The year began with the enthusiastic resolve that COVID-19 would no longer be a barrier to in-person meetings and conferences. We scheduled face-to-face activities and planned for the future. With just over a month to complete the year, 2022 is already filled to the rim with started and completed projects, activities, reunions, discoveries and the unveiling of a new and exciting LIBER Strategy.

2022 saw our first in-person Annual Conference since the pandemic, where we had the pleasure of presenting our strategy for the period 2023-2027.

We are delighted to have started work in three new projects, DIAMAS (Developing Institutional Open Access Publishing Models to Advance Scholarly Communication), the CeOS_SE Project (Citizen-Enhanced Open Science in Southeastern Europe Higher Education Knowledge Hubs) and LibrarIN (Value Co-Creation and Social Innovation for a New Generation of European Libraries). We continue our active participation in four existing international projects, MES-CoBrAD, ReCreating Europe, Open Research Europe (ORE) and Knowledge Rights 21. Finally, we concluded three projects, European Language Equality (ELE), Integrating Open and Citizen Science into Active Learning Approaches in Higher Education (INOS), and Social Sciences and Humanities for the European Open Science Cloud (SSHOC), successfully.

Our Working Groups have been very productive this year, organising and co-hosting workshops and webinars, publications, statements and letters. Our Innovative Scholarly Communication Steering Committee has changed leadership and is now headed by Dóra Gaálné Kalydy. The Steering Committees and the groups themselves will soon be remapped for the upcoming new strategy.
**Special mention**

We would like to give a special mention to our colleagues in the Ukraine. The war laid a blanket of incertitude and terror over the country, and we continue to stand in solidarity with you during these unimaginably difficult times. While closely monitoring the war’s developments, we welcomed the National Scientific Agricultural Library of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences by offering free membership for 2022 and for 2023.

We are thrilled that additional members have joined us this year: the Nova SBE Teresa e Alexandre Soares dos Santos Library, Portugal, the University of York Library, United Kingdom, the TSU National Science Library, Georgia, the University of Liège Library, Belgium, the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies Library and DANS (Data Archiving and Networked Services), both in the Netherlands, Medical University Graz Library, Austria, TU Dublin Library Services, Ireland, University Library of RWTH Aachen University, Germany, and the Estonian University of Life Sciences Library, Estonia. We extend a warm welcome to all of you.

**Finally, thank you, dear LIBER members, Executive Board, fellow library organisations, partners and sponsors, as well as volunteers and staff. We greatly appreciate your work to strengthen and expand our network of research libraries across Europe. We are looking forward to another fruitful year and to working together with you in 2023. So, what has been happening from October 2021 to October 2022? Find out by enjoying this Strategy Update!**
2022 in NUMBERS

- 393 Delegates at LIBER Annual Conference in Odense, Denmark
- 37 events online & in-person
- 420+ Current number of LIBER Participants
- 40 Countries in which LIBER has members
- 51 years that LIBER exists
- 11,000 followers on socials
Annual Conference 2022 in Odense

This year witnessed LIBER’s much-awaited, first in-person event since the pandemic. A reunion of smiles and emotions lit up Odense. The chosen location offered a nice backdrop of Danish Hygge, a perfect, welcoming atmosphere for our long overdue conference.

Almost 400 delegates from all across Europe joined us. Thanks to SDU, our volunteers, our sponsors, and the LIBER Office Staff, 59 exhibitors populated the hallways of our venue. Conference goers were treated to 3 keynotes, 2 panel discussion, 12 parallel sessions and 10 workshops. 12 Posters were presented. You can access all presentations on the LIBER 2022 Zenodo Community Page.

A portion of the conference was devoted to presenting the new LIBER Strategy 2023-27. Five main components and clearly defined priorities for each will be taking us forward into the next few years, under the supervision of appointed Steering Committees. You will soon have the pleasure of seeing it on the LIBER website as well as downloading a PDF version.

Initiatives

The #ZeroEmbargo Campaign

The #ZeroEmbargo Campaign continues to promote LIBER’s proposed model law for the use of publicly funded scholarly publications. The model law served as support in a position statement on Secondary Publishing Rights published by the Knowledge Rights 21 Programme in October 2022, and is an important point of reference when the Programme discusses Secondary Publishing Rights. Additionally, a study released in August by the European Commission, “Exceptions and limitations, rights retention strategies and the secondary publication right” referred to and evaluated LIBER’s Secondary Publishing Right Model law.
Humans of LIBER campaign

This new initiative draws upon the pillars of the upcoming LIBER Strategy 2023–2027. The aim is to highlight research librarians who make up our community and create connections within and outside the LIBER network. We have published nine interviews thus far. If you are interested in sharing your experiences, please let us know and we will set up an interview.
LIBER Services & Participant Satisfaction Survey

To increase our visibility among research libraries, identify strengths and areas that need improvement, as well find out how we could enrich our collaboration, LIBER launched an awareness campaign.

Part of this campaign was a Participant Satisfaction Survey. Thank you for helping us improve our services, supporting us in growing our community and for enriching our research library community. A few highlights of the survey:

- In the past 5 years, members’ engagement with LIBER has been mostly by attending the Annual Conference, followed by LIBER socials and webinars, and participation in our Working Groups.

- On LIBER’s importance in support for networking and building relationships, more than half of the participants answered it was very important.

- Around 90% of participants thought it was very or extremely important that LIBER’s role should make a positive contribution to the broader research library community.

- On their experience with the LIBER webinars, online workshops and other online events, approximately 63% answered positively whereas close to 20% never attended.

- Approximately 95% felt that LIBER was very or extremely important in ensuring that research library views are represented at a European and global level.

We continue appreciating your perspective and welcome your suggestions or initiatives! Please take a look at our new Services page, where we clearly outlines the wide scope of services in which we can best support you.

Collaborations & Lobbying

Digital Services Act

The Digital Services Act (DSA) that was adopted in July of this year, was a disappointing and frustrating conclusion, after months of lobbying. The Digital Services Acts and Digital Markets Acts are unfortunately poised to be more facilitating toward businesses rather than education and research communities. The interpretation of definitions relevant to scientific and educational platforms and their services remains unclear and therefore unsatisfactory for their users and the research and academic communities. Furthermore, the DSA is inadequate to meet the needs of academic freedom as well as of the dualistic and complex nature of research. Our latest statement, written jointly with SPARC Europe and IFLA under the Knowledge Rights 21 Programme outlines our requests once again.

With the support of IFLA, Knowledge Rights 21, SPARC Europe and COAR, as well as our Copyright and Legal Matters Working Group, we continue our work to amend these legislative initiatives.
18 November 2021: LIBER co-signed a statement on *Library Futures: International Statement of Solidarity*: “The future of knowledge is digital, open, accessible, and culturally responsive. As information workers, we seek to steward this future through shared goals: Balancing copyright and an information ecosystem that meets the needs of communities globally.”


24 January 2022: *Public Statement on Digital Services Act*: LIBER signed a public statement alongside the university association *CESAER* and the Confederation of Open Access Repositories (*COAR*), calling on the European Union to proactively recognise the importance of education and research digital infrastructures when devising digital-focussed legislation.

1 March 2022: LIBER supported cOAlition S’ letter to publishers titled, “*Enabling Open Access: a request to publishers*” requesting publishers to make their policies and contracts more transparent. The letter has, as of 1 March 2022, been sent to a large group of publishers — those who have not yet provided adequate clarity to funded authors — requesting that they make their policies and contracts more transparent at the outset.

2 March 2022: *LIBER Statement on Ukraine*.


7 April 2022: LIBER signed a statement on the exemption of not-for-profit educational and scientific repositories, digital archives and libraries from the Digital Services Act.


18 July 2022: *LIBER Statement Regarding Out-Of-Commerce Works*.

Contributions and Support


ADBU, the French Association of directors and management staff at academic libraries and documentation centres, and LIBER, launched a call for proposals to carry out a study titled: ‘Science and Knowledge openness – Developing Open Science Skills and Competencies in the academic world’. A better understanding of the competencies necessary for open science has featured high on the agenda of many professional groups and universities in recent years. This study is a follow-up to this preliminary work. We are expecting the results to be delivered in the summer of 2023.

Publications

Volume 32 of our LIBER Quarterly Journal was published this year.
INNOVATIVE SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS

During the Odense Annual Event, Dr Giannis Tsakonas, former chair of this Steering Committee, became LIBER’s vice-president. The chairmanship was given over to Dora Gaálné Kalydy. We wish you both success in your new roles. The following Working Groups will work together under this Steering Committee until the end of 2022, but first, here are selected highlights of this year so far. The groups will also be giving workshops at this year’s upcoming Winter Event.

Citizen Science Working Group

LIBER, ECSA and Leiden University organised a webinar, “Citizen Science We All Do Better When We Work Together” that took place on 16 March 2022. The event was designed to discuss different approaches to Citizen Science with the aim of unearthing current synergies and future opportunities for collaboration. Additionally, a workshop “Open to Society” was given in Odense by the group, and was moderated together with the coordinator of Citizen Science from Leiden University. The group also published the first section of their Citizen Science for Research Libraries Guide, a four-part book series. Section two is already underway.

Two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) have been signed:

(JAN) Memorandum of understanding; LIBER and SciStarter, an online citizen science hub signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the development, promotion, and facilitation of citizen science-related support services at research libraries in Europe and North America.

(FEB) Memorandum of understanding; LIBER, the Association of European Research Libraries, and the European Citizen Science Association (ECSA), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop, promote and facilitate citizen science-related support services at research libraries within Europe.
Copyright & Legal Matters Working Group

As a follow up to the Public Statement on the DSA, a Proposal for a Digital Services Act — Research, Education, and Science as Collateral Damage was issued by LIBER’s Copyright & Legal Matters Working Group. This statement was in protest of the draft DSA, in which education and research infrastructures still do not feature at all in the European Commission’s impact assessment, nor are they mentioned in the draft at all. The group also produced a Statement Regarding Out-Of-Commerce Works.

Educational Resources Working Group

The group gave a workshop in Odense. After the pandemic, it became clear that Open Educational Resources (OER) are an important asset in supporting students and staff in an online environment at all times, not only during a pandemic. The session was open for everyone to experience resources and best practices. The group welcomed several new members this year and plans to map the field. It has already started work on several topics. One of the first steps is to make an internal survey to prioritise topics for exploration. The group also provides a space to show cases that transfer best and interesting practices to all members. This helps understand the variety of approaches for OER and make connections to the appropriate solutions. The Working Group is currently looking for a new chair. If you are interested, please send us an email!

Open Access Working Group

LIBER has issued four new Urgent Recommendations for Open Access negotiations that aim to support libraries in developing more effective open access strategies: Article on Four Urgent Recommendations for Open Access Negotiations with Publishers. Their workshop in Odense, “Assessing, Financing and Maintaining Open Access Infrastructures – a New Role for Libraries”, was aimed at gaining insights in open infrastructures and how the ecosystem for such initiatives works, how sustainable they are and what are the needs of their user communities.

RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

Architecture Working Group

The 20th LIBER LAG (Architecture Working Group) held their Seminar 2022 in Luxembourg, “Designing for Learning and Scholarship: A Challenge for Librarians, Architects, and All.” Librarians and architects had the opportunity to discuss library projects, types of buildings used as libraries and the range of demands put on these sites. You can download the presentations on Zenodo. Next year’s LAG Seminar 2024 event will be held at the Royal Library of Belgium in Brussels.
Research Data Management Working Group

The RDM Working Group held a workshop at Odense, "Data management cooperation in practice: Lesson learned". The group contemplated topics for a contribution to the Winter Event, such as a panel discussion on skills and qualification for data managers. They also released the first version of their guidelines: "A Practical Guide to FAIR practices in Research Libraries."

FIM4L Working Group

At the beginning of 2022, the LIBER FIM4L Working Group and Elsevier held a series of talks on the topic of federated access. In September, they participated in a REFEDS (Research and Education FEDerations) discussion on different types of access entity categories. The group also published a second version of their piece: Federated Access to Online Resources: Principles & Recommendations for Library Services (Version 2). They will be having a workshop at the Winter Event, "Understanding federated authentication to library e-resources," with a live demo and discussion.

Data Science in Libraries Working Group

The Data Science in Libraries Working Group (DSLib) is maintaining its work on a landscape analysis, and its matrix for libraries engagement in data science. The survey was discussed at a LIBER 2022 workshop and a revised version will be made more openly available to libraries. You can look forward to their workshop at the Winter Event.

DIGITAL SKILLS AND SERVICES

Digital Scholarship and Digital Cultural Heritage Collections Working Group

The DSDCH WG held a workshop "Digital Scholarship Now!" in Odense, comprised of a series of lightning talks that highlighted current issues of digital scholarship community and offered innovative approaches to tackle them. Their kick-off meeting after the summer focused on further steps for the group. They will be holding another workshop at the Winter Event.

LIBER Leadership Programmes Working Group

In May, the group ran the first in-person event for LIBER since the start of the pandemic. The LIBER Emerging Leaders Programme 2022 took place in Lyon, France. Not long after, at the Annual Conference, they held an Alumni workshop Leadership course and a Workshop on Leadership in "Positioning the library as a valued partner in our universities in an open science world." The group also produced a LIBER Journées promotional video as well as a poster, and they will be conducting a workshop at the Winter Event.
4. PROJECTS

New Projects

**DIAMAS**

LIBER has started work in the new project, ‘Developing Institutional Open Access Publishing Models to Advance Scholarly Communication’ (DIAMAS). The 3-year project, launched on the 1st of September 2022, received funding in the context of the Horizon Europe call on Capacity-building for institutional open access publishing across Europe. The project brings together 23 European organisations that will map out the landscape of Diamond Open Access publishing in the European Research Area and develop common standards, guidelines and practices for the Diamond publishing sector.

**CeOS_SE**

The CeOS_SE project aims to raise awareness of mainstream Open Science (OS) and Citizen Science (CS) practices in Southeastern European countries. LIBER, as the CeOS_SE project coordinator, and a member of the EOSC Association supports all project activities. Seven LIBER libraries are also directly involved in the project. OS is at the core of the LIBER’s new strategy for the period of 2023-2027 and we are working towards mainstreaming CS through the work of the LIBER Citizen Science Working Group.

**LibrarIN**

Just started in November of this year, LibrarIN is a three-year research project that provides new avenues for participatory management and sustainable finance for European libraries as key cultural institutions. It will examine ways that libraries can develop new functions, services and engagement with the individuals, organisations and communities they serve. This requires social innovation based on public value co-creation and a demand-driven design of library services. A consortium of 10 members, including LIBER, are taking part in the project.
Ongoing projects

**MES-CoBraD**

The Multidisciplinary Expert System for the Assessment & Management of Complex Brain Disorders (MES-CoBraD) is an interdisciplinary project. It combines Real-World Data (RWD) from multiple clinical and consumer sources through comprehensive, cost-efficient, and fast protocols to improve 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. The primary objective of the MES-CoBraD project is to improve early, accurate, and comprehensive diagnosis of CoBraD through the multisource-multidisciplinary MES-CoBraD Assessment Protocol.

Our participation helps ensure that members within the library community stay up-to-date with the project’s cutting-edge usage and innovation with RWD and data management. Furthermore, the project aims to engage citizen scientists throughout the project cycle and LIBER’s network will help facilitate this objective.

The project held several meetings during the year, in Athens and Bucharest, they held a webinar: Addressing Clinical-Scientific Challenges, and a poster was presented by the project members at Odense: Data management in the MES-CoBraD project: What’s in it for research libraries.

**Knowledge Rights 21**

A programme supported by IFLA, SPARC Europe and LIBER, and funded by Arcadia, Knowledge Rights 21 (KR21) has already produced two position papers: one on eBooks and the other on Secondary Publishing Rights. The Programme has been active in speaking at 7 events and webinars throughout the year, held two KR21 webinars, their latest being, “How do we fix eBook markets? A discussion on the future of libraries and authorship." LIBER is continuing its involvement with KR21’s Secondary Publishing Rights work package and will provide relevant research to form a solid narrative for KR21 to undertake copyright interventions.

**ReCreating Europe**

Now in its final year, ReCreating Europe will contribute to a clear understanding of what makes a regulatory framework that promotes culturally diverse production, and optimises inclusive access and consumption. The project has held several webinars over the past few years, and held an in-person event in Italy called “Open Up Museums!” The aim of the event was to explore key issues and tools to promote openness in the cultural sector, specifically, between law and practice. The project will culminate its activities in early 2023 with a Final Conference in Brussels, (date to be confirmed).
On 9 June 2022, LIBER and Open Research Europe (ORE) organised an online workshop to discuss the progress made on the project, assess its success, and review the challenges it has faced after over a year of accepting publications. Speakers joined from LERU (League of European Research Universities), EUA (European University Association), and Tampere University library and outlined the importance of ORE for Open Access and Open Science. They also demonstrated the power of collaboration when it comes to maximising the uptake and future success of ORE.

On the 25th of October, the training webinar “Data Notes on Open Research Europe (ORE): Maximizing the Visibility & Discoverability of Research Data” took place. In this webinar, participants were familiarised with Data Notes of the ORE platform. At LIBER’s Winter Event, a workshop will be held on Open Peer Review, in which the development of the open review model behind the ORE platform will be presented and the feedback received so far will be discussed.

The ORE project directly relates to LIBER’s 2018-2022 Strategy’s goal – among others – to ensure that Open Access as the predominant form of publishing. The 4-year project that started last year will continue to be extremely relevant in our upcoming strategic goal to Advance Open Science.
Completed Projects

**ELE**

An 18-month journey, and encompassing more than 80 languages, ELE produced several deliverables, 66 in fact. The project consortium was comprised of 52 partner institutions, representing national languages, users and consumers of language technology, and industry experts. The aim has been to form strategic research, innovation, and implementation agenda, as well as create a roadmap for achieving full digital language equality in Europe by 2030. As the voice of research libraries, LIBER contributed a core part of the project, the creation of a report surveying and interviewing our Participants. We also hosted a workshop in which experts from the ELE consortium were invited to discuss language technologies and their implications for research libraries (watch a recording of this session). This excerpt taken from the project round up, falls in line with a strategic direction in the new strategy: STATE-OF-THE-ART SERVICES.

*Should libraries be acquiring expertise in these areas to help educate research staff to ensure their work is executed to the highest standard, properly utilising all available tools?*

**INOS**

On 31st August 2022, INOS project partners joined together with local Open Education and Open Science advocates for the event Fostering Change: Challenges and Opportunities of Integrating Open and Citizen Science in Higher Education, held at Leiden University Library. The event was a final opportunity for the INOS project to share outputs and determine how these results will be sustained in future activities. In closing, the event looked beyond INOS to the initiatives and projects that are continuing the work of integrating OS/CS into higher education. Simon Worthington (LIBER Citizen Science Working Group) and Alisa Martek (CeOS_SE Project) showcased how Open and Citizen Science are being furthered in research libraries (through the Working Groups’ Guide for Citizen Science in Research Libraries) and in Southeastern Europe (through the work of the CeOS_SE Project).

This quote from the event brings up an interesting connection to two strategic directions in the upcoming strategy: RESEARCH LIBRARIES AS ENGAGED AND TRUSTED HUBS & STATE-OF-THE-ART SERVICES.

*Citizen Science as a new service of academic libraries?*
SSHOC

Over a three-year period, from January 2019 to April 2022, LIBER has participated in SSHOC (Social Sciences and Humanities Open Science Cloud) – a project funded by the EU framework programme Horizon 2020 that united 20 partner organisations and their 27 associates in developing the social sciences and humanities area of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC). In April 2022, the project culminated in a final conference that was designed to showcase the results achieved, capitalise on the valuable synergies built and discover user stories from the community. LIBER, as leaders of the work package on fostering communities, empowering users and building expertise, was heavily involved in the organisation and implementation of the conference.

Participating in SSHOC was important for LIBER and the network of research libraries we represent. LIBER Executive Director, Astrid Verheusen, explains:

Libraries play a major role in the EOSC with their knowledge of metadata, as providers of services and as intermediaries towards researchers. The SSH has always been an important domain for research libraries. Through participation in SSHOC we have been able to involve research libraries in the development of the SSH part of the EOSC and in return to train them in the services and knowledge provided by SSHOC.
Julien serves as Director of Libraries and Learning Center at University of Lille. He previously led a strategic project for the university: the creation of the LILLIAD Innovation Learning Center, to support the innovation process of the university, including a new building opened in September 2016. Julien also has several national responsibilities including co-chair of the French training professional programme for newly appointed university library directors, and co-chair of the "European and international“ college of the French Open Science Committee since July 2018.

Giannis is the Director of the Library & Information Center at the University of Patras, Greece. He also served on LIBER’s Executive Board as head of the Innovative Scholarly Communication Steering Committee, and on the Board of Directors of Hellenic Academic Libraries Link. In 2016, he was appointed Vice President of the Hellenic General Council of Libraries, a body of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs monitoring the operation of Greek public libraries.

We also welcomed new Executive Board members, Anna Clements, Dóra Gaálné Kalydy, and Sara Lammens.
New LIBER Office Faces

LIBER welcomed a number of new faces since October 2021. We hope they felt a warm welcome and will continue their important engagement with LIBER. Thank you for working with us!

**Andrej Vrčon**  
*Head of International Projects*

Andrej has extensive expertise in EU project management, regional economic development, project evaluations, fundraising and democracy development. He is delighted to be able to combine his many interests in his role at LIBER.

**Barbara van der Vaart**  
*Community Engagement and Training Officer*

Barbara joined LIBER as a Community Engagement and Training Officer in August 2022. In this role, she aims to engage LIBER’s network with high-quality and impactful workshops, webinars, and training sessions.

**Anxhela Dani**  
*Events & Partnerships Coordinator*

Anxhela Dani joined us as LIBER’s Events & Partnerships Coordinator in October. She leads the organising of LIBER’s Annual Conference, the Winter event, and other online and in-person events.

**Rosie Allison**  
*Communications Coordinator (1 March)*

Rosie is currently one of LIBER’s Community Engagement and Communication Officer. As of 1 March, of next year, she will start in her new role as Communications Coordinator, in which she will be handling LIBER communications, reporting, activities and initiatives and much more!
6. LOOKING AHEAD

Winter Event

LIBER’s first-ever Winter Event will be held in person on the 1st – 2nd of December 2022 at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in the Netherlands. We’re looking forward to seeing work by LIBER Working Groups and the International Projects. All sessions will come together under the theme Building on collaboration for the future. Read about the event and schedule here.

LIBER 2023: Budapest

LIBER’s 2023 Annual Conference will take place 5 to 7 July 2023 in Budapest, Hungary. We will soon be posting relevant information on our website, regarding the event and next year’s host city and venue, the Library and Information Centre of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. And in case you haven’t yet seen, the Call for Papers for the conference is now open!

LIBER STRATEGY 2023-2027

As of 1 January 2023, the new LIBER Strategy will be carried out. We look forward to working together with you, and engaging in innovative ways to reach our goals!
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