Dear Reader,

Welcome to LIBER’s 2020-2021 Annual Report!

A strong relationship between LIBER and our research libraries is more important than ever. Across our network, libraries are confronted with human, economic and logistical challenges due to Covid-19, and an uncertain future as we wait to better understand the long-term effects of this pandemic on our services, communities, and the economy.

LIBER was born out of the belief that research libraries across Europe would be stronger if they worked together. Our ability to collaborate will continue to be crucial in the coming years as we strive to address obstacles, to enable and to support libraries so that they can be beacons of information into the future, ensuring that knowledge will be available in the right formats to all who need it for the good of humanity.

As we enter the post-Covid-19 era, LIBER will continue to pay special attention to the evolving situation of Europe’s research libraries: how it has changed, which problems we as a community face, and the new needs we have. These are challenging, but also very interesting times. In fact, the LIBER Covid-19 survey held at the end of 2020 aimed to garner information on the topic of Covid-19 from our members and clearly illustrated their needs during this difficult time. With this valuable information at hand, we strive to fill in the gaps and continue our support of research libraries, helping them tackle current and upcoming challenges.

Despite our shared challenges, I want to assure you that we celebrate our achievements. As you will see in the coming pages, LIBER Working Groups, European Projects, Executive Board and Office have worked in various ways over the past year to produce resources, offer training, share expertise and elevate the profile of LIBER libraries.

We also made great progress this year in publishing LIBER’s #ZeroEmbargo campaign and Draft Law for the Use of Publicly Funded Scholarly Publications, which aims to ensure a zero embargo period for lawful self-archiving on open, public, non-for-profit repositories. This Draft Law and campaign has been well received by organisations, member libraries and individuals in our network.

Additionally, 2021 marks LIBER’s 50th year in existence and in turn, our 50th Annual Conference – milestones which we will celebrate at the Annual Conference held online in June together with our co-host – the University Library of Belgrade in Serbia. As such, I am pleased we can come together to celebrate, reflect, and plan for the future. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you.

Jeannette Frey
LIBER President
Executive Board Report

Each year we report on the main events and achievements over the past reporting period, starting from the date of the previous Meeting of Participants of LIBER. It is no exaggeration to say in this year’s report that the period we have just lived through has been one of the most momentous in modern world history, with the Covid-19 pandemic devastating the planet, effectively shutting down whole industries, human communities of all types and even entire countries. The statistics are grim, and the sadness is global. At the time of writing, over a million people have died of Covid-19 across Europe, and over three million across the world. These figures will undoubtedly rise much higher, with some countries not yet having reached peak infection rates. Before we even begin to consider what LIBER has achieved this year, we should acknowledge the terrible toll the pandemic has taken on the whole of humanity, and remember the lives lost, and the families and friends devastated by grief.

The LIBER world suffered this impact right across the 40 countries in Europe in which LIBER Participants are found. The users of research libraries – university students, academic staff, and researchers making use of national and reference libraries across the continent – found their studies and research grinding to a halt, then moving partially – and often innovatively – into digital-only mode. They then experienced them starting up again in tentative physical form in the slow and painstaking forms imposed by social distancing, sanitisation and quarantine, before being locked down or severely reduced again at different times and for different periods across the year, as spikes in infection rates caused governments to reverse reopening measures. As we reach the end of the current reporting period, in spring 2021, vaccination programmes across Europe are finally beginning to have a positive effect – at different rates in different countries – in slowing transmission rates and reducing the heavy burdens endured by health and medical services, and we have reason to believe that the pandemic is in retreat across Europe. Our greatest hope is for a return to some form of normal life in the year ahead, in our universities and colleges and their libraries, and in our great European research and reference libraries. As we approach the second online Annual Conference, with our sympathies extended to both the Cantonal and University Library of Lausanne, and the University of Bergen, who unfortunately lost their opportunities to host our conferences in 2020 and 2021, we hope fervently that the wonderful LIBER community can meet physically once again at next year’s conference, which will be held in the Danish city of Odense, hosted by the University of Southern Denmark.

Online Alternatives

Despite the enormous impact of Covid-19 on LIBER’s work, we kept many of our activities going, and the LIBER Executive Board, members of the Working Groups, project partners, as well as the LIBER Office team based in The Hague, worked – mostly in online mode – to deliver services to our community, and to plan for the future.

Our first-ever fully online conference in June 2020 was a considerable success, well-attended and well-reviewed by Participants. Thanks are due in particular to the LIBER Office team who worked flat out at relatively short notice to ensure that it went ahead on schedule and with an excellent programme of quality speakers and events. Much was learned from the experience that will be of value as we consider the role of online delivery in our events in the post-Covid era.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the first of our new Mid-Term Events, which had been scheduled for December 2020 at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. It will be held in December 2021.

While several of our events have been run in alternative online-only format, the Board decided that this would not be appropriate for the LIBER Journées leadership Programme. These have been cancelled during the Covid pandemic, but planning is underway for the Programme to resume in-in-person format as of May 2022.

FINANCES

LIBER’s finances have inevitably been affected by the Covid pandemic. We have suffered substantial loss of income due to the delivery of our conference free and online in summer 2020, and by the inability to receive income from other events.

PROJECTS

We have continued to be successful in winning new project funding, mostly from the European Commission. Although there were some delays in the implementation of projects and events had to be brought online, most projects are now back on track and the acquisition of new projects continues. LIBER Participants are involved as much as possible in the new and ongoing projects.

Executing Board Meetings

The Executive Board met online in June and October 2020, and online in May 2021. While several of our events have been run in alternative online-only format, the Board decided that this would not be appropriate for the LIBER Journées leadership Programme. These have been cancelled during the Covid pandemic, but planning is underway for the Programme to resume in-in-person format as of May 2022.

FINANCES

LIBER’s finances have inevitably been affected by the Covid pandemic. We have suffered substantial loss of income due to the delivery of our conference free and online in summer 2020, and by the inability to receive income from other events.

PROJECTS

We have continued to be successful in winning new project funding, mostly from the European Commission. Although there were some delays in the implementation of projects and events had to be brought online, most projects are now back on track and the acquisition of new projects continues. LIBER Participants are involved as much as possible in the new and ongoing projects.

Working Groups

We set up two new Working Groups: Innovative Peer Review and Data Science in Libraries. A further new Working Group on Libraries for Teaching & Learning is in the process of being established. The Library Architecture Group launched a refreshed and attractive Library Architecture website. Having completed its very useful programme of work, the Innovative Metrics Working Group was disbanded upon publication of a final report.
Executive Director’s Report

Following the approval of the Proposal for a Sustainable LIBER at the 2019 Meeting of Participants, and considering the growth of the project portfolio, the Office began working on expanding its capacity in order to deliver the promised new services. As such, LIBER has had to cancel all in-person events and has measures taken by the Dutch government. As a team, the Office has been working from home for over a year from Back-Office Improvements

The Office has invested in IT. A new provider for laptops, printers and IT services has been selected following a tender process, since the National Library of the Netherlands (where LIBER is based) will no longer supply these services. The migration has taken place in September 2020 and email addresses have been changed to @libereurope.org.

Covid-19

The Office has been working from home for over a year from mid-March 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and in line with measures taken by the Dutch government. As a team, the Office and Board have adapted to this new situation. Measures have been taken to secure existing and new services, as well as to meet LIBER’s obligations as a Dutch foundation, as a participant in projects and as a partner to other organisations.

As such, LIBER has had to cancel all in-person events and has made provisions to take the majority of our events, including our Annual Conference, online. In doing so, we have seen a tremendous response from our network, including specifically a huge and unexpected number of sign-ups to our annual conference. This demonstrated to us the need for our continued efforts to bring together and support our network during times of crisis. Additionally, at the end of 2020, we sent out a survey on the topic of Covid-19 to our network. The results of which can be read here.

Despite Covid-19, we remain strongly focused on implementing the current 2018-2022 Strategy and creating our future 2023-2027 Strategy.

New Strategy 2023-2027

The development of the new LIBER Strategy has begun and we have recently hired a consultant to support us in this process. The LIBER Strategy is of great importance to our network and we want to involve LIBER’s Participants as far as we can in the process. At the upcoming Annual Conference Participants will have the opportunity to give their input on the themes to be addressed and the way forward.

Sponsors

Despite bringing all LIBER events online, which may reduce the visibility of sponsors, a majority of sponsors have confirmed their commitment to LIBER and will attend the Annual Conference in June 2021.

Office Staff in 2020 - 2021

· Astrid Verheusen, Executive Director
· Friedel Grant, Senior Communications Advisor (until September 2020)
· Vasso Kalaitzi, Head of International Projects
· Athina Papadopoulou, Events and Partnerships Coordinator
· Nienke van Schaverbeke, Partnership and Events Manager (until September 2020)
· Martina Torma, Community Engagement and Communications Officer (until December 2020)
· Tatsiana Yankelevich, Training Coordinator (since February 2020)
· Dr Iris Buunk, Community Engagement and Communications Officer (since June 2020)
· Roos Krijge, Executive Assistant (since October 2020)
· Elizabeth Bethlehem (née Joss), Communications Manager (since November 2020)
· Laura Steel Pascual, Intern (until June 2021)
· Rosie Allison, Intern (since May 2021)
· Oliver Blake (since June 2021)
January 2021. More details can be found input on their role in the EOSC. Five workshops were held in for research libraries, during which libraries would be asked for Knowledge Services to win EU funding for a series of workshops. Furthermore, LIBER successfully worked with Scientific research libraries in the EOSC.

Following on from LIBER’s earlier efforts to strengthen ties with the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC), LIBER applied for membership in the newly established EOSC Association. This application was approved in March 2021. With the membership in the newly established EOSC Association, this will enable us to work together on future directions des bibliothèques universitaires et de la documentation). This will enable us to work together on future projects within the library and research fields. Read the press release here. European Alliance for Research Excellence (EARE) In April 2021, we joined the European Alliance for Research Excellence (EARE) as a new member. EARE is a coalition of companies and research organisations, formed in 2017, that are committed to the future of innovation and R&D in Europe. We have already been partnering with EARE on initiatives to help reveal new knowledge, encourage research and innovation, and improve the public perception of research. The initiative aims to foster a new culture that values research and innovation. European leaders to reconsider their choices around the EU budget for 2021-27, and in particular, to do better for research, education, culture and digital inclusion. Read more here.

UNESCO UNESCO is leading a global dialogue on Open Science with a view to developing a standard-setting instrument in the form of a recommendation. This recommendation will be prepared through a regionally balanced, multi-stakeholder, consultation process and will be completed in 2021. In fact, a draft version of the UNESCO Open Science Recommendation has just been approved as of May 2021. Conversations between LIBER and UNESCO commenced early 2020 to explore the possibilities for cooperation in this. LIBER has encouraged its network of European research libraries to fill in the global online consultation on Open Science and has attended the Consultation days in July 2020 and in May 2021.

Community of Practice (CoP) for Training Coordinators We participate in OpenAIRE’s Community of Practice (CoP) for Training Coordinators and Managers. The CoP has regular calls on making training FAIR, especially when it comes to training within the EOSC.

OCLC & LIBER Discussion Series on LIBER’s Open Science Roadmap LIBER and OCLC Research Library Partnership (RLP) have agreed to initiate community engagement in each other’s networks on issues that could benefit from increased research. The issues must be relevant to both communities and in areas where cross-fertilisation can promote longer-term alignment of views and approaches. The LIBER-OCLC Open Science Discussion Series was the first engagement activity held in this regard. The seven discussion sessions took place from September to November 2020. More information can be found here.

In May 2021, OCLC and LIBER held a second series of workshops. This was a pilot on ‘Building strategic relationships to advance open scholarship at your institution’. The workshops focused on how librarians can develop strategic relationships across their universities to advance open scholarship. Read more here.

Statements and Campaigns

10 July 2020: Update on Call for Urgent Copyright Action to Support Distance Learning & Research

17 July 2020: Research Under Pressure: Impact of Covid-19 Through A Librarian’s Eyes

23 July 2020: IARLA Supports cOAlition S Rights Retention Strategy

31 July 2020: Endorsement of the Initiative for Open Abstracts. I4OA aims to achieve a massive increase in the open availability of scholarly abstracts via Crossref. Read more here.

6 August 2020: LIBER alongside EBLIDA, IFLA, NAPLE, Public Libraries 2030 and SPARC Europe has signed a joint letter calling on European leaders to reconsider their choices around the EU budget for 2021-27, and in particular, to do better for research, education, culture and digital inclusion. Read more here.

7 September 2020: Comments on the Current State of European Research Libraries during the COVID-19 Pandemic (as an answer to two inquiries for an interview: Springer Nature and Research Europe)

16 February 2021: Letter to the European Commission, co-signed with Science Europe and the European University Association: Impact of Digital Services Act on scientific institutional repositories

20 April 2021: LIBER co-signed the ‘various publisher tactics against the Rights Retention Strategy’ from cOAlition S and COAR. The campaign will run for the duration of 2021 and events on the topic will be published via the news section of our website in the months to come.

Other events

We represented LIBER and research libraries at events including:

- IARLA / cOAlition S Rights Retention Strategy Webinar Details (4 November 2020)
- IARLA Webinar: Discussion of Findings from the Reopening of Archives, Libraries, and Museums (REALM) Project (10 November 2020)
- CNI Fall Meeting (10 November 2020)
- Workshop RLUK Scoping study: The role of academic and research libraries as active participants and leaders in the production of scholarly research (17 March 2021)
- Workshop RLUK Scoping study: The role of academic and research libraries as active participants and leaders in the production of scholarly research (17 March 2021)
- IARLA long table: Covid-19 through the long lens: an international discussion regarding the potential legacy of the Covid-19 pandemic on research libraries? (19 March 2021)
2020-2021 IN NUMBERS

8,075 People and organisations who follow @LIBEREurope on Twitter

2,334 Downloads of LIBER reports published on Zenodo in the last year

941 People who signed up to one of ten LIBER webinars & panel discussions to learn from expert speakers

1700 People attended our LIBER 2020 Annual Conference Online

440 Current number of LIBER Participants from 40 Countries

107 Partners, representing libraries in the SSHOC, INOS, ReCreating Europe, ORE, ELE and MES-CoBraD Projects

70 Speakers confirmed for LIBER 2021 Online

15 LIBER libraries invited to join one of our project proposals as partners or advisors

OUR NETWORK

We represent and cooperate with 440 LIBER Participants — mainly individual research libraries but also consortia, associations and organisations — to ensure that the research library profession can support world-class research.

New Participants

Nine institutions joined LIBER between June 2020 and May 2021. Welcome!
- Flanders Marine Institute, Belgium
- University of Ruse, Bulgaria
- University of Zagreb Central Office for Coordination with Libraries, Croatia
- French Civil Aviation University, France
- University of Paris Nanterre, France
- University of Pau and Pays de l’Adour, France
- Georgian Integrated Library & Information System Consortium, Georgia
- National Széchényi Library Budapest, Hungary
- Norwegian Defense University College Library, Norway

Improving the LIBER Experience

At LIBER, we know that our libraries are at the heart of everything we do. We want to make sure that each Participant gets value out of their LIBER participation, so in the last year, we’ve increased efforts to communicate our activities more regularly and in different ways.

At the end of 2020 we published the annual Strategy Update for all Participants. To support the smooth running of Working Groups, we also updated the Toolkit for Working Group Chairs.

In late 2020 we launched our new organisational website, which now offers ease-of-use and added functionality including a new event calendar where you can search for and add specific events directly into your own calendar.

As of 2021, we have created a brand new monthly mailer, the LIBER Insider, merging the LIBER All and LIBER Alerts mailing lists. We are pleased to say that we now reach over 2,500 research library professionals via the LIBER Insider and social media updates on topics such as copyright advocacy and upcoming webinars. We invite all research library professionals to subscribe. Our Participants continue to receive the additional internal Quarterly Mailing.
2018-2022 STRATEGY
The five-year period 2018-2022 promises to bring radical changes to the research landscape.

Our Strategy focuses on those developments where a leading role by LIBER will bring the most added value. It is built on a vision of the research landscape, within which research libraries will play a role by LIBER will bring the most added value. It is built on a vision of the research landscape, within which research libraries will play a role.

We are strengthening and expanding the roles of research libraries in Innovative Scholarly Communications through our Citizen Science, Copyright & Legal Matters, Innovative Metrics, Open Access and Educational Resources WORKING GROUPS.

Citizen Science
This Working Group was involved with advocacy and knowledge sharing activities including workshops, webinars and talks. They also coordinated and prepared a number of deliverables, for example, partnerships, templates, and guides. Moreover, the group was involved in collaboration and knowledge-sharing with regards to grants applications.

Copyright & Legal matters
In 2020, this group has been monitoring and sharing information on the implementation of the Digital Single Market Directive on Copyright. They also drafted and consulted a model law for a scholarly publishing right with a 'zero embargo' date. They issued a public statement for the Commission/Member State governments requesting immediate copyright measures to support copying by libraries, given that all of Europe’s universities were shut: "Call for Urgent Copyright Action to Support Distance Learning & Research".

This year, LIBER joined as a member of the European Alliance for Research Excellence (EARE) since the strategy of LIBER and the Copyright & Legal Matters Working Group is closely aligned with the future agenda of EARE.

Innovative Metrics
The group released a report titled, ‘Why Do Measures Fluctuate? Metrics Report - Guidelines for Talking to Management’. The report is geared towards those based in libraries who are trying to address (with senior management) the challenges of metrics in relation to research.

Open Access
In 2020, the group ran a webinar about transformative agreements in collaboration with OA202 initiative. They also held a workshop at the LIBER Annual Conference 2020 Online titled: ‘Transitioning Scholarly Journals to Open Access: A Guide to Transformative Agreements’. They presented at the Frankfurt Book Fair free programme on the theme of Open Science, and also contributed to a webinar arranged by the Copyright Working Group about access to content in the time of Covid-19.

Over the past year, the group continued collaboration via SCOSS— one member of the group representing LIBER on their advisory board. They also continued collaboration with SPARC Europe – one member of the group representing LIBER on the Board of Directors. Additionally, they continued collaboration with COPE, STM, ALPSP, DOAJ, OAPEN in the Think.Check. Submit project to create tools for librarians to use when teaching about publishing.
Digital Humanities & Digital Cultural Heritage

Over the last year, this Working Group has delivered numerous items including the ALJ article 'LIBER Digital Humanities and Digital Cultural Heritage Working Group: a case study of international collaboration and network building'. The group also held a webinar titled 'Using IIIF to share, open and enrich your Collections'.

They published a poster on ‘Forming Relationships in Digital Humanities’, as well as a corresponding blog post on the topic. They also published a Reading List titled, ‘Researcher Needs in Digital Humanities’.

The group co-authored a book – 'LIBER Digital Humanities and Digital Cultural Heritage, Digital Skills for Library Staff & Researchers' and a corresponding Open Science Skills visualisation for library staff and researchers, which has also been translated into French and, more recently, Greek. As of 2021, this group has officially ended.

Leadership Programmes

This Working Group ran the LIBER Emerging Leaders Programme online in 2020 due to COVID-19. The course began in June in Dublin in June 2019 and will end in Brussels in October 2021 (travel permitting).

In early 2021, the group released a guide: ‘Best Practices for Library Linked Open Data (LOD) Publication’, as well as a blog post about the guide. The aim of the guide is to familiarise the reader with the questions and choices that a library planning a Linked Open Data publication project needs to take into account. With this main deliverable now complete, the working group is in the process of shutting down.

Research Data Management (RDM)

In 2020, the LIBER RDM Working Group prioritized eight ‘hot RDM topics that require further guidance and articulation from the library perspective’. These topics were also the starting point for dedicated task groups focusing on, for example, FAIR Data Curation, Data Stewardship and Engaging Researchers. The task forces have reached different stages of the intended end products. The ‘hot RDM topics’ were also central to the RDM workshop at the LIBER 2020 Online Annual Conference. For one of these RDM hot topics – ‘The 6 Pillars of Engaging Researchers in Research Data Management (RDM)’ – a publication was issued in late December 2020. The purpose of the publication is to give libraries practical guidelines on how to involve researchers in the topic of RDM.

Architecture

At the beginning of 2020, the group finalised the organisation of its bi-annual conference, which was supposed to take place from the 1st–3rd of April 2020 at the University of Luxembourg. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the group was forced to postpone the conference to April 2022. In 2020, the group launched the Library Buildings in Europe website and continues to update the database, adding useful information and new library buildings. Additionally, in 2020, new members joined the group and a new secretary, and a new Chair have been elected.

In October, 2020 the group published ‘Federated Access to Online Resources: Principles & Recommendations for Library Services’, and these recommendations were endorsed by the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL-ABRC), Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) and Research Libraries UK (RLUK). The group also established a website.

Linked Open Data

In early 2021, the group released a guide: ‘Best Practices for Library Linked Open Data (LOD) Publication’, as well as a blog post about the guide. The aim of the guide is to familiarise the reader with the questions and choices that a library planning a Linked Open Data publication project needs to take into account. With this main deliverable now complete, the working group is in the process of shutting down.

In 2021, this group has officially ended, and seeks to explore and promote library engagement in applying data science and analytical methods in libraries. It does this by taking into account all kinds of processes and workflows around library collections and metadata, as well as digital infrastructures and service areas.

Coming Up

- In 2021 the FIM4L Working Group will work on promotion and actively engaging in library FIM4L worldwide. The group will participate in a lightning talk at the LIBER 2021 Online Annual Conference. They will also present a webinar at the UKSG conference as well as at the IFLA WLIC.
- The 2021 RDM Working Group activities will centre around research libraries enabling FAIR data practices. Three intertwined focal highlights coming up for 2021 are: a LIBER conference workshop highlighting research libraries enabling FAIR data practices, practical guidance for institutions through an updated FAIR factsheet, and a webinar series starting this year focusing on the role of research libraries in a networked (research) data infrastructure.
- The Architecture Working Group will commence work on the organisation of its 2022 conference in Luxembourg and will look into options for future conferences thereafter. Additionally, the group will organise two webinars, together with the LIBER office, taking place in September and December 2021. All-round improvement and updates to the Library Buildings in Europe website will also commence throughout the year.
INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

We connect, represent and inform research libraries by participating in strategic and innovative projects.

Project participation has real benefits for our community. As just one example of the advantages of projects, name training opportunities and resources are created, from workshops and webinars to reports and white papers. Through our project work in 2020-2021, LIBER co-organised/attended nineteen webinars, workshops and events.

Over the past year we started four new projects (the EOSC workshops started in 2020 and were executed in 2021; ORE (started in September 2020), ELE (started in January 2021) and MES-CoBrAD (started in April 2021).

Additionally, we ran the first Projects Database Survey which was sent to all our Participants in order to identify the interest, needs, as well as potential roles within projects.

Below you can read about what we have been up to over the past year for each of our projects.

ABOUT INOS

INOS aims to modernise the curricula of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) through civic engagement in Open and Citizen Science. INOS offers a means of staying up-to-date on Open and Citizen Science reports, roadmaps, and learning and training resources for academic and library staff in higher-education institutions. Via the INOS website, users can join an upcoming Open Knowledge event, or an interactive workshop.

VALUE FOR LIBRARIES

Libraries have already been introduced to INOS via a series of events, including an Open Knowledge activity on Citizen Science. INOS offers a means of staying up-to-date on Open and Citizen Science reports, roadmaps, and learning and training resources for academic and library staff in higher-education institutions. Via the INOS website, users can join an upcoming Open Knowledge event, or an interactive workshop.

VALUE FOR LIBRARIES

Libraries have already been introduced to INOS via a series of events, including an Open Knowledge activity on Citizen Science. INOS offers a means of staying up-to-date on Open and Citizen Science reports, roadmaps, and learning and training resources for academic and library staff in higher-education institutions. Via the INOS website, users can join an upcoming Open Knowledge event, or an interactive workshop.

NOTABLE RESOURCES

- Public and Private Regulatory Framework of Online Intermediaries

VALUE FOR LIBRARIES

Guidelines and a training toolkit will help libraries to get the best out of the current regulatory framework, and will contribute more generally to improving access to culture and enriching cultural diversity. Via an online forum, libraries and other stakeholder groups will be able to access best practices and policy recommendations, and share their own work in this area.

ABOUT ReCreating Europe

ReCreating Europe is a project that rethinks digital copyright law for a culturally diverse, accessible, creative Europe. ReCreating Europe will be looking for libraries to share experiences related to digitisation-related issues, including how legal restrictions are dealt with.

VALUE FOR LIBRARIES

Libraries will also be invited to attend workshops on legal aspects related to digitisation.

OUR ROLE

LIBER participates in activities targeting libraries and supports their active involvement in the discussion of curricula and skills modernisation. LIBER is leading dissemination activities, as well as efforts to engage, raise awareness and foster policy change.

NOTABLE RESOURCES

- Introducing the newly launched Ethnic and Minority (EMM) Survey Registry
- Sharing Datasets of Pathological Speech
- Putting Data Protection into Practice: GDPR and the DARIAH ELDAH Consent Form Wizard
- Tools and Resources for FAIR Data

More information for the above trainings from 2020 can be found here, with more events planned for 2021.

In 2020 the SSHOC Training Community was launched. The community meets every months to discuss SSH training-related topics and share experiences. Library professionals are part of this community, and as such also participate in bootcamps designed to boost their skills on a number of topics, including RDM and how to be a better trainer. In general, libraries are often invited to give feedback on the tools and services developed by SSHOC, in order to ensure that the project outcomes meet the needs of the library community. This is the case with the SSHOC Training Discovery Toolkit for SSH Trainers, which was launched in 2020 and is constantly being improved by the SSHOC project.

NOTABLE RESOURCES

- Inventory of SSH Citation Practices
- Training Discovery Toolkit for SSH Trainers
- Metadata Interoperability Problems report
- Policy API Tool
ABOUT
Open Research Europe (ORE) is a new publishing platform launched by the European Commission. The platform provides all Horizon 2020 beneficiaries and their collaborators with an easy, high-quality venue to publish Horizon 2020 funded research at no cost and in full compliance with the Commission’s open access policies.

OUR ROLE
LIBER’s role within the project is to spearhead efforts to engage research libraries and other stakeholders who could benefit from the platform. Our activities include the organisation of workshops and webinars to introduce the platform to the relevant stakeholders and provide training. We also contribute to the project’s sustainability strategy and ensure that all project news reaches the right audiences within the Open Access landscape in Europe.

Moreover, the ORE project directly relates to LIBER’s 2018-2022 Strategy, in particular to our goal to ensure that Open Access is the predominant form of publishing.

VALUE FOR LIBRARIES
Twenty-four official languages and more than 60 regional and minority languages constitute the fabric of the European Union’s linguistic landscape. However, language barriers still hamper communication and the free flow of information across the EU. Multilingualism is a key cultural cornerstone of Europe, and signifies what it means to be and to feel European. Thus, this project aims to bridge the striking imbalance when it comes to support through language technologies, and issue a call to action - highly relevant to research libraries and their patrons within Europe. The project will lay the foundations for a strategic agenda and roadmap for making digital language equality a reality in Europe by 2030.

Open Research Europe Survey Outcomes:
- Perspectives of Libraries on ORE
- About ORE’s Publishing Process

LITERATURE
Multidisciplinary Expert System for the Assessment & Management of Complex Brain Disorders (MES-CoBrAD) is an interdisciplinary project combining Real-World Data (RWD) from multiple clinical and consumer sources through comprehensive, cost-efficient, and fast protocols towards improving diagnostic accuracy and therapeutic outcomes in people with Complex Brain Disorders (CoBrAD), as reflected in Neurocognitive (Dementia), Sleep, and Seizure (Epilepsy) disorders and their interdependence.

OUR ROLE
LIBER participates in activities related to legal and ethical frameworks, landscape analysis and methodology, pilot RDW acquisition, and raising awareness, dissemination and communication. LIBER will lead stakeholder engagement activities and opportunity-based dissemination activities, while its overall role will focus on libraries in the lifecycle of RWD and the role in the creation and uptake of proposed solutions related to data management.

VALUE FOR LIBRARIES
Libraries benefit from involvement as the project brings together a range of experts across various fields (medicine, engineering, computer science, social health science, law, and marketing and communication) and combines cutting-edge clinical information and scientific research to improve lives – very useful content for library patrons/researchers in these fields.

Liber’s first ever virtual conference, LIBER 2020 Online, attracted a massive 5,544 registrations from over 1,700 people, including staff at 276 LIBER institutions.

We were able to turn the Covid-19 travel restrictions into an opportunity to pursue our conference online. This enabled us to continue delivering inspiring speeches and workshops from research library professionals across Europe.

Shifting our conference online and free-of-charge allowed us to reach out to previously under-represented areas of our LIBER network (and those who may have never had the chance to physically travel to one of our conferences).

As such, our conference was an overwhelming success and in the course of one week we had:
- 2 Panel Sessions
- 3 Winners of the LIBER Award for Library Innovation, sponsored by OCLC
- 6 Workshops
- 10 Sessions
- 11 Posters
- 27 #HowToRunALibrary selfies
- 1,778 Tweets tagged with #LIBER2020
- 3,616 session attendees

2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
2021 marks a very important milestone in the history of our organisation and our Annual Conference: it’s our 50th Anniversary. For 50 years the LIBER Annual Conference has been established as the hub where research library professionals gather to network, learn and exchange ideas on relevant topics.

As a result of Covid-19, we’ve decided to once again hold a virtual Annual Conference. This time around we have partnered with our colleagues at the University of Belgrade Library to co-organise LIBER 2021 Online. This will allow us to, as far as possible, recreate the conference atmosphere and engage our network.

Added to this, we invite our LIBER Participants to join insightful sessions, network with colleagues, and exercise their voting rights during the Meeting of Participants.

Future Conferences

2021 - ONLINE (DUE TO COVID-19) / 23 - 25 JUNE
Hosted together with Belgrade University Library.

2022 - DENMARK / 6 - 8 JULY
Hosted together with the University of Southern Denmark Library.
The values for 2020 are significantly lower than those for 2019, but 2019 appears to have generated unusual levels of activity, which we believe is because the statistics for 2019 were harvested after an 18-month (rather than one year) period of site activity. Number of views for 2020 compare favourably to those of 2018. It is clear that we are underperforming on social media mentions and work is underway to improve this, which in turn should boost views and downloads.

Google Analytics, on the other hand, provides a detailed analysis of all user activity on the journal website, and thus for all our available journal issues together. If we select calendar 2020 as the period of analysis, and group the results by the continent of the users, we find the following results for the total number of sessions, downloads and pages consulted:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continent</th>
<th>Sessions</th>
<th>Downloads</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>6,677</td>
<td>413</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>11,885</td>
<td>1,050</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>16,030</td>
<td>1,278</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>17,853</td>
<td>1,608</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>1,778</td>
<td>237</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not set</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We can get an idea about the international interest for the journal from the top 10 countries (with respective session numbers): USA (8,887), India (5,107), UK (4,023), Philippines (2,080), Nigeria (2,743). Besides the UK, the top European numbers came from Germany (2,100), France (1,240), The Netherlands (850) and Spain (750).

The Editorial Board

There were some changes to the Editorial Board in 2020. Zinaida Manžuch stepped down, owing to a change in her professional role and we welcomed five new members: Goran Hamrin, Heli Kautonen, Aurélie Terrier (Copy editor), Trudy Turner (Managing Editor) and Wilhelm Widmark. There are 20 board members, with roles and experience balanced as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair - 1</th>
<th>Managing Editor - 1</th>
<th>Copy editors - 2</th>
<th>LIS Academic board members - 11</th>
<th>LIS Senior professional board members - 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The editorial board now meets twice yearly online. The most recent meeting was on 17 December 2020, with an agenda including LQ risk and mitigation, the LQ publishing platform move (subsequently agreed by the LIBER Executive Board), the report from the LQ Working Group (subsequently agreed by the LIBER Executive Board) and a discussion about how to improve the pool of LQ peer reviewers. The chair (Em Prof. Mel Collier) also updated the group on a complaint regarding a paper published by LQ and the subsequent investigation and findings. The next meeting is planned for end of June 2021. The Chair would like the thank the LQ Editorial Board for all their support in 2020.
Accounts

LIBER’s financial position is solid. The financial result for the foundation for the year ending 31 December 2020 is a loss of €82,445 (2019: a profit of €7,973).

LIBER’s capital and liquidity position is such that any financial disadvantage can be absorbed. The Covid-19 crisis has had financial consequences for LIBER during 2020. By cancelling all physical events, revenues from registrations and sponsors have decreased. Overall, expenses have also decreased, but at the same time more expenditure than budgeted was needed for staff, and less time than budgeted could be written on projects. Additionally, due to the pandemic, it has not been possible to organise events for projects.

The effect is twofold: less time to write on projects and less other direct costs on projects means that less overhead can be attributed to projects.

Solvency has dropped from 68% to 49% (Equity as a percentage of the balance sheet total). Although considerably less, the solvency is still good, and given the budget for 2021 (result €0), a further reduction is not to be expected.

The LIBER Office supports its Participants on all possible issues in order to provide them with a good basis for coping with the crisis. This means we have transformed from physical to online services as much as possible. The affiliated institutions can be operationally affected to the core by this crisis. The financial consequences for the affiliated institutions of LIBER can be dealt with in accordance with the commitments of governments, but this cannot be said with certainty as of January 2021.

More information about LIBER’s finances can be found in the full 2020 Annual Accounts, sent as part of the May Quarterly Mailing.

INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FROM REGULAR ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIBER Participants</td>
<td>408,075</td>
<td>227,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Conference</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>41,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsorship</td>
<td>21,000</td>
<td>16,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events and activities</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>18,083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other revenues</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>437,075</strong></td>
<td><strong>302,293</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT FUNDING</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSHOC</td>
<td>106,386</td>
<td>88,761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INOS</td>
<td>20,481</td>
<td>5,956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reCreating Europe</td>
<td>49,727</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EOSC W5</td>
<td>7,171</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Research</td>
<td>6,205</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOSTER Adjustments grants</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13,754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASTEUR 4OA Adjustments grants</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>17,559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEARN Adjustments grants</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EOSC</td>
<td>67,355</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AARC2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>31,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOSTER+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>31,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td><strong>189,970</strong></td>
<td><strong>231,478</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EXPENDITURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel costs</td>
<td>592,000</td>
<td>360,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Board</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steering Committees</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>11,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership Seminar</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIBER Office</td>
<td>73,000</td>
<td>41,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIBER Quarterly</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotion and Representation</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating costs</td>
<td>21,000</td>
<td>83,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenditure</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td><strong>709,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>526,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FINANCIAL RESULTS</td>
<td>-83,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET RESULT</td>
<td>-83,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>