



LIBER JOURNÉES 2024: STRATEGIC VISION

Freie Universität, Berlin, Wednesday 29 May – Friday 31 May 2024

The LIBER Journées will bring 20–25 library directors together with eminent global speakers for a stimulating, interactive, and strategic programme, addressing major challenges that face us all. The underpinning theme will be “Trusted Leadership in challenging times.” The focus will be on the role of the director in leading and building trust to help the library deal with crippling uncertainty and create the fair and just cultures necessary for high performance.

Strategic Issues & Opportunities

At the heart of the LIBER Journées will be strategic issues and opportunities that challenge and motivate us all. For instance:

- What are the key challenges facing academic libraries and leaders?
- What are the key challenges of academic libraries in times of changing nature of the higher education system?
- How can library leaders manage the challenges when effective leadership is highly required for academic libraries today?
- How do today's challenges manifest through social media, online petitions, and coordinated campaigns that reflect the evolution of communication technology and societal norms?
- How do library leaders deal with different parties seeking acknowledgment and consideration while at the same time focusing on political and social identities?
- What is the role of libraries, and how can core library values be pursued where they contradict political values?
- What do leaders need on a personal level to be trusted leaders to lead trusted organizations?
- How to be resilient as a library leader in turbulent times?

Speakers

The Journées will be divided into six sessions led by eminent speakers from the information, library, cultural, or business world, from Europe and beyond. Each speaker will focus on specific strategic questions, relating their presentations to the library environment and key challenges. Presentations will be followed by facilitated debate, discussion and analysis. Break-out sessions will focus on issues that participating directors have flagged up in advance of the LIBER Journées and will synthesize the outcomes of the sessions and the strategic questions addressed.

Speakers:

- **Oksana Brui**, The President of the Ukrainian Library Association — Ukraine (confirmed)
- **Lesliediana Jones**, Associate Director for Public Services, Harvard Law School Library; Chair of the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee — USA (confirmed)
- **Ujala Satgoor**, Library Director, University of Cape Town — South Africa (confirmed)
- **David Tréfás**, Head of Modern Collections at the Basel University Library, President of the Basel Public Library Commission — Switzerland (confirmed)
- **Renate Künast**, Member of German Parliament (Green Party), advocate, former Minister for Agriculture — Germany (not confirmed)
- **Tamara Szabo**, Managing Director, Co create Development — Hungary (not confirmed)

Chair & Facilitators

Anja Smit, LIBER's Secretary-General and the Director of DANS, will act as Chair of the LIBER Journées. She will be present throughout the three days and will ensure cohesion, interaction, and participation by all.

Two facilitators will also contribute to the smooth running of the seminar: **Gyöngyi Karacsony**, General Director at the University and National Library, University of Debrecen, Hungary, and **Jochen Johannsen**, Director, University Library of RWTH Aachen University, Germany.

The focus of the LIBER Journées will NOT be:

- the personal training or coaching of directors
- operational matters (apart from practical examples that may illustrate strategic matters and challenges)

The format of the LIBER Journées will NOT be:

- a series of briefings, lectures, and presentations, but a tailored scientific programme
- interrupted by e-mail checking and messaging.

Anja Smit, as a Chair of the LIBER Journées, will ensure cohesion, interaction and participation by all. The speakers will be asked to focus on specific strategic questions, relating their presentations to the library environment and key challenges. Presentations will be followed by facilitated debate, discussion, and analysis, and there will be break-out sessions, focusing on the issues that participating directors have flagged up in advance of the LIBER Journées and synthesizing the outcomes of the sessions and the

strategic questions addressed.

There will be a reception on the first evening and a LIBER Journées dinner on the second evening.

The proceedings, presentations, and discussions will be carried out in English. Good communication skills in English are therefore necessary.

Najmeh Shaghaei
Lead of the LIBER Journées 2024
Co-Chair LIBER Leadership Working Group
Head of Libraries, The University of Southern Denmark

Anja Smit
Chair of LIBER Journées 2024
LIBER's Secretary-General and the Director of DANS

Dr. Andreas Brandtner
Host of the LIBER Journées 2024
Director of the Freie Universität Berlin Libraries