



IFLA Special Interest Group Library Publishing

IFLA Library Publishing Special Interest Group: Self-Study
Jane Buggle, Convenor

Introduction

The IFLA Library Publishing Special Interest Group (LIBPUB SIG) was officially organized at the IFLA WLIC in Kuala Lumpur (2018), to advance the rapidly emerging, relatively new field of Library Publishing, which is part of a broader range of scholarly communication activities driven and managed by all types of libraries: national, state, academic, and public and private.

Specifically, library publishing involves the publication of predominantly open access journals, monographs, and other materials to a variety of audiences and through a variety of languages, using open source or proprietary publishing platforms. Library publishing activities are closely linked to the strategic imperatives of institutions pertaining to open scholarship.

Library publishing activities build upon librarian competencies such as collection development, copyright, discoverability, outreach, and platform management and may offer a range of support services including consultancy, editorial, training in workflows, policy development, dissemination, hosting, digitization of collections, ethics and governance, impact, and sustainability. Libraries can act as publishers directly or lend support in other ways, such as infrastructure or funding local or global open publishing initiatives. The majority of library publishing programs worldwide adhere to the Diamond Open Access principles of ‘free to read, and free to publish’.

The Global Environment

[The UN Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a “blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all”. They were adopted by all UN member states in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which sets out to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all by 2030. The LIBPUB SIG aims to support two UN SDGs:

- Quality Education
- Reduced Inequalities

In October 2020, the UN, the International Publishers’ Association, and Frankfurter Buchmesse launched the [UN SDG Publishers’ Compact](#) to accelerate progress to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. LIBPUB SIG advocates for all library publishers to commit to the UN SDG Publishers’ Compact.



IFLA Special Interest Group Library Publishing

[UNESCO](#) is playing a key leadership role in supporting and advancing Diamond Open Access publishing globally through its [Recommendation on Open Science](#) and through its support of a Global Diamond Open Access Federation proposed at the Global Summit on Diamond Open Access in Toluca, Mexico in 2023. The Global Summit was organised by [UNESCO](#), [AmeliCA](#), [ANR](#), [CLACSO](#), [cOAlition S](#), [Redalyc](#), [OPERAS](#) and [Science Europe](#), among others. The Summit signalled a shared commitment to a new era of inclusivity and collaboration in scholarly publishing. The next Global Diamond Open Access Summit will be held at the University of Cape Town (UCT) in December 2024. A representative of UCT sits on the LIBPUB SIG Committee.

In Europe, the [DIAMAS Project](#) has brought together 23 European organisations to map the Diamond OA publishing landscape across the European Research Area, and to develop shared standards, guidelines, principles and practices for Diamond OA publishing. A high level finding of the [DIAMAS Landscape Study](#) is that library publishing plays a significant role in the Diamond OA landscape. A representative of DIAMAS sits on the LIBPUB SIG Committee.

There are many examples of best practice library publishing programs around the world but none is as ambitious as the [African Continental Publishing Platform](#) which is run by the Library at the University of Cape Town. This project is underpinned by a drive for social justice and for the inclusion of all voices in scholarly publishing.

[The Library Publishing Coalition \(LPC\)](#) is a community-driven, membership organisation that brings together academic and research libraries, as well as library consortia, to foster library publishing initiatives, to share knowledge and best practices in order to further develop the field of library publishing. The LPC maintains a suite of resources including the Library Publishing Curriculum, the Library Publishing Directory, and supports a range of projects with the [Educopia Institute](#) around best practice, inclusion, and sustainability including the [Next Generation Library Publishing Project](#), [Library Publishing Workflows](#), and the [FOREST Framework](#). The LPC is primarily North American focused and membership may be prohibitive for some interested parties.

The IFLA Vision

The IFLA Vision is a strong and united library field powering literate, informed and participative societies, and its Mission is to inspire, engage, enable and connect the global library field. The LIBPUB SIG values and shares these aspirations within the area of library publishing. Our aim is, through the expansion of library publishing practices worldwide, is to build scholarship that is inclusive of all voices, to foster bibliodiversity, and that is free to read by all the global community.



IFLA Special Interest Group Library Publishing

It is of vital importance that IFLA mirrors the global commitment to Diamond Open Access, that it recognises the importance of library publishing plays in the global Diamond OA movement, and that it demonstrates this support through the expansion of the IFLA Library Publishing SIG to Section status.

The 3rd Strategic Direction of the IFLA Strategy 2019 -2024 is to Strengthen and Empower the Field. Key Directive 3.3 aims to ‘Empower the Field at National and Regional Level, while 3.4 is to ‘Provide Targeted Learning and Professional Development’. The expansion of the LIBPUB SIG to Section will enable us to achieve these Key Directives through expanded committee membership and the support and commitment of the sponsoring institutional members.

Aims

Since the establishment of the LIBPUB SIG, library publishing activity has advanced rapidly across the world. One of the tools of the SIG is to capture all of this activity in its Global Library Publishing Map. This signposts the network to work with to expand library publishing practices that are built upon a strong foundation of shared principles, values and standards which support the advancement of open, inclusive and sustainable library publishing approaches for the benefit of all. The vast majority of library publishing adheres to the Diamond Open Access principles, free to read and free to publish. The work of the LIBPUB SIG is underpinned by the values of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and IFLA’s Vision of “a strong and united library field powering literate, informed and participative societies”.

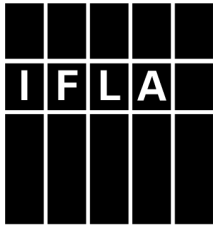
Reporting Structure and Relationships within IFLA

The reporting structure for the LIBPUB SIG within IFLA was unclear for the first few years but it is now sponsored by the Acquisitions and Collection Development Section and is part of Division D. The LIBPUB SIG is currently working with the ACD Section, the ARL Section, and the SciTech Section on the Division D Midterm Meeting to be held in Istanbul 5-7 June 2024. The focus of the LIBPUB SIG intersects with each of these groups and yet its distinction is important. The LIBPUB SIG’s focus on Diamond Open Access publishing intersects too with that of the new IFLA Open Access Working Party.

Achievements to Date

Strategic Affiliation with the Library Publishing Coalition

The LIBPUB SIG has established a strategic affiliation with the Library Publishing Coalition (LPC), which is a member of IFLA. This affiliation has been of great benefit to the LIBPUB SIG



IFLA Special Interest Group Library Publishing

because it enables us to use and share the LPC materials, including superb resources such as the Library Publishing Curriculum, Library Publishing Workflows, the Next Generation Library Publishing Project, and the FOREST Framework. One member of the committee has access to the LPC listserv (currently our colleague in Cape Town) who can share this material with colleagues and across the LIBPUB listserv. A delegate of the LIBPUB SIG Committee gets a complimentary pass to the LPC's annual conference. The Library Publishing Forum, as a slot on the programme is allocated to the LIBPUB SIG to speak about our work and objectives.

IFLA Global Library Publishing Map

To date, the LPC has issued an annual survey to capture library publishing programs worldwide in its Library Publishing Directory. Ann Okerson and Grace Liu have worked with the Library Publishing Directory team to spread the net even wider and to use the collected data to inform the IFLA Global Library Publishing Map. This has been an excellent collaboration and the Directory and Map have mirrored each other. From 2024, the LPC has decided to issue the survey biennially. The LPC and the LIBPUB SIG have decided that the SIG can use a variety of methods to gather its data in addition to the LPC survey. To that end, Ann Okerson and Grace Liu will meet with colleagues from Science Europe's DIAMAS Project to investigate harvesting some of the data collected from the DIAMAS Landscape Survey for inclusion in the IFLA Global Library Publishing Map. This is an ongoing project.

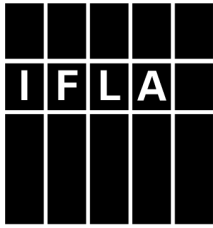
Library Publishing through the IFLA Global Lens Blog Series

The *Library Publishing through the IFLA Global Lens* Blog Series was launched in the IFLA Newsletter February 2023 in a piece entitled Partners in Library Publishing. This piece juxtaposed library publishing programs from the Global North and South. Jill Claassen wrote about library publishing activities in the University of Cape Town, and Devin Soper wrote about the publishing program at Florida State University. The LIBPUB was not able to secure an IFLA blog space, so for some time, the ARL Blog published posts from the blog series. Recently, LIBPUB SIG has developed its own dedicated WordPress site. A set of ten questions is sent to library publishers from around the world and authors select five questions to answer. The blogposts garnered a large number of hits upon publication on the ARL Blog. Usage metrics will be maintained on the new WordPress site. This is an ongoing project.

Membership Pledges

When the LIBPUB SIG Committee decided to apply for Section status, the team approached a number of IFLA institutional members to gauge interest in supporting its development. In the past six months, 20 institutional members have agreed to pay the requisite increase in their annual subscription fee to support LIBPUB. The Committee is confident that there is sufficient interest and support within the IFLA membership community to receive pledges from the requisite 40 institutional members required for Section status.

Events



IFLA Special Interest Group Library Publishing

Midterm Meeting in Dublin 2019

The inaugural LIBPUB SIG Midterm was held at Dublin Business School, Ireland, February 28 – March 1 2019. The [programme](#) was divided into sessions at which presenters spoke to key themes: Approaches, Education and Mentoring, Business Models and Sustainability, Impacting Communities, and Global Collaborations. The Midterm conclude with a vibrant panel and audience discussion. The Midterm was attended by 68 delegates.

Midterm Meeting in Oslo 2020

The second LIBPUB SIG Midterm was held at OsloMet University, Norway, March 5-6 2020. This event was held just days before the global Covid-19 lockdown. The [programme](#) was again divided into sessions at which a diverse range of speakers addressed key themes: Library Publishing Platforms, Library Publishing Programs, Library Publishing Services, Collaborations and Networks. This in-person Midterm was attended by 62 delegates.

Virtual Open Programme 2021

The LIBPUB Committee decided to hold a Virtual Open Programme during the Covid-19 Pandemic on October 15 2021. The [programme](#) consisted of eight 10-minute lightning talks. We had a wide international participation and the event was attended by 127 registrants.

Open Session at WLIC 2021 (Virtual)

WLIC 2021 could not take place in-person as planned and instead was IFLA's first and only Virtual WLIC. The LIBPUB SIG Open Session on August 18 featured a pre-recorded interview with Katherine Skinner and Brandon Locke of the Educopia Institute by Jane Buggle (IADT) and Dr Graham Stone (Jisc). This was followed by a live panel discussion chaired by Ann Okerson (CRL).

Open Session at WLIC 2022 in Dublin

The theme of the LIBPUB SIG Open Session at WLIC 2022 in Dublin on July 26 was *Library Publishing: Inclusive and Open Scholarly Communication in Support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals*. The [programme](#) was chaired by Jane Buggle (IADT) and featured five presentations followed by Q&A. This event was attended by approximately 150 delegates.

Satellite Programme in the Hague

LIBPUB SIG held a one-day Satellite event at KB: the Royal Library of the Netherlands in the Hague on August 18 before WLIC 2023. This rich one-day [programme](#) was on the theme of *the Global Impact of Library Publishing*. There were four themed sessions followed by a panel discussion chaired by Dr Ursula Arning and featuring an invited international panel. This event was attended by 67 people.

Open Session at WLIC 2023 in Rotterdam

The LIBPUB SIG Open Session at WLIC 2023 in Rotterdam on August 22 was on the theme of *Working Together to Expand Library Publishing Globally*. The [programme](#) was chaired by Dr Scott Walter (San Diego State University) and featured a keynote by Eelco Ferwerda



IFLA Special Interest Group Library Publishing

(Independent Consultant, previously Director of OAPEN) and three lightning talks, followed by Q&A. This session was attended by approximately 50 delegates.

Division D Midterm Meeting in Istanbul

When the decision was made to cancel WLIC 2024 in Dubai, IFLA Division D decided to plan a Midterm Meeting in the MENA Region. Koc University ANAMED offered to host the event in Istanbul on June 5-7. The [programme](#) is on the theme of *Libraries Bridging Boundaries: Challenges and Strategies for Global Openness*. There are four keynote speakers: Professor Yaser Tonta (Turkey), Glenn Hampson (USA) Professor Saray Cordoba Gonzalez (Costa Rica), and Dr Gracian Chimwaza (South Africa). Division D comprises the Academic and Research Libraries Section, Acquisitions and Special Collections Section, LIBPUB SIG, and Science and Technology Section. To date, over 80 delegates have registered.

Publications

O'Neill, Marie (2024) [The Internet that We Want](#). IFLA Newsletter, April 24

Buggle, J and O'Neill, M (Eds) (2024) [027.7 Library Journal Special Issue on the Global Impact of Library Publishing: Proceedings of the IFLA Library Publishing SIG Satellite Programme and Open Session at WLIC 2023](#), April 17

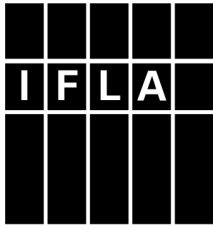
Buggle, J. (2023) [Partners in Library Publishing](#): Launching the Library Publishing through the IFLA Global Lens Blog Series. IFLA Newsletter, February 17

[Buggle, J. and Colvin, J.\(Eds\) \(2021\). IFLA Library Publishing SIG Midterm Meeting Conference Proceedings 2019](#). Added to the DBS eSource Repository January 2021.

Social Media

X/Twitter is the main social media platform for IFLA Lib Pub. As of the 22ns May, 2024, the IFLA Lib Pub page on Twitter has 1,006 followers from the Global South as well as the Global North. Followers emanate from the international community and comprise:

- Library publishing programmes
- Library directors and other library personnel including publishing and research librarians. Example of libraries that follow IFLA Lib Pub's Twitter page include the European Parliamentary Research Library.
- Key organisations and professional bodies in the open access publishing/open science space such as DIAMAS, PKP, DOAJ, the Library Publishing Coalition, SPARC, JISC, LIBER Europe and other relevant organisations
- Policy makers
- Library and information Science faculty



IFLA Special Interest Group Library Publishing

- The IFLA Journal, IFLA and individual IFLA Sections
- Library Associations from around the world

IFLA Lib Pub's X page is available at: https://twitter.com/ifla_libpub. Its X handle is @ifla_libpub.

In January 2024, IFLA Lib Pub launched a LinkedIn page which has 302 followers and growing, with connections from the international library publishing and research community. Followers also include various IFLA sections.

Conclusion

The LIBPUB SIG has been very active since its establishment in 2018, holding successful Midterm Meetings and Open Sessions at WLICs. It has connected with library publishers from over 20 countries across 4 continents, showing the diverse ways libraries are supporting the open access publishing of scholarly works. Becoming an official IFLA Section would allow the group to have a stronger voice and greater impact in collaboration and in advocating for open access library publishing globally.