ANNUAL REPORT (2016-2017)

NAME OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE/FORA: LIBER ARCHITECTURE GROUP
CHAIR: Sylvia Van Peteghem

- **SUMMARY**

Since summer 2016 the LIBER Architecture Group met twice in order to organise its 19th Seminar, which will be hosted by the WU library in Vienna (Zaha Hadid building), and will take place from 18 to 20 April 2018. The theme will be 'The Context for Library Planning: The Next Phase'. There will be sessions on The Library's Role in City and Campus Planning, Technical Issues, Post- Occupancy Evaluation Case Studies and New Buildings Update.

Buildings will be added to the online database with the help of a questionnaire that has been revised and simplified and is being tested at the moment. Only buildings that have opened or are about to open should be included.

The website has been moved from Lucerne (where it was hosted) to the LIBER Europe website and updated. The goal is to add as much information as possible in open access. Furthermore the Group discussed ways of maintaining and keeping the database hosted by the National Library of Technology in Prague, Czechia.

- **ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENTS:**

GOAL 1: Preparation of the Seminar that will be held in April 2018 in Vienna, Austria
STATUS: Partly Achieved
SUMMARY: The next Seminar 'Library Planning: The Next Phase' will be hosted by the WU library in Vienna and will take place from 18 to 20 April 2018.
The programme will be announced in autumn 2017.

GOAL 2: To move the LIBERLAG website hosted in Lucerne to the LIBER website
STATUS: Achieved
SUMMARY: All information on LIBER LAG is now available at http://libereurope.eu/architecture-forum/.

GOAL 3: To revise and simplify the questionnaire for the database/documentation
STATUS: Achieved
SUMMARY: The new questionnaire will be made available on the website after testing
http://libereurope.eu/architecture-forum/.

GOAL 4: Clarify the future of the database of new library buildings
STATUS: Partly achieved
SUMMARY: The database is up and running, but long-term support is not yet clarified.
The group will continue their in-depth discussion at the next meeting in September.
LAG proposed the modernisation of technology to produce printed issues of *New Library Buildings in Europe*, using the database and XML export to the typesetting system InDesign. The National Library of Technology developed a pilot version as a volunteer enterprise. In 2013 the LIBER

Executive Board approved a grant of €2200 per year for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 for the re-design and further development of the database, and for expenses connected with collecting and editing new entries and preparing the database output for printing.

At the 2012 (Prague) and 2014 (Helsinki) Seminars the costs of printed volumes were covered by the seminar host (with the help of their sponsors). Unclear funding for the printed volume for the 2016 Seminar resulted in publishing just the ready-to-print pdf without actually printing it for all participants. As a consequence, the group decided the cost of producing printed volumes would not be justifiable for the future and concentrated on making the entries into the database easier for contributors, and the database look and feel more attractive and at the same time optimizing its visibility on the net. All the past printed issues are available at http://libereurope.eu/architecture-forum/.

The database is accessible at http://liber-lag.techlib.cz and its face-lifted version at http://liber-lag.new.techlib.cz. It contains detailed documentation for more than 60 new or refurbished library buildings from 17 European countries. The major contributors are the UK and Germany, each with more than 10 buildings, Switzerland, Czechia and France are represented by 5+ entries and 12 countries (Austria, Belgium, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Sweden) have one or two buildings.

- **INVITATION TO JOIN AND HOW TO SEND FEEDBACK** The seminars of the LIBER Architecture Group are announced on the LIBER website. Please contact Sylvia van Peteghem, Chair, or any of the Group members for further information (names and contact details: group members at http://libereurope.eu/architecture-forum/)

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