



Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche
Association of European Research Libraries

LIBER STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS, 2013-2017: REPORT ON LIBER PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

As announced in the November 2014 LIBER Mailing to LIBER Participants (i.e. members), it is proposed to extend the current LIBER Strategy period from 2013-2015 to 2013-2017. In order to provide a means for LIBER Participants to assess how the implementation of the LIBER Strategy is supporting LIBER institutions, four high-level Strategic Directions for European research libraries will be incorporated into the Strategy.

The four Strategic Directions are:

Developing Leadership in Changing Times
Supporting the Case for Research Libraries
Enabling Innovative Research and Open Science
Fostering New Models for Libraries

These Strategic Directions will be finalised by the Executive Board over coming months. Recently, LIBER Participants have been invited to provide feedback through the following:

1. Online Open Discussion Platform, June 2015

The Strategic Directions were published online on an open discussion platform, discuto.io, one week before the LIBER Annual Conference in June 2015. LIBER Participants were able to vote and comment directly on each of the Strategic Directions.

2. 'Strategy Pub' session at the LIBER Annual Conference, June 2015

The 'Strategy Pub' session at the LIBER Annual Conference took place after the close of the first Conference day on Wednesday 24 June 2015. At this informal one hour session those attending were invited to discuss the four Strategic Directions and propose potential key initiatives or areas of activity to support each of the Directions.

Strategic Directions Feedback

The feedback received via the online platform and during the Strategy Pub discussion is summarised below, under the following headings;

1. **Is this strategic direction relevant to your institution? How is it relevant? How could it be made more relevant?**
2. **What is LIBER currently doing to help you move in this direction?**
3. **What could LIBER do in the future to help you move in this direction?**

1. Developing Leadership in Changing Times

1.1. *Is this strategic direction relevant to your institution? How is it relevant? How could it be made more relevant?*

This is the Strategic Direction in which there was most agreement regarding relevance and the need for support from LIBER. In particular those who responded supported the need for the development of leadership skills to work with other departments across their institutions.

1.2. *What is LIBER currently doing to help you move in this direction?*

Participants were very happy with the LIBER leadership development programme and the Journées for Library Directors but felt that more could be done to build on the networks created by these programmes.

1.3. What could LIBER do in the future to help you move in this direction?

Suggestions were:

LIBER could set up leadership courses for leaders of research libraries (a café, conference, workshops on different topics, etc.)

LIBER should set up an Alumni Network of library leaders that would keep former leadership programme participants in touch with current leaders. Current leaders can learn a lot from former leaders. Participants also pointed out that leaders would like to discover trends and be innovative. In order to do this, they need a better connection with leaders in other professional environments.

2. Supporting the Case for Research Libraries

2.1. Is this strategic direction relevant to your institution? How is it relevant? How could it be made more relevant?

This Direction was also recognised as being extremely important for LIBER participants. In fact, participants requested that the term ‘supporting’ be changed to something more active. LIBER should be helping libraries to drive the agenda for the future of research and education. Rather than advocating for the ‘existence of libraries’, LIBER should advocate for the activities that research libraries are engaged in to support excellence in research.

2.2. What is LIBER currently doing to help you move in this direction?

Participants noted that LIBER was strong on external advocacy on issues related to research but more work could be done to support individual institutions to advocate on their own behalf, e.g. for their collections (both physical and digital).

2.3. What could LIBER do in the future to help you move in this direction?

LIBER should advocate more strongly for the importance of research collections, specifically for the humanities and cultural studies.

Participants would like to see a stronger interaction between LIBER and research communities, in the form of joint workshops, comparison actions, working together to keep the topic on the (political) agenda, etc.

LIBER could advocate more for access to knowledge (e.g. through its work in Open Science)

3. Enabling Innovative Research and Open Science

3.1. Is this strategic direction relevant to your institution? How is it relevant? How could it be made more relevant?

Participants were in unanimous agreement about the importance of Open Science and the role LIBER has to play both in making the case for Open Science and in supporting LIBER Libraries in developing skills and services in this area. Open Science is an area where libraries can add value. Suggestions on areas to focus on were: including Open Science in the curriculum, developing new metrics, linking Open Science to open education, raising awareness. LIBER could also work towards developing a common definition of Open Science.

3.2. What is LIBER currently doing to help LIBER institutions move in this direction?

Participants listed a range of activities from conference themes, topical workshops, facilitation of exchange of ideas, advocating for Open Science to the EU, and involvement and facilitating participation in relevant EU projects

3.3. What could LIBER do in the future?

Participants would like LIBER to organise workshops throughout the year on Open Science in order to educate librarians and to have them exchange ideas (in co-operation with (young)

researchers (researcher-librarian duo). LIBER should provide speakers with interesting ideas, provide the materials, and make the connection with funding bodies.

Potential areas for action included:

- Working with researchers to develop workshops and training
- Finding ways to ensure that Open Science plays a role in the student curriculum
- Targeting and work with young researchers to promote open science
- Working with other networks to champion the cause
- Organising regional workshops (e.g. Belgrade)

4. Fostering New Models for Libraries

4.1. *Is this strategic direction relevant to your institution? How is it relevant? How could it be made more relevant?*

The current Strategic Direction is useful, but the participants found the paragraph on 'Fostering New Models for Libraries' a bit too broad, since it barely mentions a specific direction. Do we mean that we have to go with or move beyond the researcher's pace? LIBER should help its members to be flexible, understand what users need and want, and be creative in our solutions. Participants thought the main future challenges for research libraries would be: Open Access, Research Data Management, and Copyright. The Strategic Direction should mention these challenges and explain what LIBER will do for research libraries to help them in taking on these challenges.

4.2. *What is LIBER currently doing to help LIBER institutions move in this direction?*

LIBER is working on EU projects to develop new information infrastructures, e.g. for TDM.

4.3. *What could LIBER do in the future?*

LIBER could offer more educational resources (workshops, conference, webinar, platform to exchange ideas, blog on implementing new models and skills). A new model for research libraries means that the librarians also need to be taught about how to deal with this and to understand their new role. LIBER Libraries should be encouraged to share their successes and failures.

LIBER could also advocate for a change in the curriculum for information science studies, so that librarians and data managers learn new data management skills as part of their professional education.

LIBER should support its Libraries in exploring how to serve wider community needs and to engage creatively researchers and the public.

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