



Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche
Association of European Research Libraries

REPORT OF THE LIBER EXECUTIVE BOARD 2017-2018

I am pleased to give the Report of the LIBER Executive Board for the period June 2017 to June 2018.

Executive Board Meetings

The Executive Board has four meetings annually. In 2017-2018, the Executive Board met during the 2017 Annual Conference in the Library & Information Centre, University of Patras, Greece, in July 2017; in Erasmus University Library, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, in October 2017; in The Long Room Hub, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, in February 2018; and the Board will have its fourth meeting of the year in July 2018 in LILLIAD Learning Center Innovation, Lille, France, during the Annual Conference week. LIBER's Finance Committee held meetings at all Executive Board meetings. LIBER's Appointments Committee met in October 2016 and February 2017, and will meet in July 2017. Steering Committee Chairs' meetings (Steering Group Chairs, President, Vice-President and Executive Director) were also held at the Patras, Rotterdam and Lille Executive Board meetings. The Executive Board conducted an audit of members' expertise at its February 2018 meeting, in order to produce a profile of benefit for the recruitment of future members of the Board.

Executive Board Changes

At the Meeting of Participants in Patras on 30 June 2017, the following appointments and re-appointments were made. The new appointments to the Executive Board were Dr Søren Bertil Fabricius Dorch, University of Southern Denmark, and Ms Agnès Ponsati Obiols, Digital Library and Information Systems Director, National Library of Spain. These were appointed by a closed ballot, supervised by the three Tellers (Ms Kristina Pai; Mr Bruno Sagna; and Mr John Tuck), held on the morning of Thursday 6 July 2017.

The position of Secretary-General had become vacant as a result of Dr Ann Matheson having reached the end of her most recent tenure in 2017. Secretary-General is an appointment made by the Executive Board. Following a closed ballot of those nominations received by the closing date of 31 January 2017, Mr John MacColl, University of St Andrews Library, UK, had been appointed Secretary-General, and took up his position following the Meeting of Participants.

Mr Andris Vilks was reappointed to the LIBER Executive Board by the Meeting of Participants.

The Executive Board appointed Dr Ann Matheson to act as a LIBER Adviser for statutory requirements and procedures for the period 2017-2019.

Executive Board Priorities

During the year 2017-2018, the Executive Board has prioritised a number of activities. A major priority has been the approval and dissemination of the new LIBER Strategy for 2018-2022. The Roadmap, which outlines actions in relation to the three Strategic Directions was also developed and released. Based on the Strategy, three new Steering Committees were

established: Innovative Scholarly Communication, Digital Skills and Services), and Research Infrastructure. Each has three Working Groups, as shown:

Innovative Scholarly Communication (Chair: Wilhelm Widmark)

- Copyright & Legal Matters
- Innovative Metrics
- Open Access

Digital Skills and Services (Chair: Martin Hallik)

- Digital Humanities & Digital Cultural Heritage
- Digital Skills for Library Staff & Researchers
- Leadership Programmes

Research Infrastructure (Chair: Wolfram Horstmann)

- Architecture
- Linked Open Data
- Research Data Management

LIBER remained actively involved in the EU copyright reform process via its Copyright Working Group. The Open Access Working Group also produced a Statement on 'Open Access: Five Principles for Negotiations with Publishers'. LIBER continued to be represented on the Open Science Policy Platform (OSPP) by Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen (President) and on the Board of Europeana by Jeannette Frey (Vice-President). LIBER is represented on the Research Data Alliance by Dr Simone Sacchi, Head of International Projects. It is represented on IARLA, the International Alliance of Research Library Associations, by the President and Executive Director. The new LIBER website was launched in November 2017. The Conference Programme Committee, led by Vice-President Jeannette Frey as Chair, prepared the 47th LIBER Annual Conference for 2018 in Lille, France.

Staffing

Astrid Verheusen was appointed as Executive Director in August 2017, after serving as interim Executive Director since March 2017. Suzanne Reid, Office Manager, left in December 2017. The replacement post was advertised as Executive Assistant, and was filled by Athina Papadopoulou, in February 2018. Martine Oudenhoven, Community Engagement Officer resigned in May 2018 because of a new job. Gwen Franck, In-House Consultant/Open Access Project Officer, concluded her contract (80 hours per month) in June 2018.

The LIBER Office in May 2018 comprises: Astrid Verheusen, Executive Director; Athina Papadopoulou, Executive Assistant; Friedel Grant, Communications Officer; Simone Sacchi, Head of International Projects; Gwen Franck, Open Access Projects Officer; Vasso Kalaitzi, Communications & Finance Project Officer; Helena Lovegrove, Advocacy Adviser; Margo de Groot-Coenen, Conference Organiser; Valentino Cavalli, Open Science Officer.

LIBER Participation (ie Membership)

The current number of LIBER Participants at May 2018 stands at a total of 440 Participants (Institution: 405; Organisation: 16; Associate: 12; and Individual: 7).

Sponsorship

The Board continues to appreciate the invaluable support of LIBER's Gold and Silver Sponsors in 2017-2018. The *Gold Sponsors* in 2017-2018 are: EBSCO and Ex Libris; and the *Silver Sponsors* are: Digital Science, Open Edition and Retronews. The Board very much appreciates the continuing support of OCLC in sponsoring the LIBER Award for Library Innovation in 2018. The contribution of all Sponsors in advancing LIBER's work is greatly appreciated.

LIBER Annual Conference Fund 2018

There were 10 eligible applications to the Fund in 2018, and 10 grants were made. The successful awardees in 2018 are:

Zhanet Tsanova	New Bulgarian University Library
Nicoleta-Roxana Dinu	National Library of Romania
Oya Arus	Sabancı University Information Center
Vasilije Milnovic	Belgrade University, University library "Svetozar Markovic"
Ljiljana Jertec	University of Zagreb, University Computing Centre (SRCE)
İrem Ünal	Koç University - Suna Kıraç Library
Ebru Çinar	Koç University - Suna Kıraç Library
Angeliki Giannopoulou	University of Patras - Library & Information Centre
Despoina Gkogkou	University of Patras - Library & Information Centre
Georgia Giannopoulou	University of Patras - Library & Information Centre

LIBER Annual Conferences

The 2018 47th LIBER Annual Conference will be held in LILLIAD, Lille University, France, on the theme 'Research Libraries as an Open Science Hub: from Strategy to Action'. The dates of the 2018 Annual Conference will be Wednesday 4 to Friday 6 July 2018, with the Pre-Conference on Wednesday 4 July, and the Excursion on Saturday 7 July.

The 2019 48th LIBER Annual Conference will be held in Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland. The dates of the 2019 Annual Conference will be Wednesday 26 to Friday 28 June 2019, with the Pre-Conference on Wednesday 26 June, and the Excursion on Saturday 6 July. An invitation to LIBER Participants will be given at the Meeting of Participants on Thursday 5 July 2018 by Ms Helen Shenton, Librarian & College Archivist.

John MacColl
Secretary-General

May 2018