



## LIBER ANNUAL MEETING OF PARTICIPANTS, ONLINE, JUNE 2020

### Minutes of the LIBER Annual Meeting of Participants held online on Thursday 25 June 2020

**Monday 15 June 2020**

#### Opening

##### 1. Formal opening of the Meeting of Participants

Due to the exceptional restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Secretary-General Mr John MacColl opened the online Meeting of Participants on Monday 15 June 2020 and invited Participants to exercise their voting rights by accessing the LIBER 2020 Online Ballot from Monday 15 June 2020 until Wednesday 24 June 2020.

##### 2. Opening of Online Voting

Announcement of Candidates for Appointment to the LIBER Executive Board:

Mr MacColl announced the nominations received by the closing date for nominations (13 June 2020). Appointments would be announced at the Meeting of Participants on Thursday 25 June 2020.

Candidate: Ms Catriona Cannon, Deputy Librarian, Bodleian Libraries of the University of Oxford.

Proposer: Dr Wolfram Horstmann, Director of Göttingen State and University Library.

Candidate: Ms Cécile Swiatek, ADBU Secretary General, France.

Proposer: Ms Jeannette Frey, Director of the Bibliothèque Cantonale et Universitaire (BCU) Lausanne.

Candidate: Dr Adam Sofronijevic, Deputy Director, University Library "Svetozar Markovic".

Proposer: Dr Paul Ayris, Pro-Vice Provost, UCL Library Services.

#### *Re-appointments*

In addition to the new openings outlined above, the following four Executive Board members would have completed terms of office by June 2020. They were eligible for re-appointment for a further term of two years and were willing to stand for re-appointment:

Ms Jeannette Frey, Bibliothèque Cantonale et Universitaire (BCU) Lausanne, Switzerland

Mr Julien Roche, University of Lille, France.

Dr Giannis Tsakonas, University of Patras, Greece.

Prof Dr Lars Burman, Uppsala University Library, Sweden.





**Thursday 25 June 2020**

## **Meeting of Participants**

### 3. Opening Remarks

Ms Jeannette Frey welcomed all Participants to the first virtual Meeting of Participants. In order to honour LIBER's statutory requirements, the 2020 Meeting of Participants was held virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### 4. Minutes of the Meeting of Participants held in Dublin on 27 June 2019

The minutes of the 2019 Meeting of Participants, held in Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland on Thursday on 27 June 2019 were approved.

#### 4.1 Matters arising

There were no matters arising which were not already covered by the Agenda.

## **INTERNAL BUSINESS PROCESSES & STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS (PAPERS PRE-CIRCULATED IN MAY 2020 MAILING)**

### 5. LIBER Annual Account 2019 and Auditor's Report

Drs Anja Smit, LIBER Treasurer, presented the Annual Account Report for 2019. Operating costs for LIBER were €526,000 and the total income was €534,000 thus resulting in a net profit of €8,000. She assured the Meeting that LIBER remains a healthy and strong organisation.

### 6. LIBER Annual Report 2020

Ms Jeannette Frey presented LIBER's Annual Report as circulated in the May 2020 Mailing. The report summarised all LIBER highlights for the year 2019-2020 together with important information on LIBER's governance and structure. She mentioned LIBER's next steps in light of the COVID-19 restrictions and their impact on research libraries. LIBER was also working on building the foundation of the next LIBER Strategy (2023 – 2027). She extended a warm welcome to the new LIBER Participants for 2020. Details were given of the Board's meetings and structure throughout the past year, and a current overview of the LIBER Office staff. She presented some key figures relating to LIBER Quarterly, LIBER's peer-reviewed, open access journal, and also warmly thanked LIBER's Sponsors for their continued support. The Gold Sponsors in 2019-2020 were EBSCO, Ex Libris and Emerald; the Silver Sponsors were Digital Science, Open Edition and Retronews. The Board very much appreciated the continuing support of OCLC in committing to sponsor the LIBER Award for Library Innovation in 2021.

The floor was then given to the Chairs of LIBER's Steering Committees to highlight the important activities carried out by LIBER's Working Groups in support of the LIBER Strategy. Dr Giannis Tsakonas, Chair of the Innovative Scholarly Communication Steering Committee, stressed the great work carried out by the Citizen Science Working Group via webinars and project involvement; by the Copyright & Legal Matters Working Group calling for urgent actions on copyright as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic; by the Metrics Working Group organising webinars on responsible metrics; and by the Open Access Working Group representing LIBER in Plan S consultations and on the SCOSS Board. Dr Bertil Dorch, Chair of the Digital Skills & Services Steering Committee, reported on the study of "Europe's Digital



Humanities Landscape” by the Digital Humanities & Cultural Heritage Working Group; on the work of the Digital Skills Working Group which recently published the report “Open Science training methods and practices across European Research Libraries”; and finally on the popularity of LIBER’s Leadership Programmes, with the fifth cohort of the Leadership Seminar and LIBER Journées, postponed due to COVID-19, now due to run in May 2021. Dr Birgit Schmidt, Chair of the Research Infrastructures Steering Committee, presented the recently launched Architecture website, demonstrating good examples of library buildings across Europe; the 10 Implementation Principles for Single Sign On (SSO) by the F1M4L Working Group; the survey on the current state of Linked Open Data among European Libraries by the Linked Open Data Working Group; and finally the report on FAIRness of Repositories and their Data by the Research Data Management Working Group.

Drs Astrid Verheusen highlighted the importance of LIBER’s involvement in projects mentioning the key community benefits such as training opportunities and resources; representation of the community; involvement of LIBER Participants in project proposals; and networking with over 60 project partners.

#### 7. LIBER Foundation: Appointments to the LIBER Executive Board

Mr John MacColl announced the results of the appointments to the LIBER Executive Board, which had been conducted exceptionally this year via an online ballot, in line with the Statutes and the Rules and Regulations of the LIBER Foundation (Stichting). The Call for Nominations had been pre-circulated in the November 2019, March 2020 and May 2020 LIBER Mailings, as required by the Rules and Regulations.

##### 7.1 New Appointments at the Meeting of Participants

The two successful candidates were Ms Cécile Swiatek and Dr Adam Sofronijevic.

##### 7.2 Reappointments at the Meeting of Participants

Mr MacColl also announced the approved reappointments; Ms Jeannette Frey, Mr Julien Roche, Dr Giannis Tsakonas and Prof Dr Lars Burman. He reported that the Executive Board had appointed Board member Dr Hilde van Wijngaarden as its new Treasurer in succession to Drs Anja Smit, and that Drs Smit had been appointed by the Executive Board as a Special Adviser on Financial Matters. Mr MacColl finally extended warm thanks to the retiring Executive Board Members, Mr Martin Svoboda and Kristiina Hormia Poutanen for their invaluable contributions to LIBER over many years

#### 8. Questions from the Floor

There were no questions from the floor.

#### 9. Invitation to the 2021 LIBER Annual Conference hosted by Belgrade University Library, Serbia

Ms Jeannette Frey invited Participants to join LIBER 2021 which will be hosted in Belgrade, Serbia. Ms Frey closed the Meeting of Participants.

John MacColl  
Secretary-General

August 2020



#### NOTE ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARTICIPANTS

Under the Statutes of the LIBER *Stichting*, the Meeting of Participants is the equivalent of an Annual General Meeting, at which LIBER Participants (i.e. Members) assemble to receive information about the operation of the LIBER organisation, including its Annual Report and Accounts, and have an opportunity to question the LIBER Executive Board and its Office-bearers, discuss policies and make suggestions to the Board. Appointments to the LIBER - Executive Board are also made at the Meeting of Participants. The papers for the Meeting of Participants are issued with the LIBER May Mailing. All Annual Conference delegates are welcome to attend the LIBER Annual Meeting of Participants. Voting rights are, however, reserved to LIBER Participants. A Dutch *Stichting* cannot have members or levy a membership fee, and so a Member= a Participant; a membership fee=an annual contribution fee; and the Annual General Meeting= Meeting of Participant.

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