



Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche
Association of European Research Libraries

REPORT OF THE LIBER EXECUTIVE BOARD 2014-2015

I am pleased to give the Report of the LIBER Executive Board for the period June 2014 to June 2015.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

The Executive Board met on three occasions during the year: at the end of the 2014 Conference in Riga, Latvia; in Bibliothèque Cantonale et Universitaire (BCU), Lausanne, Switzerland, in October 2014; in the National Library of Finland, in February 2015; and the Board will have its fourth meeting of the year in June 2015 in Senate House Library, UK, at the beginning of Annual Conference week. The Finance Committee holds meetings in advance of all October, February and June Executive Committee meetings.

EXECUTIVE BOARD CHANGES

At the Meeting of Participants in Riga on 1 July 2014, a number of new appointments were made. Ms Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen, National Library of Finland, was appointed President of LIBER, following the completion of Dr Paul Ayris's term as President, becoming LIBER's first woman President. Ms Jeannette Frey, Bibliothèque Cantonale et Universitaire (BCU) was appointed Vice-President of LIBER. Three new members were appointed to the Executive Board: Mr Martin Hallik, University of Tartu, Estonia; Dr Wolfram Horstmann, Göttingen State and University Library, Germany; and Mr Martin Svoboda, National Technical Library, Czech Republic. A number of reappointments were also made by the Meeting of Participants: Dr Matthijs Van Otegem, Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands (LIBER Treasurer); Mr Wilhelm Widmark, Stockholm University Library, Sweden (Chair of the Steering Committee on Advocacy and Communications); and Mr Julien Roche, Lille 1 University Library, France.

At the Executive Board meeting following the Meeting of Participants, the Executive Board appointed Dr Wolfram Horstmann, Göttingen State and University Library, as Chair of the Steering Committee on Scholarly Communication and Research Infrastructures; and Mr Julien Roche, Lille 1 University Library as Chair of the Steering Committee on Reshaping the Research Library.

At the same meeting, the Executive Board also appointed Dr Paul Ayris, UCL, UK, to be Adviser to the Board on EU and Horizon2020 matters for the period 2014-2016, as outlined in the relevant paper in the May 2014 mailing to LIBER Libraries.

EXECUTIVE BOARD PRIORITIES

During the year 2014-2015, the Executive Board's priorities (which will be covered in more detail in reports presented at the Meeting of Participants in London in June 2015) have been concerned with the progress of the LIBER Strategy 2013-2015, and overseeing the work of the three Steering Committees (Scholarly Communication and Research Infrastructures; Reshaping the Research Library; and Advocacy and Communications), and their Working Groups; developing LIBER's range of EU projects on behalf of LIBER Libraries; advancing particular areas of professional activity, e.g. copyright and text and data mining, in the interests of research libraries; organising the Annual Conference; and maintaining an effective Office for LIBER Libraries in The Hague. The Digital Cultural Heritage Forum and the Architecture Forum are both very active and their reports will be presented at the Meeting

of Participants, as will that on the progress of *LIBER Quarterly*. The Conference Programme Committee, led by LIBER Vice-President, Jeannette Frey, as Chair, prepared the 44th LIBER Annual Conference, which will take place in Senate House Library, London, in June 2015.

STAFFING

There have been a number of changes in staffing during the year 2014-2015. In July 2014, Dr Izaskun Lacunza, Executive Director, tendered her resignation in order to take up a position in Madrid, and formally stepped down from LIBER on 30 September 2014. Dr Lacunza made a very substantial contribution to LIBER during her time as Executive Director, and we wish her well in her future career. Ms Susan Reilly took up the post of Interim Executive Director on 1 October 2014. An open competition for Executive Director in autumn 2014 attracted a very good response of high-quality candidates from Europe and North America, and a shortlist of five candidates was interviewed in The Hague on 20 November 2014 by a panel comprising the LIBER President, Vice-President, Secretary-General and Treasurer, with Drs Dick Langbroek, then Head of HR in the National Library of The Netherlands, acting as observer. Ms Susan Reilly was appointed to the post of Executive Director and took up her position on 1 December 2014. Further appointments took place during the year: Mr Pablo de Castro was appointed Open Access Project Officer from 2 February 2015 for a period of two years to manage the Gold Open Access Pilot within OpenAire2020. Ms Melanie Imming was appointed to the post of EU Projects Manager from 30 March 2015. In line with the decision of the Finance Committee and the Executive Board to appoint an Office Manager, Ms Suzanne Castro Reid was appointed from 4 May 2015.

Ms Marieke Willems, Communications Officer EU Projects, stepped down from LIBER in December 2014 on maternity leave and at the expiry of her contract in April 2015. Ms Willems worked with LIBER for a period of three years and we wish her well. Ms Friedel Grant, Communications Officer, went on maternity leave in May 2015 and will return in September 2015. Ms Yvonne Stigter, Assistant to the Director, will retire at the end of June 2015, after four years in the LIBER Office. We are very grateful for her work for LIBER during this time and wish her a happy retirement.

The LIBER Office presently comprises: Ms Susan Reilly, Executive Director; Ms Friedel Grant (75% EU Projects; 25% LIBER Office); Ms Melanie Imming, EU Projects Manager (80% FTE; 90% EU Projects; 10% LIBER Office); Mr Pablo de Castro, Open Access Project Officer, Dr Dan North, EU Projects Officer (3.5 days a week); Ms Suzanne Reid, Office Manager (80% FTE; 60% FTE LIBER; 20% EU Projects); Ms Hege van Dijke, Comms & Events Officer, and Ms Yvonne Stigter, Assistant to the Director (2 days a week).

The Appointments Committee (President, Vice-President, Secretary-General and Treasurer, with the Executive Director in attendance) met in Lausanne in October 2014. This Committee meets regularly at the October Executive Board meeting and on other occasions if required.

LIBER PARTICIPATION (I.E. MEMBERSHIP)

The Executive Board gives the highest priority to maintaining and expanding library participation in LIBER. The current number of LIBER Libraries at May 2015 stands at a total of 404 Participants (Institution: 373; Organisation: 17; Associate: 8; and Individual: 6).

LIBER COMMUNICATIONS

To improve access for LIBER Libraries to the Executive Board's discussions and to the August, November, March and May LIBER mailings, LIBER Mailings were made available on the LIBER website with effect from November 2014; and the Minutes of Executive Board meetings were made available with effect from July 2014. A summary note of each Executive Board meeting is also made available on the LIBER website as soon as possible after each meeting. Both Minutes and Mailings are also archived on the Board and LIBER Libraries Intranets on the LIBER website.

SPONSORSHIP

The Board is extremely grateful for the invaluable support of LIBER's Gold and Silver Sponsors, which has continued during the year 2014-2015. The *Gold Sponsors* in 2014-2015 are: Ex Libris, beslist.nl and Springer; and the *Silver Sponsors* are: ProQuest, Ebsco and Tind Technologies. Their contribution in assisting the work of LIBER is greatly valued.

The Board also very much welcomes the support of OCLC in sponsoring the LIBER Award for Library Innovation in 2015. OCLC has been of very active assistance with LIBER's work for a long number of years, notably through the Fund for CEE Libraries and in many other ways, and this new support is very much appreciated.

LIBER ANNUAL CONFERENCE FUND 2015

There were sixteen applications to the Fund in 2015, and nine grants were made. Of the total applications, fifteen were accompanied by paper or poster submissions, from which eight grants were made; and two were received without submissions, from which one grant was made. The successful awardees in 2015 are:

Giannis Tsakonas, University of Patras, Greece

Alenka Kavcic, National and University Library, Slovenia

Lenka Nemeckova, Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic

Kristina Pai, University of Tartu Library, Estonia

Javier Clavero, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya - Barcelona Tech, Spain

Gyöngyi Karácsony, University of Debrecen, Hungary

Adriana-Elena Boruna, National Library of Romania, Romania

Milan Ojstersek, University of Maribor, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Slovenia

Besa Hysa, Luarasi University Library, Albania

LIBER ANNUAL CONFERENCES

The 44th LIBER Annual Conference is being held in Senate House Library, London, UK, hosted by Senate House Library, Imperial College Library, LSE Library and UCL Library Services. The Conference theme is 'Towards Open Science' and the Conference dates are 24 to 26 June 2015, with the Pre-Conference on 22 and 23 June and the Conference Excursion on 27 June. The 45th Annual Conference will be held in Helsinki from 29 June to 1 July 2016, hosted by the National Library of Finland and associated partners. An invitation to LIBER delegates will be issued at the Meeting of Participants on Thursday 24 2015.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE NETHERLANDS

Drs Bas Savenije stepped down as Director-General of the National Library at the end of 2014. The Board would like to express its appreciation for all the support that LIBER received both from Dr Savenije personally, and from the Library, over the years from 2009 when LIBER moved to The Hague. Once again, the Executive Board warmly thanks the Library, and its Acting Director-General, Dr Lily Knibbler, for continuing support and assistance to LIBER in many ways.

Ann Matheson
Secretary-General
May 2015

[The Report of the LIBER Executive Board for the period June 2014 to June 2015 was approved by LIBER Participants at the Meeting of Participants held in Senate House Library, London, UK, on Thursday 25 June 2015.]