



Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche
Association of European Research Libraries

REPORT OF THE LIBER EXECUTIVE BOARD 2016-2017

I am pleased to give the Report of the LIBER Executive Board for the period June 2016 to June 2017.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

The Executive Board has four meetings annually. In 2016-2017, the Executive Board met at the end of the 2016 Annual Conference in Helsinki, Finland; in Stockholm University Library, Sweden, in October 2016; in Lilliad, University of Lille 1, in February 2017; and the Board will have its fourth meeting of the year in July 2017 in the University of Patras, Greece, at the start of 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 all Executive Board meetings. This year the Executive Board continued the practice (commenced in 2014) of having a 'Discussion Slot' prior to Executive Board meetings at which topics of strategic relevance to LIBER (e.g. copyright, citizen science) are discussed by the Board.

EXECUTIVE BOARD CHANGES

At the Meeting of Participants in Helsinki on 30 June 2016, the following appointments and re-appointments were made. Under appointments, Drs Anja Smit, Utrecht University Library, The Netherlands, was appointed LIBER Treasurer; and Dr Matthijs van Otegem, Rotterdam University Library, The Netherlands, and Dr Giannis Tsakonas, University of Patras, Greece, were appointed to the two Board vacancies by a closed ballot, supervised by three Tellers (Dr Sylvia Van Peteghem; Mr François Cavalier; and Ms Emilija Banionyte) held on the morning of Thursday 29 June 2016.

The following reappointments were made: Ms Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen as President of LIBER; Ms Jeannette Frey as Vice-President of LIBER; and Board members Dr Wolfram Horstmann, Göttingen State and University Library, Germany; Mr Wilhelm Widmark, Stockholm University Library, Sweden; Dr Martin Hallik, University of Tartu, Estonia; and Mr Martin Svoboda, National Technical Library, Czech Republic.

On behalf of LIBER, the President conferred LIBER Honorary Status on Mr Hans Geleijnse, formerly of Tilburg University Library and the European University Institute Library, Florence, Vice-President of LIBER 2003-2006, and President of LIBER 2007-2010.

EXECUTIVE BOARD PRIORITIES

During the year 2016-2017, the Executive Board's main priorities (which will be covered in more detail in reports presented at the 2017 Meeting of Participants in Patras) have been the preparation of the next LIBER Strategy 2018-2022, which LIBER Participants will be invited to approve at the Meeting of Participants in July 2017; advancing EU projects to assist LIBER Libraries; 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. A new Group (Digital Humanities

Working Group), attached to the Reshaping the Research Library Steering Committee, will be launched at the Annual Conference in July 2017; continuing advocacy on topics of relevance to LIBER Libraries, e.g. copyright reform, text and data mining; organising the Annual Conference in line with the wishes of LIBER Libraries; the recruitment of a new LIBER Executive Director; and maintaining an effective Office for LIBER Libraries in The Hague. In addition, the Digital Cultural Heritage Forum and Architecture Forum have advanced their programmes during the year; and a report on *LIBER Quarterly* has been sent to LIBER Participants in the May 2017 LIBER Mailing. The Conference Programme Committee, led by LIBER Vice-President, Jeannette Frey, as Chair, prepared the 46th LIBER Annual Conference for 2017 in Patras, Greece.

STAFFING

There have been a number of staffing changes in 2016-2017. Ms Bueno de la Fuente, EU Projects Officer, left LIBER on 1 October 2016, Ms Hege van Dijke, Communications & Events Officer, left on 7 November 2016, Mr Pablo de Castro left on the expiry of his two-year contract in January 2017, Ms Helen Frew, Advocacy Officer, left on 1 May 2017, and Ms Melanie Imming, Projects Manager, left on 20 April 2017.

A number of staff joined LIBER during the year: Ms Martine Oudenhoven, Community Engagement Officer, took up a one-year contract post on 1 November 2016. Ms Gwen Franck joined LIBER as Open Access Projects Officer on 10 January 2017, Ms Vasso Kalaitzi, EU Projects Communication Officer, took up her post on 1 February 2017, Dr Simone Sacchi, Open Science Officer, began work for LIBER on 6 February 2017, and Ms Helena Lovegrove took up her post as Advocacy Adviser on 17 April 2017.

Ms Susan Reilly, Executive Director, left LIBER in March 2017 to take up a post in the National Library in Qatar. The LIBER Executive Board thanks her warmly for her work for LIBER, and wishes her every future success. Ms Astrid Verheusen, National Library of the Netherlands, was appointed Interim Executive Director on 15 March 2017. Dr Simone Sacchi was appointed Interim EU Projects Manager in March 2017. The recruitment of a new Executive Director was put in train immediately in March 2017, and interviews for the post will take place on 1 June 2017 in the National Library of the Netherlands, with an announcement following as quickly as possible thereafter.

The LIBER Office in May 2017 comprises: Ms Astrid Verheusen, Interim Executive Director; Ms Suzanne Castro Reid, Office Manager; Ms Friedel Grant, Communications Officer; Ms Martine Oudenhoven, Community Engagement Officer; Dr Simone Sacchi, Interim EU Projects Manager; Ms Gwen Franck, Open Access Projects Officer; Ms Vasso Kalaitzi, EU Projects Communications Officer; and Ms Helena Lovegrove (Advocacy Officer).

The Appointments Committee (President, Vice-President, Secretary-General and Treasurer, with the Executive Director in attendance) has met regularly during the year (October 2016, February 2017 (and will meet in July 2017)) to oversee staffing matters, the recruitment of interim staff and a new Executive Director.

LIBER PARTICIPATION (I.E. MEMBERSHIP)

The current number of LIBER Participants at May 2017 stands at a total of 428 Participants (Institution: 393; Organisation: 16; Associate: 13; and Individual: 6).

SPONSORSHIP

The Board continues to appreciate the invaluable support of LIBER's Gold and Silver Sponsors in 2016-2017. The *Gold Sponsors* in 2016-2017 are: Ex Libris, beslist.nl and EBSCO; and the *Silver Sponsors* are: OpenEdition and Digital Science. The Board very much appreciates the continuing support of OCLC 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 is greatly appreciated.

LIBER ANNUAL CONFERENCE FUND 2017

There were thirteen applications to the Fund in 2017, and thirteen grants were made. The successful awardees in 2017 are:

Ioannis Clapsopoulos, University of Thessaly Library, Greece
Nicoleta-Roxana Dinu, National Library of Romania, Romania
Eleftheria Koseoglou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki Library, Greece
Burcu Muratoğlu, Koç University Suna Kiraç Library, Turkey
Maria Ntaountaki, Technical University of Crete, Crete
Renata Petrušić, National and University Library in Zagreb, Croatia
Vanya Ruseva, New Bulgarian University, Bulgaria
Adam Sofronijević, 'Svetozar Markovic' University Library, Serbia
Mine Akkurt, Sabancı University, Turkey
Milnovic Vasilije, Belgrade University Library, Serbia
Kamil Yesiltas, Koç University, Turkey
Sofia Zapounidou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
Panagiotis Themistocleous, Open University of Cyprus, Cyprus

LIBER ANNUAL CONFERENCES

The 2017 46th LIBER Annual Conference is being held in the Conference and Cultural Centre, University of Patras, Greece, hosted by the Library and Information Centre, University of Patras, on the theme 'Libraries Powering Sustainable Knowledge in the Digital Age'. The Conference dates are 5 to 7 July 2017, with the Pre-Conference on 3 and 4 July, and the Conference Excursion on 8 July. The 2018 47th LIBER Annual Conference will be held in Lilliaad, Lille University, France, and will be hosted by the Library of the University of Lille. The dates of the 2018 Annual Conference will be Wednesday 4 to Friday 6 July 2018, with the Pre-Conference on Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 July, and the Excursion on Saturday 7 July. An invitation to LIBER Participants will be given at the Meeting of Participants on Thursday 6 July 2017 by Mr Julien Roche, Director of Lille University 1 Library.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE NETHERLANDS

The Executive Board again warmly thanks the National Library of the Netherlands, and its Director-General, Dr Lily Knibbeler, for continuing support and assistance to LIBER in numerous ways during the year.

Ann Matheson
Secretary-General

May 2017