August 2022- August 2023 - Annual Report Form

Unit Information

Please enter current information below.

Unit Name

Information Technology Section

Unit Chair

Edmund Balnaves

Unit Chair Email

ebalnaves@prosentient.com.au

Unit Secretary

Cory Lampert

Unit Secretary Email

cory.lampert@unlv.edu

Unit Information Coordinator

Francois-Xavier Boffy

Unit Information Coordinator Email

francois-xavier.boffy@univ-lyon1.fr

Division Committee Chair

Camille Callison

Division Committee Chair Email

Camille.Callison@ufv.ca

Unit Member Contributions

Please describe the contributions of the Unit members

Role

Chair

Name of Unit member

Edmund Balnaves

Contributions

The Chair led all committee work. This included developing the Action Plan and keeping up on all of the activities and outputs. The Chair convened the set agendas and held formal business meetings and information meetings to facilitate communication, decision-making and discussion. The Chair formed the working groups for WLIC programming, proposed the AI and Libraries publication, and helped projects move forward when there were questions. The Chair worked closely with the Officers, Convenors, and Mentor to conduct business of the Section. The Chair attended Professional Council meetings and communicated information to ensure timely sharing of IFLA news and directives. This term, the Chair facilitated the Section elections and promoted opportunities to Section members to gain leadership experience.

The Chair led the WLIC sessions:

Thursday, 24 August, 10:00 am – 11:15 am
Information Technology Section and Audiovisual and Multimedia Section
Artificial Reality/Virtual Reality, Meta-verse, Immersive technologies – New methods for Sustainable Communities in Libraries

Role

Secretary

Name of Unit member

Cory Lampert

Contributions

The Secretary assisted in Business meeting planning, drafted meeting minutes, circulated these for approval, and translated projects into the Action Plan. They maintained attendance records and worked with the Information Coordinator/Communication Team to support Section information transfer. The Secretary contributed ideas to program planning and attended Section and Professional Council meetings as needed.

The Secretary led the following sessions at WLIC:

IT Section:
Wednesday, 23 August, 10:00 am – 11:15 am
Library data in the world of machine learning: ethics, bias and algorithms

This session was held in the large meeting room and had hundreds of attendees. It was also livestreamed to a virtual audience. This session was focused on the ethics of using machine learning and AI tools in work with library data. The five presentations were: Automatic Extraction of Illustration Objects from Chinese Rare Books: A Machine Learning Approach, Ethical implications of working with metadata and artificial intelligence: how to build and develop skills in the ethical use of data, Ethical Implications of Machine Learning: An NLB Case Study on Predicting Patron Churn, Responsible Collections as Data, and SeTA@OP - semi-automatic indexing of EU publications; Combining the power of Machine Learning, Knowledge Graphs, and Human Intelligence. The presenters were from the United States, Chile, Singapore, and Luxembourg representing North America, South America, Europe, and Asia. This session was coordinated by: Cory Lampert, University of Nevada, United States, Vincent Boulet, France, and Caroline Saccucci, Library of Congress, United States.

Wednesday, 23 August, 01:30 pm – 02:45 pm
Utopia, threat or opportunity first? Artificial Intelligence and machine learning for cataloguing

This session was held in the large meeting room and had hundreds of attendees. It was also livestreamed to a virtual audience. This session was focused on practical cataloging workflows using machine learning and AI. The three presentations were: Can generative artificial intelligence tools help librarians to catalogue?, What's in a Record? OCLC's Explorations in Using Machine Learning to Deduplicate and Enrich Bibliographic Data, One automatic cataloging flow: tests and first results, and Is ChatGPT an Existential Threat or merely a bad dream?. The presenters were from Spain, Germany, Belgium, and the US representing North America and Europe. We had one accepted presenter drop out. This session was coordinated by: Cory Lampert, University of Nevada, United States, Ricardo Santos Muñoz, Biblioteca Nacional de España, Spain, Caroline Saccucci, Library of Congress, United States.

Role

Information Coordinator

Name of Unit member

Francois-Xavier Boffy

Contributions

The Information Coordinator leads communication efforts for the Section, in conjunction with the Communications Team. They contribute ideas to the Action Plan, communicate project work opportunities, progress, and outcomes via all communication channels. The Information Coordinator administers the Section web site, the Section's Zoom meetings, the Section social media and the Section newsletter. They produced a Communication Plan and regularly reported on actions of the team. The Information Coordinator also assisted in keeping Basecamp up to date with agendas, meeting minutes, scheduled meetings, and announcements.

Role

Member

Name of Unit member

Francois-Xavier Boffy, Ray Uzwyshyn, Wouter Klapwijk, Souleymane Sogoba, Patrick Cher

Contributions

Communication Team: Communication Team members supported the work of the Information Coordinator, specifically they worked on soliciting articles, editing, and publishing the Section newsletter, TILT. The Communication Team met 10 times and completed the publication of 2 issues of TILT. They are assessing the newsletter's impact and data shows an increase of issue consultation (for June 2021 there were 1288 and 3130 for June 2022). Social media is going well with good activity on Twitter (10289 impressions from WLIC2022 to the days before WLIC2023), improving activity on Facebook (1900 article views during first year). The team would like to ask for more support from the section members, they need more volunteers, as there is a need for more communication in support of the SIGs.

Role

Convenor

Name of Unit member

Andrew Cox (AI SIG) and Patrick Cher (Big Data SIG)

Contributions

The SIG Convenors meetings set agendas for their special interest groups and developed projects such as the AI publication and agendas for their programs for the WLIC Congress.

AI SIG:
Monday, 21 August, 12:30 pm – 01:45 pm, Dock 10
Panel discussion with members of FAIFE, CLM, AI SIG

Tuesday, 22 August, 08:30 am – 10:00 am
Will Generative AI be a friend or foe in the future of librarianship?

Tuesday, 22 August, 01:30 pm – 02:45 pm
Artificial Intelligence, Partner or Rival?: Implications for Government, Information and the Law

Wednesday, 23 August, 08:30 am – 09:45 am
National Libraries Section
National Libraries + AI: Opportunities, Challenges and Risks

BIG DATA SIG
Tuesday, 22 August, 04:30 pm – 06:00 pm
Big Data Special Interest Group Business Meeting

They convened SIG business meetings at the Congress in-person and facilitated regular SIG meetings online during the year.

Role

Member

Name of Unit member

Edmund Balnaves, Andrew Cox, Leda Bultrini, Francois-Xavier Boffy, May Chang, Cory Lampert

Contributions

This group worked on the planning and production of an IFLA Publications edited monograph on artificial intelligence. They contacted authors, worked on rights status for the publication, and edited content for the book. The update at the WLIC mentioned that almost all chapters are print-ready. We are indebted to the PC who paid to make the book open access (as not all are open access). The remaining process is for the editors to finalize the text and then it is sent to be copy edited by Janine at DeGruyter. Progress was excellent over the year, as the team was successful in obtaining scholarly-quality work and editing in a short time period and are now just ensuring links to resources are correct and that there are accurate citations.

Role

Member

Name of Unit member

Elena Sánchez, Wouter Klapwijk, Edmund Balnaves, Cory Lampert, Fraincois-Xavier Boffy

Contributions

This team planned the 2023 Satellite Meeting at Erasmus University. We partnered with The IFLA Sections Continuing and Professional Development and Workplace Learning (CPDWL) and Subject Analysis and Access (SAA) Sections for this event.

The team wrote a call for papers, developed an agenda, worked with local organizers to coordinate a website: Satellite Meeting Website: https://www.eur.nl/en/library/ifla/agile-methodology-libraries, post the information on the IFLA Website: https://www.ifla.org/events/ifla-wlic-2023-satellite-meeting-agile-methodology-in-libraries-innovations-in-library-projects-and-management/, and work with the Erasmus team on local arrangements. They coordinated with the Communication team, who publicized the event.

The satellite was an excellent event despite originally having a low registration rate when it was in-person only. Switching to hybrid made this a successful event, with a solid program of content and a strong number of attendees with active online participation. The speakers represented Africa, Asia/Oceania, Europe, and North America and Zoom attendees were similarly geographically diverse. We benefited from Erasmus University's excellent event support and they helped to provide an event website, registration page, onsite lunch service and tea break, and a library tour presented by our Netherlands colleagues.

Role

Member

Name of Unit member

May Chang

Contributions

May Chang was appointed mentor and led the following session for WLIC:

Thursday, 24 August, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm
Information Technology Section
Digital Technologies and Sustainability: Say Your Piece in 7+3

Role

Member

Name of Unit member

Ray Uzwyshyn

Contributions

Member Ray Uzwyshyn led the following session at WLIC:

Wednesday, 23 August, 01:30 pm – 02:45 pm
Technology Enhanced Library Learning Environments, Architectural Spatial Design and New Information Technology Possibilities

Please indicate any changes to Committee membership during 2022-2023 (e.g. Resignations, co-options, appointment of mentors)

May Chang appointed Mentor
Sylvain Berger - resignation

Committee Meetings

Please provide information about your 2022-2023 Standing Committee Meetings:

How many business or other meetings did you hold from August 2022- August 2023?

5

How many of these meetings were open meetings (where those beyond the Standing Committee were invited)?

2

How were the majority of these meetings held?

Virtual (Zoom/Skype/Teams etc.)

Did you hold a mid-term meeting?

Yes - in person

Have minutes from all meetings been uploaded to the Repository?

Yes

Successes/Accomplishments/Achievements

Briefly describe the project, activity, or output you accomplished during the period August 2022 - August 2023

Title or name of project, activity, output

Regional AI Satellite meetings

Details

We held two successful AI Satellite meetings, the most recent one happening as a joint mid-term meeting in Singapore in March. Another regional AI symposium happened in South Africa in September. This work followed up on the first AI Satellite in Ireland in conjunction with WLIC 2022 and reached out to additional regions to engage more librarians on this important subject.

Do you have a URL to this accomplishment to share?

https://www.ifla.org/events/ai-in-focus-artificial-intelligence-and-libraries-ifla-satellite-meeting-singapore-2023/

Title or name of project, activity, output

TILT newsletter (Trends and Issues in Library Technology)

Details

The Communication Team led the TILT newsletter (Trends and Issues in Library Technology) with two issues published per year. The last two years they have produced thematic issues related to topics on Big Data, Agile methods, and AI.

The Communication Team leads an active Facebook presence as well as a Twitter account. During conferences they coordinate live tweeting and have shown an increase in engagement with the membership.

Do you have a URL to this accomplishment to share?

https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/2443

Title or name of project, activity, output

2023 Artificial Intelligence Symposium: 3rd IFLA Symposium on Artificial Intelligence

Details

The AI symposium was held at North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa
on 5 - 7 September 2023, IT Section member, Chipa Maimela reported at WLIC that the planning team was well-organized and had lots of interest and local participation. A pre-conference site visit had been completed, and the venue was excellent. The topic of AI has shown how robust regional interest is in conferences and we can develop this as a model.

Do you have a URL to this accomplishment to share?

https://library.nwu.ac.za/artificial-intelligence-symposium-2023

Title or name of project, activity, output

AI Symposium - Chile

Details

At WLIC, and update was provided on the upcoming AI symposium to take place in Chile 2024 along with the Section's mid-term meeting. Member Maria Loretto Puga is taking the lead and two members of the organizing committee were present in Rotterdam and noted progress is being made on more details and plans.

Do you have a URL to this accomplishment to share?

TBD

Title or name of project, activity, output

PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN LIBRARIES

Details

Alenka Kavčič, IT Section member gave an update at WLIC on an upcoming AI Webinar she is organizing. Participants in symposiums to date have not been from the Eastern European region, so they have set up a webinar to encourage more discussion on practical applications. We are invited to present and attend. Details from the promotional flyer are below:

We are delighted to invite you to a webinar on the Practical Application of Artificial Intelligence in Libraries. Our speakers are recognized experts in the fields of artificial intelligence, who will share their knowledge, experiences, and best practices. In addition to lectures, there will be time for questions and interactive participation.
This seminar is intended for librarians, information professionals, researchers, and anyone interested in understanding what artificial intelligence is, the importance of data and metadata quality stored in libraries,
how machine learning influences pattern recognition, and how artificial intelligence can enhance the functioning of libraries and benefit users. Webinar will be held online via ZOOM on October 20th, 2023, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Attendance
is free. You can register to the webinar: https://arnes-si.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwtf--rrjktGtYWc7HqNcfrPy4ShkU4cF2B. A link to webinar will be provided to registered participants. Organizers: IFLA Section for Information Technology, Europeana Foundation, and the National and University Library of Slovenia

Do you have a URL to this accomplishment to share?

https://arnes-si.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwtf--rrjktGtYWc7HqNcfrPy4ShkU4cF2B#/registration

Communications

How have you communicated your Unit's work to the following stakeholders?

	Standing Committee Members	IFLA members registered to your Section	Other IFLA Committees	The field at large
Newsletter	X	X	X	X
Webpage	X	X	X	X
Blog post				
Mailing list	X	X	X	
Social Media	X			X
Basecamp	X	X	X	X
TILT newsletter	X	X	X	X

Please comment on any communication or partnerships outside of your own Standing Committee

We have continued collaboration with the Subject Analysis and Access Section who share an interest in AI and automating methods of working with data. This year we expanded to include partnering with the Cataloguing Section on two joint programs.

We continue to work with the Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section on projects such as bringing Library Carpentry and other IT skills to the IFLA membership.

The AI SIG has also begun to build partnerships with others interested in this popular topic, with joint sessions with several Sections focused on AI governance, ethics, and freedom of information.

Additional Information

Did you receive Professional Council funding for 2022-2023?

No