



IFLA Section Academic and Research Libraries

Minutes of (online) business meeting: Academic and Research Libraries Section, 20 and 22 June 2022

Present:

Mari Altonen, Ursula Arning, Gulcin Cribb (Chair), Karen Downing, Antonio Cobos Flores, Jérôme Fronty, Lorraine J. Haricombe, Marisa King, Jayshree Mamtora, Vicki McDonald, Mary Ngure, Tuelo Ntlotlang, Jim O'Donnell, Tiiu Tarkpea, Astrid Verheusen, Xin Li.

Apologies:

None received.

1. Welcome

Gulcin welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which she is speaking.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the April business meeting are available on Basecamp:

<https://3.basecamp.com/3833672/buckets/4958023/uploads/4936635872>

Matters arising:

- a) Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for co-opted members from Asia
We received almost 20 EOIs prior to the closing date of 17 June.

Subsequent to the business meeting, Vicki and Gulcin collaborated on the selection of two co-opted members in consultation with Marisa and Jerome. Patrick Danowski, Chair of Division D has approved the selection. The new members who will serve until the next IFLA election cycle are:

*Lily Ko, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Head, Learning Services, Hong Kong, China
Shaharima Parvin, East West University, Assistant Librarian, Bangladesh*

Both Lily and Shaharima are delighted to join ARL. They are unable to attend the WLIC in Dublin. They are aware about roles and responsibilities of ARL members and are looking forward to joining various initiatives and projects.

- b) ARL's initiatives re: Ukraine invasion
Our blog on this topic was published on 29 May, utilising the contributions of all ARL members. It received an unprecedented 800 hits. Gulcin thanked everyone who contributed, especially Bertil for writing the blog and Marisa for editing it.

3. Professional Committee Announcements

There is a PC meeting scheduled this week. Gulcin shared the agenda on Basecamp.



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A networking meeting for the officers of different sections to get to know other will be held on Wednesday 22 June. Marisa, Jerome and Gulcin are attending.

4. Action Plan 2021-2023

4.1 Strategic Direction 1: Strengthen the Global Voice of Libraries

- a) WLIC Satellite Conference (Lead: Jim)
Information on a prospective satellite conference to be held before or after WLIC 2023 in Rotterdam was shared by Jim on Basecamp.
The dates for WLIC 2023 are confirmed as 21-25 August. It is proposed that the satellite conference would be held on 18 or 19 August (or both).
Unfortunately the option of hosting the conference at the National Library in Luxembourg is no longer available. Astrid suggested the National Library of Netherlands (also the location of IFLA Headquarters) which is close to Rotterdam and easily accessed by train. Astrid will reach out to the National Library to see if this is a possibility.
We need to start thinking now about potential topics/themes and partners. A number of suggestions have been made by ARL members on Basecamp.
- b) Blogs (Lead: Vicki/Sharon)
Two new blog posts have been published in June on the topics of WLIC 2022 (written by Jim) and the 2022 LIBER Annual Conference (written by Bertil).
We are currently averaging two new blogs a month and have a forward pipeline.
Vicki will compile a summary of hit counts for recent blog posts and share it with the committee.
- c) Hot Topics (Lead: Lorraine)
Theme: Truth, Evidence and Memory: Academic Libraries as Cultural Rights Defenders
Five speakers are confirmed (including three ARL members) plus an alternate speaker. The session will be held at WLIC 2022 on Thursday 28 July at 8.30am. The speakers represent Europe, North America, Africa, Australia and New Zealand.
The emphasis will be on interactivity and discussion. Each speaker will present 3 questions as inspiration for the roundtable discussion following the presentations.
Please let Lorraine know if you would be available to assist with organisation on the day.

4.2 Strategic Direction 2: Inspire and Enhance Professional Practice

- a) IFLA Journal Special Issue (Lead: Reggie)
Reggie will meet with the IFLA Journal's editor-in-chief, Steve Witt, during an upcoming visit to the US and will provide a report after the meeting.



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4.3 Strategic Direction 3: Connect and Empower the Field

- a) Webinars (Lead: Xin/Reggie)

The rescheduled webinar, on the topic of “Research ethics in an open research environment”, was very successful, with lots of engagement and great geographic diversity. Xin’s checklist for webinar planning was very helpful. Xin will arrange a debrief meeting with all involved to assist with future planning. Karen and Xin thanked Marisa, Gulcin, Tuelo and Jerome for their assistance with the webinar. Gulcin highlighted that tweets posted during the webinar by Antonio and herself reached an estimated 400 people. We could make more use of Twitter for future webinars.
- b) WLIC 2022 Travel Grants (Lead: Astrid)

All three grant winners are excited and arranging their visas, registrations etc to attend the Congress. They have been invited to attend the ARL business meeting and Hot Topics session. It is expected that there will be an Award ceremony to support the grant winners and meet the sponsors and thank them for their generosity. Gulcin encouraged as many ARL members as possible to visit the Sage and Ex Libris stands and express our thanks for their generosity. Astrid is preparing a report on the process for this year’s Travel Grants.

4.4 Strategic Direction 4: Optimise our Organisation

- a) Communications Plan (Lead: Marisa)

The inaugural issue of the ARL newsletter was distributed to our email distribution list on 12 May and promoted via social media. The “open rate” was just under 40%, with the articles on the latest blog post, upcoming webinar and ARL committee proving the most popular. Marisa and Jerome will jointly edit the newsletter. Marisa prepared the first issue and the next issue will be compiled by Jerome prior to WLIC 2022. Marisa is planning to form an ARL Communications Sub-Committee to take the Communications Plan forward. Volunteers are sought, or you may be shoulder tapped. 😊

5. Additional business

- a) WLIC 2022 (Gulcin)

ARL will hold a Business Meeting at WLIC 2022 on Monday 25 July at 1.45pm. As Marisa will not be attending, Lorraine will take the minutes. Thank you, Lorraine.
- b) Knowledge management (Jerome)

Our Basecamp folder structure could do with a review and “tidy up”. Tiiu kindly offered to do this.

6. Next meeting

Our next business meeting will be scheduled for September. Dates and times to be confirmed.