



Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche  
Association of European Research Libraries

## LIBER ANNUAL MEETING OF PARTICIPANTS 2017

**MINUTES OF THE LIBER ANNUAL MEETING OF PARTICIPANTS HELD IN THE CONFERENCE & CULTURAL CENTRE, UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS, PATRAS, GREECE, ON WEDNESDAY 5 JULY AND THURSDAY 6 JULY 2017.**

### **AGENDA: WEDNESDAY 5 JULY 2017**

#### **1. FORMAL OPENING OF THE MEETING OF PARTICIPANTS**

Ms Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen, President of LIBER, welcomed LIBER Participants and formally opened the 2017 Meeting of Participants.

#### **2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANDIDATES FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE LIBER EXECUTIVE BOARD AND APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS**

Dr Ann Matheson, Secretary-General, announced the nominations received by the closing date for nominations (22 June 2017). Appointments would be made by the Meeting of Participants on Thursday 6 July 2017.

*Board Members (Two (2) Vacancies):*  
(Candidates listed in alphabetical order)

*Candidate:* Dr Søren Bertil Fabricius Dorch, University of Southern Denmark

*Proposer:* Mr Carl Olof Lorenz Wilhelm Widmark, Stockholm University Library, Sweden

*Candidate:* Dr Anna Maria Walek, Gdańsk University of Technology, Poland

*Proposer:* Professor Dr Janusz Smulko, Gdańsk University of Technology, Poland

*Candidate:* Ms Agnès Ponsati Obiols, Spanish Research Council, CSIC, Spain

*Proposer:* Mr Lluís Anglada i de Ferrer, CSUC, Spain

*Candidate:* Ms Ulla Maria Nygrén, Turku University Library, Finland

*Proposer:* Ms Minna Kaarina Niemi-Grundström, Tampere University Library, Finland

*Re-appointment (One (1)) to the Executive Board:*

*Board Member:*

Mr Andris Vilks, National Library of Latvia, Riga, Latvia

Three Tellers were appointed by the Meeting of Participants to oversee the closed ballot to be held on the morning of Thursday 6 July 2017: Ms Kristina Pai, Tartu University Library, Estonia; Mr Bruno Sagna, Bibliothèque nationale de France; and Mr John Tuck, Royal Holloway, University of London, UK.

### **AGENDA: THURSDAY 6 JULY 2017**

#### **3. OPENING OF THE MEETING OF PARTICIPANTS AND OPENING REMARKS**

Ms Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen, President of LIBER, opened the Meeting of Participants and welcomed all participants. The pre-circulated Agenda for the Meeting of Participants was agreed. The President drew attention to the main achievements during the year, noting in particular the new LIBER Strategy 2018-2022, lobbying and advocacy work on copyright, open access and EU Projects.

#### **4. MINUTES OF THE 2016 MEETING OF PARTICIPANTS**

The minutes of the 2016 Meeting of Participants, held in the Paasitorni Congress Hall, Paasitorni Conference and Congress Centre, Helsinki, Finland, on Thursday 30 June 2016, were approved.

#### **5. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising which were not already covered by the Agenda.

#### **6. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Dr Ann Matheson, Secretary-General, noted the main points from the LIBER Executive Board Report for the period June 2016 to June 2017. The full Report had been pre-circulated with the May 2017 LIBER Mailing. The Executive Board had met four times during the year. During the year the Executive Board's main priorities had been the preparation of the next LIBER Strategy 2018-2022, which LIBER Participants would be invited to approve at the Meeting of Participants; advancing EU projects to assist LIBER Libraries; overseeing the work of the present three Steering Committees (Scholarly Communication and Research Infrastructures; Reshaping the Research Library; and Advocacy and Communications) and their Working Groups; continuing advocacy on topics of importance to LIBER Libraries, e.g. copyright reform, text and data mining; developing the Annual Conference in line with the wishes of LIBER Libraries; the recruitment of a new LIBER Executive Director; and maintaining an effective LIBER Office in The Hague.

The number of LIBER Participants at May 2017 stood at 428 Participants, comprising 393 in the Institutional category; 16 in the Organisational category; 13 in the Associate category; and 6 individuals. Thirteen applications had been made to the Annual Conference Fund in 2017, and thirteen grants were awarded. The Executive Board conveyed its appreciation of the invaluable support of LIBER's Gold (Ex Libris, beslist.nl and EBSCO) and Silver (OpenEdition and Digital Science) Sponsors in 2016-2017. The Executive Board warmly thanked OCLC for its support in sponsoring the LIBER Award for Library Innovation in 2017 (OCLC first sponsored this Award in 2015). The contribution of all Sponsors in assisting to advance LIBER's work was greatly appreciated by LIBER Participants and by the LIBER Executive Board.

The 47<sup>th</sup> LIBER Annual Conference in 2018 would be hosted by LILLIAD, University of Lille, France, from Wednesday 4 to Friday 6 July 2018, with the Pre-Conference on Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 July, and the Conference Excursion on Saturday 7 July 2018. The Annual Conference in 2019 would be jointly hosted by Trinity College Library Dublin and CONUL (Consortium of National and University Libraries), and that in 2020 by Ghent University Library, Belgium.

Following Ms Susan Reilly's resignation in March 2017, Ms Astrid Verheusen had been appointed Interim Executive Director on 15 March 2017, and at interview on 1 June 2017 had been appointed LIBER Executive Director with effect from 15 August 2017. Ms Verheusen was warmly welcomed to her post as Executive Director and LIBER Office staff were thanked for all their work for LIBER during the year. Thanks were also due to the National Library of The Netherlands, and to its Director-General, Dr Lily Knibbeler, for assistance to LIBER during the year.

The Secretary-General's Report of the Executive Board was approved by the Meeting of Participants.

#### **7. REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

Drs Anja Smit, LIBER Treasurer, presented her Report for the year 2016 to 2017. She noted that LIBER's overall financial position remained healthy, which could be observed from the figures in the Annual Report and Accounts for 2016. The number of libraries joining LIBER was also increasing, which was very encouraging.

The Treasurer's Report was approved by the Meeting of Participants.

#### **8. LIBER ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR 2016 AND AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Drs Smit, LIBER Treasurer, presented the Annual Report and Accounts for 2016, and the Auditor's Report, which had been pre-circulated with the May 2017 LIBER Mailing. The Accounts for 2016 had been audited by Assist Audit services en advisering B.V., The Netherlands, and had been approved by the Executive Board at its first meeting in Patras on Tuesday 4 July 2017. The Annual Report and Accounts had been signed by the President, Secretary-General and Treasurer as required by the Statutes.

The Treasurer noted that the Accounts for 2016 showed a loss of €238.000 on EU Projects, while the Accounts for 2015 had shown a surplus of €753.000 from EU Projects. This apparent variation in the figures was due to the way in which funding for EU Projects was not always received in the year of the project activity, and could thus fall outside the LIBER annual financial reporting period.

There were no questions from the floor about the Annual Report and Accounts for 2016, and the Auditor's Report, and they were both noted by the Meeting.

#### **9. LIBER FOUNDATION: APPOINTMENTS TO THE LIBER EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Dr Matheson, Secretary-General, conducted the appointments to the LIBER Executive Board, in line with the Statutes and the Rules and Regulations of the LIBER Foundation (*Stichting*). The Call for Nominations had been pre-circulated in the November 2016, February 2017 and May 2017 LIBER Mailings, as required by the Rules and Regulations.

The appointments were dealt with in the following order:

##### **New Appointments at the Meeting of Participants**

*Two (2) Vacancies on the LIBER Executive Board:*

There were four nominations at the closing date for nominations (22 June 2017):

- (1) Dr Søren Bertil Fabricius Dorch, University of Southern Denmark, proposed by Mr Carl Olof Lorenz Wilhelm Widmark, Stockholm University Library, Sweden
- (2) Dr Anna Maria Walek, Gdańsk University of Technology, Poland, proposed by Professor Dr Janusz Smulko, Gdańsk University of Technology, Poland
- (3) Ms Agnès Ponsati Obiols, Spanish Research Council, CSIC, Spain, proposed by Mr Lluís Anglada i de Ferrer, CSUC, Spain
- (4) Ms Ulla Maria Nygrén, Turku University Library, Finland, proposed by Ms Minna Kaarina Niemi-Grundström, Tampere University Library, Finland

A closed ballot, supervised by the three Tellers appointed at the Opening of the Meeting of Participants on 5 July 2017 (Ms Kristina Pai; Mr Bruno Sagna; and Mr John Tuck), had been held at 09.00 on the morning of Thursday 6 July 2017.

The Secretary-General announced that as the result of the ballot, Dr Søren Bertil Fabricius Dorch, University of Southern Denmark, and Ms Agnès Ponsati Obiols, CSIC, Spain, had been appointed to the two vacancies on the LIBER Executive Board.

Warm thanks were expressed by the Meeting to the three Tellers appointed by the Meeting of Participants, who had overseen the closed ballot: Ms Kristina Pai, Tartu University Library, Estonia; Mr Bruno Sagna, Bibliothèque nationale de France; and Mr John Tuck, Royal Holloway, University of London, UK.

##### **Reappointment at the Meeting of Participants**

*One (1) Re-appointment to the Executive Board:*

One Executive Board member was eligible to stand for appointment for a further term of office, 2017-2019:

Mr Andris Vilks, National Library of Latvia, Riga, Latvia.

Mr Andris Vilks was re-appointed to the LIBER Executive Board by the Meeting of Participants.

Dr Matheson concluded the appointments at the Meeting of Participants and handed the floor to the LIBER President for the Executive Board appointments.

## **Executive Board Appointments**

### *Secretary-General:*

Under the LIBER Statutes, the position of Secretary-General was an appointment made by the Executive Board. Ms Hormia-Poutanen confirmed that a Call for Nominations had been issued by the Executive Board in November 2016, and a closed ballot of those nominations received by the closing date of 31 January 2017 had been held in March 2017. As a result of the ballot, Mr John MacColl, St Andrews University Library, UK, had been appointed Secretary-General, and would take up his position following the Meeting of Participants. She warmly welcomed Mr MacColl to the position of Secretary-General, and Mr MacColl was welcomed by the Meeting of Participants.

### *LIBER Adviser:*

Ms Hormia-Poutanen explained that because of a high turnover of staff in the LIBER Office in spring 2017, and the appointment of a number of new staff, the Executive Board had appointed Dr Ann Matheson to act as a LIBER Adviser for statutory requirements and procedures for the period 2017-2019. The necessary amendment had been made to the LIBER Rules and Regulations to allow the appointment of a third Adviser in exceptional circumstances.

In her remarks, Ms Hormia-Poutanen thanked Dr Matheson for her contribution as Secretary-General during her term in office, and presented a video with messages from colleagues across Europe who had worked with her over the years. Dr Matheson thanked Ms Hormia-Poutanen, the LIBER Executive Board, the LIBER Office and LIBER Participants for their unstinting assistance and co-operation at all times, and referred to LIBER's significant progress in representing the interests of European research libraries. She noted the importance of the values for society upheld by research libraries in addition to technical progress, and wished LIBER well in the future.

Ms Hormia-Poutanen thanked Dr Claudia Fabian, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Munich, and Mr Lluís Anglada, CSUC, Spain, for their valuable contributions to the work of the Executive Board during their term of office.

## **STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS (PAPERS PRE-CIRCULATED IN MAY 2017 MAILING)**

### **10. LIBER STRATEGY 2018-2022**

#### **10.1. LIBER Strategy 2018-2022, Roadmap and Organisation**

Ms Hormia-Poutanen, President, presented the final version of the 2018-2022 LIBER Strategy, which had been pre-circulated with the May 2017 Mailing. The new Strategy was focused on digital open services supporting research; and the three Strategic Directions steering the Strategy were: Libraries as a Platform for Innovative Scholarly Communication; Libraries as a Hub for Digital Skills and Services; and Partners in Research Infrastructure. The Mission set out on page 4 of the printed LIBER Strategy 2018-2022 set out the aims for where LIBER should be in 2022. Ms Hormia-Poutanen presented the roadmap for the implementation of the Strategy and the proposed organisational structure, whose objectives were: ensuring optimal coordination between the activities of the three interconnecting Strategic Directions and the EU Projects managed by the LIBER Office; optimising the flexibility and efficacy of the strategic activities; and monitoring progress and ensuring

accountability. There would be three Steering Committees: Innovative Scholarly Communication; Digital Skills and Services; and Research Infrastructure. Steering Committees would be smaller in size and each would have a limit of two to three Working Groups, which would work within a limited period. The results would be evaluated on a regular basis.

Ms Hormia-Poutanen invited questions about the Strategy 2018-2022 from the floor but there were none.

The Meeting was invited to approve the LIBER Strategy 2018-2022, and the Strategy was unanimously approved by the Meeting of Participants.

## **11. LIBER: FUTURE DEFINITION OF RESEARCH LIBRARIES (UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES)**

### **11.1. Background Paper and Endorsement Proposal**

Ms Hormia-Poutanen presented the Background Paper and Endorsement Proposal, which had been pre-circulated in the March and May 2017 Mailings, and explained the background. Transitions had taken place within the European university sector in recent years and, as a result, more applications to join LIBER were being received from libraries which might not be traditionally regarded as 'research libraries' but which had a common agenda with LIBER on open science and open innovation. The LIBER Executive Board had recommended responding to these transitions within the university sector but considered it very important to retain the focus, value and mission of LIBER. At the February 2017 Board meeting, the LIBER Executive Board had unanimously recommended that libraries applying to join LIBER should be formally asked to agree to endorse and support LIBER's mission and to adhere to LIBER's values. The Executive Board also agreed that LIBER Participants should be requested to approve the addition of the 'Endorsement' to the LIBER application form at the 2017 Meeting of Participants. She outlined LIBER's mission and values as set out in the 'Endorsement':

*LIBER's Mission was to enable world class research; and LIBER Values – focused on Collaboration and Inclusivity – were centred on:*

- *High-quality services for all users of library and information services*
- *Intellectual freedom and access to scholarship*
- *Collaboration with campus, local, national, European and international partners*
- *Stewardship of collections and institutional resources, in the most appropriate format*
- *Leadership, innovation and a willingness to embrace opportunities for change*
- *Inclusivity, equality of opportunity and fulfilment of potential*

If approved by the Meeting of Participants, new applicants wishing to join LIBER from July 2017 would be asked to sign the Endorsement statement on the application form in the following terms: *By submitting this application form, I agree to support the Mission and to uphold the Values of LIBER.*

The Meeting of Participants was then invited by the President to support the Resolution: 'To approve the inclusion of the 'Endorsement Proposal for Libraries Joining LIBER' in the LIBER application form with effect from July 2017'.

The Meeting of Participants unanimously approved the proposal and the inclusion of the text of the Endorsement in the LIBER application form with effect from July 2017.

## **12. LIBER STRATEGY 2013-2017**

### **12.1. LIBER Strategy Report 2016-2017**

Ms Astrid Verheusen, Interim Executive Director, presented the LIBER Strategy Report 2016-2017, which had been pre-circulated in the March and May 2017 Mailings. She noted the main developments: the creation of a new strategy and vision to lead LIBER through the next five years; the President had joined the European Commission's Open Science Policy Platform (OSPP) and Open Science had been the theme of the 2016 Annual Conference in

Helsinki; LIBER had visited eight MEPs and made 27 trips to the EC in connection with lobbying for copyright reform; and new Working Groups on Open Science and Metrics had been set up during the year.

The Strategy Report for 2016-2017 was approved by the Meeting of Participants.

### **13. LIBER STRATEGY ACHIEVEMENTS: LIBER STEERING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS**

#### **13.1. *Scholarly Communication and Research Infrastructures***

Dr Wolfram Horstmann, Chair, presented the key points from his Annual Report, which had earlier been pre-circulated with the May 2017 LIBER Mailing. Over the last year, the Steering Committee and its working group had continued to act as a forum for regular exchange about strategies and practical issues for and the implementation of research data management support in libraries. A webinar series focusing on research data management topics had been initiated in December 2016. The webinars had been very successful with 400/500 participants and, due to high demand, the webinar on FAIR data principles had had to be repeated. The Research Data Services in European libraries study, commissioned by LIBER and carried out by a LIS research team headed by Carol Tenopir, had been published in *LIBER Quarterly* (2017). The study results had been disseminated through webinars and through a number of presentations in different European countries. A new Working Group on Metrics had now been set up and had developed draft recommendations on library services related to impact metrics, which were discussed at the LIBER 2017 Workshop on 'How Libraries Can Get Started with Impact Metrics'.

The Report of the Steering Committee on Scholarly Communication and Research Infrastructures was approved by the Meeting of Participants.

#### **13.2. *Reshaping the Research Library***

Dr Martin Hallik, Chair, presented his Annual Report, which had been pre-circulated with the May 2017 LIBER Mailing. The second LIBER Journées had taken place in Sciences Po, Paris, on 17 to 19 May 2017. The theme of the second LIBER Journées had focused on transformation and library directors leading transformational and strategic change in their institutions. Nineteen Library Directors from 14 countries, including three from the US and one from Canada, had participated. The 4th Emerging Leaders Programme had commenced at the LIBER Annual Conference in Patras in July 2017. There were 26 participants from 13 different countries. The Digital Humanities Working Group, co-chaired by Dr Andreas Degkwitz and Ms Lotte Wilms, had been set up and had commenced work. It would have core members and general members and would be arranged on a subject basis with the aim of attracting members interested in specific topics. The Working Group on Research and Education had a new Chair, Ms Ulla Nygrén, Turku University Library, Finland.

Mr Roche, LIBER Adviser on Leadership and Skills, had been assessing future developments for the Leadership Programme. From his plan, two initiatives had been selected by the Executive Board for further investigation: (1) internships; and (2) a job description marketplace. A proposal was in hand to create on the LIBER website (1) a light touch internship marketplace and (2) a job description marketplace for LIBER Libraries, i.e. a toolbox for library managers looking for job descriptions for new posts.

The Report of the Steering Committee on Reshaping the Research Library was approved by the Meeting of Participants.

#### **13.3. *Advocacy and Communications***

Mr Wilhelm Widmark, Chair, presented his Annual Report, which had been pre-circulated with the May 2017 LIBER Mailing. He drew attention to the Steering Committee's two Working Groups: the Copyright Working Group and the Working Group on Open Access.

The Copyright Working Group's advocacy had focused on three areas: a European Union-wide copyright for text and data mining; a strong and harmonised copyright exception for Libraries, Science and Research; and cross-border access to academic works.

The work of the Open Access Working Group established in 2016 was focused in three areas: Licensing and Negotiations; Reap the Rewards of the Repositories; and Promote OA Policies. The Group had also prepared a statement setting out five areas on which organisations negotiating offsetting deals with publishers should focus.

The Report of the Steering Committee on Advocacy and Communications was approved by the Meeting of Participants.

## **14. FORA REPORTS**

### **14.1. DIGITAL CULTURAL HERITAGE FORUM**

Dr Claudia Fabian, Chair, Digital Cultural Heritage Forum, presented her Annual Report, which had been pre-circulated with the May 2017 LIBER Mailing. She outlined some highlights from the Forum's activities: The Conference Programme for 4<sup>th</sup> Digital Curation Workshop on 'Data Stewardship and Data Curation' had just been announced. The Forum's Workshop at LIBER Annual Conferences had been on 'The Discoverability of Digital Collections (Helsinki, 2016) and 'Managing Bequests and Digital Estates (Patras, 2017). A Summer School for the CERL Security Network would take place on 6 to 8 September 2017, and the CERL Annual Seminar would take place in the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, on 26 October 2017 on the theme: 'Putting It Together: Hybrid Collections'. She referred to CERL's Working Groups on Manuscripts, Book-Bindings and Provenance, and noted that there would be a review of the position of the Forum in the LIBER framework within the new Strategy 2018-2022.

The Report of the Digital Cultural Heritage Forum was approved by the Meeting of Participants.

### **14.2. ARCHITECTURE FORUM**

In the absence of Dr Syvlija Van Peteghem, Chair of the Architecture Forum, Mr Martin Svoboda presented the Forum's Annual Report, which had been pre-circulated with the May 2017 LIBER Mailing. The LIBER Architecture Group had two key 'products': the biennial Seminar; and documentation, which was now accumulated in a database. The next Seminar would take place in the Library and Learning Centre (designed by the architect, Zaha Hadid), University of Economics and Business, Vienna, from 18 to 20 April 2018 (Registration open in November 2017). The Seminar would deal with the theme 'The Context for Library Planning: The Next Phase', and would cover City and Campus Planning : the Library's role; technical issues; user input on the planning process; Learning Centres; POE Case Studies; and an update on new library buildings update. In terms of documentation, printed volumes based on an extensive questionnaire collected and distributed to Seminar participants had been produced since 2000. Recently, this information has been made accessible through a structured database created with support provided by LIBER.

The Report of the Architecture Forum was approved by the Meeting of Participants.

## **15. LIBER EU PROJECTS: ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017**

Ms Astrid Verheusen, Interim Executive Director, presented the Annual Report on EU Projects, 2016-2017, and highlighted the main points. The full Annual Report on EU Projects had been pre-circulated with the May 2017 LIBER Mailing. The OpenAIRE FP7 Post-Grant Open Access Pilot had been extended for ten months, including a new call for alternative funding models. The LEARN Project had been shortlisted for the prestigious THELMA Award. LIBER was leading the EOSCpilot stakeholder activities with more than ten events planned in autumn 2017 and spring 2018. The FOSTER Plus Project had commenced, and LIBER was leading the development of a Trainer Network, and a Trainer Bootcamp in spring 2018.

OpenMinTed engagement and dissemination activities, led by LIBER, had been praised as 'phenomenal' during the EC Project Review.

The Report on EU Projects was approved by the Meeting of Participants.

#### **16. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

There were no questions from the floor at the meeting.

#### **17. INVITATION TO THE 2018 LIBER ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN LILLE, FRANCE**

Ms Hormia-Poutanen welcomed Mr Julien Roche and his colleagues who, on behalf of the University of Lille, expressed a warm welcome to LIBER Participants to attend the 2018 Annual Conference in LILLIAD, University of Lille, France. Mr Roche presented a short video on Lille, LILLIAD, University of Lille, and the Annual Conference venue in the Conference Centre in LILLIAD.

The dates of the 2018 LIBER Annual Conference would be Wednesday 4 July to Friday 6 July 2018, with the Saturday excursion on the following day, 7 July 2018. Preliminary information about the 2018 Annual Conference would be available on the website in autumn 2017.

The 2017 Annual Conference organisers in Patras handed over the LIBER flag to the Lille organisers for the 2018 Annual Conference.

On behalf of the LIBER Executive Board, LIBER Participants and Annual Conference delegates, Ms Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen, LIBER President, thanked the Library and Information Centre, University of Patras, for an extremely well organised and enjoyable Annual Conference. Special thanks were due to Professor Nikolaos Avouris and Dr Giannis Tsakonas, Chairs of the Local Organising Committee, Mr Panos Georgiou, Local Organising Committee Coordinator, and members of the Local Organising Committee in Patras. The Meeting of Participants showed its warm appreciation of an excellent Annual Conference by long applause for the Conference Hosts.

Ann Matheson  
Secretary-General

6 July 2017