**Memo for IARLA - “Recommendations “Federated Access to online resources: Principles & Recommendations for Library Services”**

**Introduction**

The [LIBER FIM4L Working Group](https://libereurope.eu/working-group/liber-fim4l-working-group/) aims to develop a library policy for federated authentication which is broadly supported by libraries and publishers. In 2020 they published the report *Principles & Recommendations for Library Services*. LIBER's Executive Board has supported these recommendations but the working group is looking for a much broader, global, support to have the recommendations implemented as widely as possible. Endorsement by IARLA could increase support for these recommendations.

**Core elements of the Recommendations**

In practical terms, the FIM4L recommendations revolve around principle 4a and b; the configuration of Single Sign On (SSO). The starting point is to support libraries when they want to set up federated SSO connections with a publisher/platforms.

The emphasis is then on a jointly supported policy regarding the (non-) exchange of personal data. This can easily happen with federated SSO, which is why the working group is also working on raising awareness of this.

On the one hand, there is a broadly supported reference (FIM4L recommendations, now supported by LIBER) and, on the other, the working groups creates awareness through promotion. The greater the support, the easier it will be for librarians to negotiate with publishers when federated SSO is chosen. Which will increasingly happen instead of IP-based authentication. At its deepest level, this supports the principle of academic freedom. Because this offers protection of privacy.

Formally, only LIBER offers us the support now, but the working group has a broad global intention of support among both librarians and publishers (especially Elsevier) as well as NRENS/national federations and GEANT. IARLA commitment would contribute especially to the support base.

A critical question might be: Why the focus on authentication when we want Open Access? And the answer could be that Open Access also offers facilities that require a login. For example, to have a profile on the website. A login will also be necessary on platforms that offer (paid) ebooks.

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