



IFLA Section Academic and Research Libraries

Minutes Academic and Research Libraries Section Committee Business Meeting (online) 5 & 7 December 2022

1. Welcome, attendance and apologies

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

Present:

Ursula Arning, Siviwe Bangani, Bertil Dorch, Karen Downing, Antonio Cobos Flores, Jérôme Fronty, Gülçin Cribb (Chair), Lorraine Haricombe, Marisa King (Secretary), Lily Ko, Xin Li, Jayshree Mamtora, Sharon Murphy, Mary Ngure, Tuelo Ntlotlang, Adetoun Oyelude, Tiiu Tarkpea.

Apologies:

Mari Aaltonen, Jim O'Donnell, Shaharima Parvin, Reggie Raju, Astrid Verheusen.

Observers:

Rasha Mohsen, Natalie Smith, Anais Jousserand-Shirley.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting (minutes available [here](#))

- Gulcin acknowledged Mary and Jerome for working together on various website matters.

4. General update (Gulcin)

- Upcoming elections: You will have received an email from IFLA about the status of your ARL SC membership before the next round of elections. There will be more communication coming from IFLA. We have seven upcoming vacancies on ARL. Adetoun is finishing her second term. Gulcin will also finish her term as Chair and we will need to have elections for the officers of ARL. IFLA has released a very useful infographic with the timelines which Gulcin will share so you know what is happening. There is very good organisation in place.
- Gulcin acknowledged Tiiu for her excellent summary of the country trends reports. This is available on our website. There will also be a blog written about it. Lorraine (Hot Topics) and the webinar team will use these reports to inform their upcoming programmes.
- A few months ago we received a request from Megan Price to do a peer review of a report from the Document Sharing and Resource Delivery section. Gulcin completed this review.

5. Announcements from the Professional Committee (Gulcin)



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- There was a vacancy for the Chair of Professional Committee due to Adjoa's resignation. Te Paea Paringatai has been elected.
- Gulcin has shared the report from Jan Richards from the PC Meeting on our Basecamp site.

6. Division D meeting report (Marisa)

- Pricing for the hybrid option of attending the Rotterdam Congress is still being discussed.
- Discussed upcoming elections and section activities.
- A new IFLA Code of Ethics will be discussed at the Governing Board meeting in December.
- IFLA will shortly produce a Handbook to help IFLA's volunteers and members make practical use of the rules included in IFLA Statutes and Rules of Procedure.

7. ARL Action Plan 2021- 2023

7.1. Strategic Direction 1: Strengthen the Global Voice of Libraries

7.1.1 WLIC 2023 Satellite Conference (Lead: Jim)

Erasmus University is very willing to be our host, and is proving to be a very good partner. The Library Director is very keen to work with us. We have to put together a proposal to the IFLA Professional Committee before we can get the organisation underway. We have a number of potential partners to work with us – Fiona Bradley from Open Access Group, Health and Biosciences Libraries Section, Serials and Continuing Resources Section, Max Planck Institute, British Library and Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning section. The next step is to submit our proposal to IFLA's Professional Committee which Gulcin will do this Friday. We can't go ahead with organisation until this is accepted. We will probably need to tweak the abstract and the schedule. The conference will be held on 18/19 August. We are keen to be very inclusive to make sure it's not Western/North American or European centric, and inclusive of the global south.

We hope to have a Zoom meeting next week or the week after with all of the partners. One of the issues will be deciding how many attendees we are aiming for and also financing the conference. We will need some form of sponsorship to cover catering, etc.

Jim's thinking is that we would have a maximum of 2 very prominent keynote speakers and then call for proposals for 5-6 papers. Erasmus University seems to be willing to organise all of the logistics. We have a Basecamp site set up, and people are putting forward their ideas and suggestions.

7.1.2 Blogs (Lead: Sharon)

There is a steady flow of new blog posts coming through, at least once a month. There has been a great variety of topics. The most recent blog post was on LITTE_BOT, a theatrical chatbot. We also had two excellent blogs by our ARL Travel Grant winners.

7.1.3 Hot Topics (Lead: Lorraine)

The Hot Topics team will use the recently produced Country Trend reports to start planning the session. IFLA has not yet started calling for Congress proposals.



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7.2 Strategic Direction 2: Inspire and Enhance Professional Practice

7.2.1 IFLA Journal Special Issue (Lead: Reggie)

Nothing new to report.

7.3 Strategic Direction 3: Connect and Empower the Field

7.3.1 Webinars (Lead: Reggie/Xin)

Our next webinar is coming up in late February 2023. Siviwe is the lead. The proposed topic is: Social justice, diversity and inclusion in academic and research libraries. There will be only two speakers to allow for more in-depth presentations.

We had two excellent speakers at the last webinar on the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Over 500 registered and there were over 200 attendees on the day. Bertil did a great job of moderating the webinar. There were a lot of questions before, during and after the presentations. Some of the attendees asked for a certificate of attendance and IFLA now has a template for this. The webinar recording is available on Basecamp. Mary uploaded it to YouTube and SlideShare and Jerome did a lot of publicity. There has already been a great deal of usage of the YouTube video.

7.3.2 Joint WLIC Session (Lead: Gulcin)

The theme for this will be: Creating diverse, equitable and inclusive work environments, services and collections. We are partnering with the Library Education and Training Section. Once IFLA issues the call for submissions we will start developing our proposal.

7.3.3 Travel Grant (Lead: Astrid)

The call for applications has already been published on our web site and Facebook. The amount of the grant has been increased to 850 euros for this year, as travel costs have gone up and we have enough money leftover in the kitty to do this and to offer six grants instead of three. It is not as easy as it used to be to get money from our sponsors. The Travel Grant has been offered since 2011.

7.4 Strategic Direction 4: Optimise our Organisation

7.4.1 Communications Plan (Lead: Marisa/Jerome)

We will soon be publishing the final issue of our ARL newsletter for 2022.

Marisa and Shaharima are working on a market intelligence project. The aim is to put together a list of global associations involved in the ARL space that are publishing new pieces of research on our sector, holding global events, generating news, etc. We would check their web sites regularly and



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post interesting updates on our social media sites. Once complete we will share the list of sites with the committee and elicit your feedback.

Our chain of promotion and dissemination of information is working well through our various communication channels – website, social media, ARL distribution list, etc.

The meeting held a short brainstorming session on how ARL could expand its reach and reputation among the “younger generation” of librarians. This is important for succession planning and the long-term sustainability of ARL. A lively discussion took place and the following ideas were put forward:

- Investigate the use of new communication tools more relevant to the younger generation e.g. Tik Tok, Instagram. A sub-group could work on this, which might include some young professionals co-opted on to ARL for this purpose.
- Invite our previous ARL Travel Grant winners to be involved in improving our engagement with young professionals, as our grant winners are typically in this group themselves.
- Engage with young librarians who are completing their library studies.
- Use our current communication tools more effectively by publishing content that is particularly relevant to young professionals. For example, our blog posts and webinars could incorporate topics of particular interest to younger librarians.
- Engage someone who is knowledgeable on social media to provide us with advice on how to tailor content to appeal to different groups.
- Form a closer working relationship with the IFLA New Professionals SIG e.g. through co-programming, inviting them to contribute to our blog, eliciting their ideas on how we could attract younger librarians to ARL.
- Organise a Chat Fest on a topic relevant to young librarians. This would make it easier for non-native English speakers to contribute and be involved.

Jerome and Marisa will discuss these ideas and report back to the next meeting on the way forward.

8. Other business

8.1 IFLA Unit Acronym Refresh

We have been invited by IFLA to consider whether we are satisfied with our current acronym (ARL) or want to change it. The consensus was that we are happy to leave it as is.

Gulcin thanked everyone for all of their hard work this year and wished the committee a happy festive season.

9. Next meeting

Our next meeting will be held in February 2023. More information to follow.