



IFLA Special Interest Group Library History

Standing Committee Business Meeting

WLIC1 Minutes

Monday 21 August 2023
Room Dock13 and virtual
h 13:00-14:30

Participants (continuing, outgoing and incoming members): Anna Maria Tammaro, Steven Witt, Ahava Cohen, Kaisa Sinikara, Lei Wang, Peter Lor, Polly Boruff-Jones, Martha Attridge Bufton, Claudia Serbanuta, Jeffrey Wilhite, Anup Kumar.

Absent: Alice Isoka, Elsie Bain

Observers: Egbert Sanchez, Russell Lynch, Debbie Schachter, Emmy Portras, Cassandra Tardif, Melanie Beaulieu, Yasuyo Inoue, Luisa Marquardt, Chiara De Vecchis

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Business meeting began with the introduction of the participants in person and online. The Agenda has been approved. The Outgoing Convenor Anna Maria Tammaro reported on the 2023 election results and welcomed incoming members and thanked the continuing and outgoing members for their cooperation.

2. Convenor report

Anna Maria Tammaro has illustrated the Annual report with the activities concluded and ongoing.

SIG Activities include the LIBHIST SIG communication strategy and projects.

Over the last year the SIG has initiated a communications strategy, updating the SIG website and news pages, as a useful way to disseminate LIBHIST SIG projects and events and, during elections period, soliciting the involvement of professionals from around the world. The SIG projects page has included contact information to encourage volunteers to get involved in projects. The SIG Blog has published the project progress as well as invited contributions from SIG members and external experts. Anup Kumar has regularly added news items and Blog posts. In addition to the website and Blog, there are the LIBHIST email

list and some google tools (such as youtube, gmail). Two volunteers were involved in the SIG: Jasmina Ninkov (Serbia) and Patrick Urru (Italy).
SIG members should be sure they are able to access the Basecamp archive and chat.

3. SIG LIBHIST ongoing projects

Oral History

Sub-group on Oral Histories (Anna Maria Tammaro, Russel Lynch, Ahava Cohen, Polly Boruff-Jones, Jeffrey Wilhite, Martha Attridge Bufton, Lei Wang, and Peter Lor), has provided some specific procedural guidelines for the Oral Histories project, including an Oral histories workflow guidance document. Other IFLA Sections with similar projects may have the same workflow.

This subgroup collaborated with the Management and Marketing, Library theory and research and Preservation and conservation Sections of IFLA. A collaboration has been started also with the Civic Library of Bolzano (represented by Patrick Urru) which has been managing an Oral history project for the Italian-speaking community for twenty years.

The untimely death of former IFLA president Donna Scheeder recently highlighted the importance and urgency of recording different types of documents, not just interviews. In response to a request circulated through IFLA-L, material on Donna's activities at IFLA was collected with the aim of creating a virtual memorial. This collection, as well as the collection of interviews already carried out, highlighted the need for a workflow for the management of digital objects integrated with the HQ activities for a historical archive.

SIG tested the accessibility of some recorded interviews using YouTube Studio. Further discussion is necessary to select the appropriate tool. Note that the interview with President elect Weir (who will be President in 2027) was carried out for the Oral history Project by the Management and Marketing Section. Following interviews are online:

- Ingrid Parent: <https://youtu.be/sPS8F0fNaHA>
- Ellen Tise: https://youtu.be/_9jQ-6NPFhY
- Leslie Weir: <https://youtu.be/Rg8h5pmp-iU>

We have obtained permission to grant interviews from the following personalities to be interviewed soon:

Alex Byrne, Kay Raseroka, Jesus Lau, Winston Roberts

Claudia Serbanuta recalls the importance of also using Wikimedia for the project and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

IFLA History Centenary Book

Scholarly centenary volume: The SIG proposes to compile and edit a book of contributed chapters on IFLA. Chapters will be solicited through a call for chapters to update the book published in 1977 to celebrate IFLA's first half-century (Koops and Wieder 1977). It is envisaged that a satellite conference in the form of an authors' seminar will be held in 2025. In 2024 the theme would not be about the centenary as such, but each year awareness of the coming centenary should be raised. SIG obtained a small loan as a contribution to the costs.

Peter Lor has completed a first phase of registering the archives of historical sources and a first report published in the Blog, together with the introductory report presented in Dublin and a presentation during the Satellite in Mons.

Popular celebratory publication: Discussion at the SIG's open session at the 2023 WLIC indicated that, in addition to a scholarly book, there is a demand for a more popular celebratory publication, possibly in the form of an e-book, multimedial with less formal content.

The SIG suggests that one or more professional units such as the Management and Marketing Section and the Management of Library Associations Section be invited to work in collaboration with the SIG.

4. WLIC 2023

The Open Session on Thursday 24 August was organized in an innovative way, bringing together three personalities for the collective memory of IFLA, interviewed by Peter Lor

Title: Oral Histories Project: interviews with personalities who preserve IFLA's corporate memory. Tietse van Dorp (grandson of General Secretary Tietse Pieter Sevensma 1929-1958), Sjoerd Koopman, Premila Gamage were interviewed. The video is recorded by IFLA and online. Peter Lor points out that this video will not be included in the oral history interviews.

Steve Witt (incoming Convenor and Chair Planning Committee) summarized the results of the Satellite Meeting at the Mundaneum 17-19 August 2023, Mons (Belgium) with the title: Preserving our origins: approaches to the organization, curation and historiography of the record of national and international organizations in libraries, information and documentation. We have had two keynotes: Alistair Black and W. Boyd Rayward. The program seeks to focus on digitization and curation programs as well as to study selected topics in the history of LIS and documentation organizations in preparation for the celebration of IFLA's 100 year history. The Satellite stimulated a reflection which began on Saturday 19 on three points: publish the proceedings, also opening a Call in November; prepare a Manifesto for national and international associations on the importance of considering the curation of historical sources, discussion on the themes of the Centenary book.

5. WLIC 2024: A discussion began on the themes of the centenary book and on the theme of WLIC 2024, to be continued in the second meeting in September. Chiara de Vecchis (Italy) proposed the theme of the first IFLA conferences. Tammara, taking inspiration from the current controversy over the WLIC host location, reported a conversation with SIG Relindial on the importance of dialogue to resolve crises, looking back at the history of IFLA.

6. Next meeting of the SIG LIBHIST in September 2023 (WLIC 2) to be planned by incoming Convenor Steve Witt.



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