from contributors all around the world and covering a wonderful variety of issues. All SC members and supporters are invited to contribute.

We were approached by the Publishing SIG who asked us to host some blog submissions on their behalf. We agreed to publish two blogs in July/August but made no commitment beyond that. This will be something for the new Committee to consider.

Sharon thanked everyone who has contributed and encouraged others to do so. Gulcin acknowledged Sharon's hard work on the blog.

Ursula and Sharon both urged the Committee to continue supporting the Publishing SIG, as publishing is such an important topic for the ARL community. We aim to have one blog post a month, and guidelines are available for those who wish to contribute. The main criteria is that a blog be original writing and generally topical to ARL members.

We will need someone new to look after the blog as Sharon is leaving the Committee.

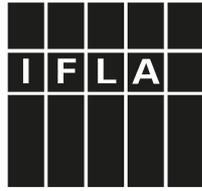
The idea of having blog posts in languages other than English was discussed.

### 6.1.3 Hot Topics (Lead: Lorraine)

This session will be held on Tuesday 22 August, 10.15 – 11.15am, Dock 1

Lorraine introduced and thanked the Hot Topics team: Siviwe, Mimi, Karen, Lily and Shahrima.

We received 11 proposals from all over the world and it was tough to choose just three speakers. Each speaker will provide a lightning talk of eight minutes,



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followed by a roundtable discussion for 30 minutes. The session will be recorded by Lorraine and posted on our web site.

### 6.2 Strategic Direction 2: Inspire and Enhance Professional Practice

#### 6.2.1 IFLA Journal Special Issue (Lead: Reggie)

Bertil and Jayshree provided an update on this project. Reggie is no longer available to lead the project due to other priorities (he is also leaving the Committee).

The intention was to invite former Hot Topics and webinar presenters to submit a paper for the Special Issue. So far we have received two submitted papers that need to be reviewed. Having six to eight papers is preferred. There is a formal IFLA Journal peer review process.

Bertil and Jayshree will document what has been done so far and email this to SC members. They are both keen to continue on the project and hopefully close it off before the end of the year. They would like other SC members to get involved.

The project will be on the agenda for discussion at our September business meeting. A date for this meeting will be set soon.

### 6.3 Strategic Direction 3: Connect and Empower the Field

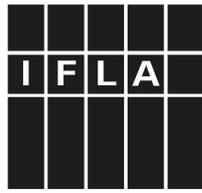
#### 6.3.1 Webinars (Lead: Reggie/Xin)

Xin introduced the team: Karen, Antonio, Tuelo, Reggie and Siviwe, but emphasised the entire Committee is involved in our webinars in one way or another.

This year and last year we have focused on solidifying the process and guidelines to plan and host a webinar. So far we have held two webinars in 2023 and Tuelo is leading a third to be held in October.

We have focused very much on diversity – not just in terms of topics or regions, but linguistically too. For example, in June we held a webinar entirely in Spanish. We generally have a global audience of over 100 people at each webinar.

There was a deep discussion around the need to continue holding webinars in languages other than English/Western languages, and to reach a more diverse audience. Adriana and Bianca are keen to organise a webinar in Portuguese.



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Ursula commented that there are some issues with the AI translation provided by tools such as Wordly. While it is preferable to have a personal translator, the cost sometimes precludes this.

Gulcin acknowledged Xin's webinar planning document which has been continually developed and improved after each webinar. Mary has been very helpful at uploading the recordings to YouTube and SlideShare.

A template for a Certificate of Participation is available on Basecamp. Certificates are provided to attendees on request.

### 6.3.2 Travel Grant (Lead: Astrid)

Gulcin provided an update in Astrid's absence.

The Travel Grant is sponsored by Sage and Ex Libris. It covers the WLIC registration fee and 800 euros towards travel and accommodation costs. We receive many applications each year. We have a wonderful team of assessors for each region.

This year because we had some leftover funds from previous years, we offered six grants rather than the usual three and increased the funds provided. The winners were announced in the ARL newsletter. Unfortunately one of the African winners this year was not able to get his visa in time. Each winner writes a blog about their experiences at WLIC. These are always very inspiring to read.

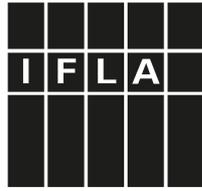
Gulcin thanked all of this year's assessors: Mari, Jayshree, Ursula, Mary, Marisa, Lily, Antonio and Adetoun. We will need some new assessors next year as Mari and Adetoun are leaving the committee.

Those assessors who are attending WLIC in person plan to meet and discuss the Travel Grant criteria and process, with the aim of doing some fine tuning. One issue we have is that because there is so much demand for grants like this, people who don't meet the stated criteria often apply anyway.

## 6.4 Strategic Direction 4: Optimise our Organisation

### 6.4.1 Communications Plan (Lead: Marisa/Jerome)

The latest issue of the ARL newsletter was distributed at the end of July. It covered the satellite conference, Hot Topics, our new officers, the webinar recordings and blogs. New



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SC members are reminded to subscribe to the ARL distribution list on the ARL web site under "Get involved", in order to receive the newsletter.

Jerome mentioned that the newsletter often generates demand e.g. people are already asking for the satellite conference recordings. Our various communication tools – Facebook, Twitter, etc. – are powerful and work well together.

### 7. Planning for 2023-2024

#### 7.1. Roles and Responsibilities

Mimi emphasised that she wants to see every committee member with a role and actively engaged in our work. For example, there are a number of areas discussed today where we need new people to replace departing committee members.

#### 7.2. Trends in Member Countries

Lily has already sent out a call for input. These reports will be made available on Basecamp and a summary prepared, as well as a blog post.

#### 7.3. Future Program & Partnership Ideas

This will be discussed in detail at our September business meeting (dates to be confirmed).

#### 7.4. Annual Report for 2022-23

We have a draft annual report. Congratulations to everyone involved. The final report will be finalised in September after WLIC. The draft is available on Basecamp.

#### 7.5. Additional Business

Gulcin emphasised how much she has enjoyed working with everyone as Chair, and acknowledged and thanked those who are leaving the committee. It has been an exciting and fun role.

### 8. Next meeting

Dates for our September business meeting will be confirmed soon.