



Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche  
Association of European Research Libraries

## **ANNUAL REPORT (2016 - 2017)**

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**CHAIR: Steering Committee Advocacy and Communications**

Under the steering Committee we have two working groups on copy right and open access. The annual report contains the activities from these groups.

## **LIBER Working Group on Copyright**

### **Current and past activities 2017**

LIBER's Working Group on Copyright was formed in 2014 with a working program focusing on the European Union copyright reform with a special focus on the Digital Single Market copyright reform agenda.

The Working Group has, in accordance with LIBER:s overall Advocacy Strategy, identified the following focus areas for advocacy:

- \* A union-wide copyright for Text and Data Mining
- \* A strong and harmonized copyright exception for Libraries, Science and Research
- \* Cross-border access to academic works.

In September 2016 the European Union presented a proposal for a new Digital Single Market copyright directive containing copyright exceptions for TDM, Illustration for teaching, Preservation and a licensing mechanism, similar to Scandinavian Extended Collective Licenses, for the digitisation of Out-of-commerce works.

Throughout the fall of 2016 LIBER's Copyright Working Group has in close cooperation with it's sister organisations IFLA, EBLIDA and CENL and their corresponding legal working groups as well as research organisations such as LERU, ERA and Science Europe in drafting amendments to the Commission proposals to submit to MEP's in order to safeguard a library friendly agenda when the proposals are to be processed in parliament. The European Commission expect a final version of the directive to be agreed by the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers in autumn 2017.

Throughout the spring of 2017 LIBER Copyright Working Group has been targeting members of the European Parliament (MEP's) of the JURI (Legal), ITRE (Industry) and CULT (Education and Culture) committees with the amendment proposals.

On May 17<sup>th</sup> LIBER Copyright Working Group co-organised a lunch for EU Council permanent representatives to discuss the copyright reform process.

The Copyright Working Group intends to do a set of meetings with selected MEP's from the relevant committees in mid-June 2017.



The Chair of the Copyright Working Group will represent LIBER at the FutureTDM symposium at the International Data Science Conference in Salzburg June 12-13<sup>th</sup>.

The Working Group will also co-organise a workshop on open research data and data protection at the LIBER Annual Conference in Patras in July 2017.

In accordance with the new LIBER strategies, the Copyright Working Group will have fulfilled its mission at the end of the EU copyright reform process. Members of the group intend to put forward a proposal for the formation of a new Legal Working Group widening the scope to include legal issues such as Data protection, given that the new EU Data protection regulation comes into force in spring 2018 and will have a significant impact for libraries. This will be the focus of the Copyright Working Group meeting during the LIBER 2017 Conference in Patras.

## **LIBER Working Group on Open Access**

### **Current and past activities 2017**

The aim of the [LIBER Working Group on Open Access](#) has been related to the strategic goal “Shape Innovative Research”. The working group was formed based on an open call for participants in May 2016, and had its first constituting meeting on June 28<sup>th</sup> 2016, during the 2016 LIBER Annual Conference in Helsinki, Finland.

Currently, the working group has 25 members from 17 countries in Europe. 4 new members have been added in 2017. The group has been led by Matthijs van Otegem from Erasmus University Library and Lluís Anglada from the Catalan Academic Library Consortium. The group has also had a secretary, Sofie Wennström from Stockholm University Library, and a facilitator/communications officer from the LIBER office, Vasso Kalaitzi (since March 2017).

The working group has been divided into three smaller groups, to facilitate collaboration and dividing of tasks. The three subgroups have been divided according to the three themes formed in January 2016 by Matthijs & Lluís:

1. Licensing & Negotiations About OA
2. Reap the Rewards of the Repositories
3. Promote OA Policies

The members have been working asynchronously with different tasks related to these themes.

### ***The current activities***

#### **A. Statement document about negotiating offsetting deals**

The document lists six focus areas for organisations about to negotiate offsetting deals with publishers, with the aim to reach a higher level of Open Access to publications without having to pay double-dipping fees.

#### **B. LIBER17 Conference workshop about Bridging the gap of policy and practice of Open Access and Open Data in order to make Open the default, in collaboration with SPARC Europe**

The [workshop](#) aims at collecting best practices and provide take-away messages for delegates in order to make Open the default in their country. The workshop will focus on four questions:

1. How can institutions engage more with researchers to enable more OA/OD sharing?
2. How can we simplify the process of publishing OA/OD for researchers and/or administrators?
3. How can institutions reward researchers for contributing more to OA/OD?
4. How can institutions take more of a lead in the dissemination of their own research information?

### **C. Representative in the Steering Committee for Think, Check, Submit**

Sofie Wennström has been representing LIBER in the steering committee for the international campaign about publishing in trustworthy journals called [Think, Check, Submit](#). This initiative is formed through a collaboration between ALPSP, STM, DOAJ, INASP, UKSG, ISSN, OASPA, Springer Nature and most recently also SPARC. The campaign can be used to promote critical thinking for researchers about to choose a journal to publish their research and to avoid predatory publishers or journals. It is not necessarily aimed for Open Access publications, but rather to inform authors from the Global South without access to the most expensive journal content.

## ***Documentation***

- The meeting notes, member list and other working documents formed by the WGO OA can be found in a collaborative folder in the file sharing service Box, provided by Stockholm University. Members of the group have access to download, upload and edit documents on this server.
- The documentation of the work with TCS can be found in a separate folder on the Box service provided by Stockholm University.

## ***Meetings***

During this year in the life of the group there has been three meetings where all members were invited (Jun 28 & Oct 13, 2016 and Mar 28, 2017). The first meeting took place at the conference venue in Helsinki, the other two meetings has been online. The coordinators of the group, Matthijs, Lluís and Sofie has held five meetings to organise the group work (Sep 28 & Oct 20, 2016 and Jan 25, Mar 2 & Apr 21, 2017). The two last meetings also included Vasso.

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