



**Academic and Research Libraries Section Online Business Meeting  
21 September 2020**

**AGENDA**

Attendance SC-ARL Members: Mari Aaltonen, Melita Ambrozic, Ursula Arning, Gulcin Cribb (chair), Soren Dorch, Jerome Fronty, Ramesh C. Gaur, Marga Koelen(secretary), Leo F.H. Ma, Vicki MacDonald (chair Professional Committee), Jayshree Mamtora (Information Coordinator), Reggie Raju, Tiiu Tarkpea

Non-Attendance SC-ARL members with a notification: Mimi Calter(corresponding member), Lorraine Haricombe, Xin Li, Sharon Murphy, Jim O'Donnell

Non-Attendance SC-ARL members without notification: Camila Munoz Churruca, Adetoun Oyelude, Oarabile Rakgamayana, Mikhail Shepel

1. Welcome

1.1. Introductions & Attendance

Chair, Gulcin Cribb, opens the Zoom meeting and welcomes our members and our observers. Also special welcome to Vicki McDonald, Chair of Professional Committee. It is the first time ARL is holding its annual business meeting virtually

The last 7-8 months have been challenging for all of us wherever you are around the world. We all had to deal with this crisis while continuing with our work and taking care of our families and communities.

The meeting will be recorded Thanks to Leo.

Marga will take care of the chat. Thank to Marga.

Since there was no election this year, we don't have new members. A few of our previous members ceased their membership due to lack of active involvement in the activities of our



Section and non-attendance at our meetings, following IFLA guidelines. So three people who were in line in terms of the number of votes at the last election to become full members: Camila Munoz Churruca from Chile, Jerome Fronty from France and Jim O'Donnell from the US.

We also have a new corresponding member: Fawz Abdallah from Lebanon.

#### 1.2. Apologies for Non-attendance

We received apologies from: Mimi Calter (corresponding member), Lorraine Haricombe, Xin Li, Sharon Murphy, Jim O'Donnell

#### 2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda is approved

#### 3. Previous Meetings

##### 3.1. Minutes SC Business meetings Athens (see attachments)

The minutes are accepted with a minor change. The final minutes will be available, of course in Basecamp, but also at our webpages.

##### 3.2. Matters Arising

No other issues

#### 4. Professional Committee

##### 4.1. Announcements from the Professional Committee

Vicki raises a few issues:

- Two SIG's will be reviewed this year
- The IFLA Dynamic Unit award will be awarded because IFLA want to recognize the work that is done by the different committees
- Vicki compliments us with a very active committee
- Funding procedure has been simplified and many funded projects for 2020 did not take place due to Corona so for 2021 there is extra money available. It is recommended to discuss the funding proposals in first instance with your division chair.



- The IFLA journal has moved in the Scopus ranking within the LIS field
- Several round tables discussions have taken place and Vicki attended 4 or 5 sessions. Gulcin and Marga also attended a session. Overall there is a lot of support for the governance review. But there are many questions, maybe doubts, about the regional council and how this will work.
- During the General Assembly, the annual meeting of IFLA, on how the voting will take place.
- In 2021 there will be elections again
- Vicki mentioned that "tomorrow" there will be a notification about WLIC 2021. Secretary: the mail was received on 22 September : In a first for IFLA, the 2021 [World Library and Information Congress \(WLIC\)](#) will be held online, as part of an accelerated drive to develop a new, more inclusive format for the most international event in the library calendar.

#### 4.2. Request for items to be raised to the Professional Committee

No items are raised

### 5. Updates on Ongoing Section Activities

#### 5.1. Information Coordinator's Report

ARL Facebook Page: there has been a huge increase in the number of ARL Facebook members with the numbers more than doubling from 1,820 in August 2019 to 3,938 in September 2020 (1,404 in August 2018)

ARL Twitter account: the information coordinator has been trying to tweet more regularly from the IFLA ARL account with 13 tweets posted in the last twelve months. We do need more followers so please start following us and promote our social media communication channels to colleagues in your respective countries.

The UNIVERS listserv is an additional communication channel on a range of topics. We currently have 799 active members (797 in 2019, 730 in 2018). There were seven official messages sent to the elist2018).

ARL YouTube and SlideShare accounts. We had to set these up to accommodate the large files sizes of recent webinar recordings and PowerPoint slides. The IFLA web pages



have a file size limit which was exceeded by the recordings and slides hence we needed to find alternatives.

The report is available from Basecamp

## 5.2. Attendance Grant

Liz will continue as coordinator of the WLIC Attendance Grants which she has been doing for many years. The winners of the 2019 WLIC Grants had to write and publish their experiences in the ARL Blog.

Our sponsors Ex Libris and Sage have agreed to continue with their sponsorship for both 2020 and 2021. The different grant assessment teams have assessed the applications. We will offer grants to two sets of winners for 2020 and 2021 next year to attend WLIC 2021 in Rotterdam. We received 89 applicants for 2020. The winners of the 2020 Attendance Grant are:

Leah Njeri Mugo, Kenya (Africa)

Sonia Davial Comse Hope, Puerto Rico (Latin America)

Madina Kairatbekkyzy, Kazakhstan (Asia)

The winners have all gratefully accepted the grants.

We have created two guidelines: one for the applicants what is needed for the application and one internal guideline for ourselves about the internal procedure. Both can be found in Basecamp

## 5.3. ARL Blog and Webinars

Jerome reports on this: we have had 15 blogs the last year so more than one per month. We have a good geographical mix of blogs coming from various countries. The blogs reflect very different approaches: you may find some very personal point of view blogs and on the other hand blogs which are more technical or addressing more legal issues. We consider all members to be potential candidates for writing a blog but also others are welcome. Jerome moderates the blogs and after editing it is normally quickly published. Jerome is asking for improvements or amendments to the current workflow.

As a principle, we agreed that if each of us either writes or sponsors a colleague's post once a year we have enough material to keep the "at least once a month" pace. We are



fine with the diversity of approaches (personal / technical, geographical mix etc.) up an including non-members posts, as long as it is moderated;

There exist a section-approved template that helps formatting the posts; this can be found in Basecamp.

There is an interest in having a pipeline update so that each and everyone can position his/herself and plan the necessary work in advance. Jerome will provide us with this scheme.

Non-English posts remains an open question as there is a desire to encourage diversity but also we have to moderate the posts in a knowledgeable fashion. This will be further discussed with a small group of people and will be reported back to the chair.

Reggie reports about the webinars: we have had fairly successful five webinars, thus far. At one point in time we had over 200 participants and other webinars had 150 participants.

The technical support is quite onerous so Reggie is asking for volunteers. Xin Li was responsible for the technical organization of the webinars but she is concerned about the workload. Especially if we plan to have more than 4 webinars per year. There has been a lot of communication with IFLA HQ to create guidelines for webinars. It is important that we can capture the webinars especially for people who cannot attend for various reasons.

## 6. Objectives & Planning

### 6.1. Trends in Member Countries

Marga reports on the trends in different countries. There are now 13 reports in Basecamp of which 7 reports are form European countries. Marga requests everybody who did not submit their country report yet, to do this. Marga presents a brief summary based on the current trend reports: Almost everybody mentioned the consequences of COVID-19 for academic libraries and this ranges from making sure students can study safe in the library to the financial sustainability of libraries after COVID-19. What did we learn as libraries from a pandemic like this one where worldwide libraries had to close their physical libraries. Cooperation between libraries was also mentioned a few times. Also the role of libraries in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals was an issue.



Of course topics like Open Science Open data (FAIR) Open Educational Resources Citizen Science Open software etc. were mentioned

Privacy issues became more an issue since COVID-19 because we all went online only.

Related to this also research ethics and integrity were mentioned.

Agreements and license deals with publishers was also mentioned a few times. Different countries follow a different approach but all relates to Open Access and how quickly publishers will move towards 100% OA.

All the Trend reports are in Basecamp and we could use them to find out which topics might be interested for webinar, blogs etc. Marga will present a summary when all trend reports are available in Basecamp

## 6.2. Future Program & Partnership Ideas

### 6.2.1. Satellite Meeting 2021 Luxembourg

A small team led by Jim O'Donnell has been discussing the 2021 Satellite meeting. We had a virtual meeting with BNL (National library of Luxembourg) last week. Other members of the team include: Marga, Mimi, Gulcin, Sharon, Mari and Tiiu, Mikhael. We may also consider other IFLA Sections as partners. After we collect these, we will then need to negotiate with BNL on the theme of the conference and other usual logistics and practical matters. They are keen and they want to partner with us in determining the theme/topic too. We may need more help with this. We are not yet sure whether this can be a face-to-face or virtual or a hybrid meeting at this stage. We will keep you informed.

### 6.2.2. Hot Topics

Lorraine and the same team will continue. Organizing the hot topics session in 2021. If anyone else wish to join please let the chair know. We can use the country trend reports to determine overall theme for next year.

### 6.2.3. Joint Session 2021

We will keep the same program as we had in 2020. We will have a joint session with Statistics and Evaluation SC. the abstracts have been chosen by a team and the



keynote speakers are determined: Lorcan Dempsey (OCLC), Cliff Lynch (CNI) Heather Todd (UQL) and Frankie Wilson (Bodleian)

All the speakers are willing to present in 2021. We promised the winning abstract authors to contact them in January 2021 to see how we will go forward in 2021.

#### 6.2.4. Blogs & Webinars

We will continue as we discussed at agenda point 5.3. Jerome will continue as blog coordinator and Reggie and Xin will remain doing the webinars.

#### 6.3. Ideas for New Activities

Possible ideas/topics that were mentioned: publication ethics, transformation of libraries after COVID-19, access to online resources etc. Also the trend reports should be checked for new issues/items.

It was also mentioned that there is a need to meet more regularly with the team members like we do now during this meeting. Gulcin promises to organize more online meetings with the team members.

#### 6.4. Requests for Funding

We have never asked for funding but during this meeting one option was mentioned: ask funding for translating blog texts. If there are more ideas please inform the chair.

#### 6.5. Action Plan 2020-2021

Marga and Gulcin will prepare the Action Plan based on this meeting and it will be shared with you.

#### 6.6. Annual Report for 2019-2020

Gulcin has finished the Annual Report and it will be soon uploaded to IFLA HQ

#### 7. Any other business

Marga wanted to add a link to the personal profiles from our section members on the following webpage: <https://www.ifla.org/standing-committee/02>. IFLA HQ found this a very interesting idea but this still needs to be discussed because probably more sections are interested in this. Marga will inform us about the progress on this.

Gulcin closes the meeting at 10:30 AM (CET).