



# LIBRARY THEORY AND RESEARCH SECTION

## Newsletter • July 2017

### LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Anna Maria Tamaro



DEAR COLLEAGUES,

As we prepare for the IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) in Wroclaw in August of 2017, I am pleased to report the results of the election for the Library Theory and Research Standing (LTR) Committee. There were 11 vacant positions on the Standing Committee and eleven candidates received sufficient votes to be elected (four members were elected for their second term).

Eight members will be completing their second term during the WLIC in Wroclaw. Many thanks to the outgoing members of the Standing Committee for their valuable contributions to the LTR Section and to the Standing Committee. We look forward to their continued contributions during the Wroclaw meetings and later, we hope they will continue as personal members of the Section and contribute to LTR activities in the future.

Both incoming and outgoing members of the Standing Committee have been involved in the engaging discussion of IFLA Global Vision Project. By trying to agree on a shared vision of the future for libraries, the Committee's representatives quickly agreed on a role of active agents in society, reaching users who are not the usual ones and beyond the traditional functions of libraries. I found this agreement amazing, considering that the members of the Standing Committee represent all different geographic areas in the world and different types of libraries. The fact that we live in so

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many different areas and time zones poses sometimes challenges for scheduling our virtual meetings.

The LTR Committee is always very active in carrying out projects, publications and planning conferences. A subgroup of the Standing Committee (Anna Maria Tamaro, Krystyna Matusiak, Heidi Olsen, and Terry Weech) completed this year the project on the "Data Curator: who is S/he?." Another subgroup (Jennifer Arns, Beth Sandore Namachivaya, Anna Maria Tamaro and Clara Chu) was actively involved in BSLISE (Building Strong LIS Education) together with Education and Training Section and LIS education in developing countries SIG.

I want to remind you that there are two LTR Standing Committee meetings scheduled for WLIC in Wroclaw: Saturday, 19.08.2017, 10:15 – 12:15 (Multifunctional Hall) and Tuesday, 22.08.2017, 08:00 – 10:30 (Conference Room B). Observers are very welcome to attend either session.

I also want to encourage the LTR members to register for the LTR Satellite Meeting 2017 in Warsaw on August 16 – 17. The Satellite title is Data Curator's Roles and Responsibilities: International and Interdisciplinary Perspectives. The registration information is available at: <https://ifla.wdib.uw.edu.pl>

I hope many of you will attend the LTR Open Session at the WLIC in Wrocław. The 2017 Program Planning Committee included Gaby Haddow and Heidi Kristin Olsen, co-Chairs, and Krystyna Matusiak and Milan Vasiljevic, committee members. You will find the information about the open session in this Newsletter.

This is my last term as Chair of the LTR Section. I really enjoyed working together with all of you. However, this is not the end, and I am happy to continue being a Standing Committee member for another 2-year period. Furthermore, I am confident that the elections in Wrocław will provide a new chair for of the LTR Section.

I look forward to seeing you soon and I want to give my warmest thanks to all of you who have actively contributed and made it possible to achieve many of the LTR objectives in the course of last four years.

Anna Maria Tammaro  
Chair, Library Theory and Research

## **LIBRARIES IN 2022: THE LTR CONVERSATION ON THE IFLA GLOBAL VISION PROJECT**

Anna Maria Tammaro  
Theo Bothma

The Section Library Theory and Research has been involved in the discussion on the IFLA Global Vision Project. We have participated in the kick-off meeting in Athens and on return we have organized the conversation within the Section. 80% of the members of the Section have participated, representing all geographic areas and the different types of libraries. We've had three virtual meetings and shared a document on Drive to exchange ideas. The LTR Section's

(virtual) conversation has been structured in response to the structured questions of the Global Vision Project, focusing on three issues: the challenges (for society, libraries, and the profession), the shared view of the library and the characteristics of the transformation to be realized.

### *Challenges*

The future of libraries is uncertain; one only thing is sure: libraries cannot be isolated and distinct from the future of society. So the challenges of the social context are the starting point of the conversation: an implicit principle is that the vision of the library is a social vision. An important consequence of this principle is that the librarian must have a proactive attitude, instead of playing an apolitical and neutral role.

The societal challenges that the LTR Section conversation has considered are both at macro-level, such as globalization (and related phenomena of migration, terrorism and inequality), and at the micro level, such as the information industry, with attention to intellectual property, the concentration of information in monopolies and the emergence of new actors competing with libraries. The world economy is increasingly global and linked to technological evolution: the Internet and networks make it possible to produce services in in place and deliver them to the other side of the world. This difference in channels of fruition has a big impact on libraries themselves and questions their future role.

### *Vision of libraries*

Paradoxically, however, libraries have many opportunities of which they can (and indeed should) take advantage: the tendency for greater democratization and transparency, greater demand for lifelong learning, training that becomes collaborative (connectivist

pedagogy), information and media literacy needs to defend people from an overload of information and provide knowledge of how to recognize (or identify?) fake news. The library is more than ever the center of democratic societies and has a social value to be communicated to all actors. Consequently, it is necessary to facilitate a greater understanding of the value of libraries and the contribution that the library can give to society to help address the challenges of this period.

### *Library transformation*

How and when can these social elements be incorporated into the traditional organization of libraries? More than before, a systems perspective is needed: not the library as a hierarchical and isolated organization, but a library looking forward to synergies and integration with the various actors that form the information system.

Above all, more interaction with users and communities is needed. This implies a personalization of services, knowing how to apply research methods to gain knowledge of how information is used, know how to tailor services to specific needs of individuals and communities. By applying technologies, libraries can also reach those who are not regular users, adapting to the technologies they are accustomed to (e.g. by analyzing the user experience).

Contemplating the vision of libraries of 2022, it is important to reflect on the lessons learned from the rich history of library innovation in society. Library values that are shared by IFLA are still valid: learning, transforming, cooperation and inclusiveness. Taking as a starting point the conceptual framework outlining the social role of libraries, the LTR Section's conversation has proposed a possible new pro-active role of librarians (libraries) to

describe the activities to be done today and in the future (five years).

### *New activities, old issues*

The value of the library is based on the past and present principle of access to information for all, in defense of human rights (in particular Article 19), on the reflection that we have reported from the IFLA Lyon Declaration. The digital divide is a new challenge which libraries must now confront, together with social inclusion and privacy, with a careful role in balancing services for disadvantaged communities. New activities explore the concept of the third space, where the physical site and virtual library space are integrated.

### *New activities, new issues*

The value of libraries is based on the little-explored contribution that can provide a quality-of-information filter together with the ability to make users aware of information and media literacy. This role of educator will gain more importance than it currently has.

### *Old activities, old issues*

To communicate the value of cultural heritage and to ensure the preservation of artifacts (in any format) for future generations remain the task of libraries.

### *Old activities, new issues*

Access to information has become more and more expensive. Libraries must support the realization and growth of Open Science, with support for Open Access in all its forms. Also catalogs and bibliographies are open: integrated into the Semantic Web and open to integrations with other institutions on the Web.

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## CONTRIBUTING TO RESEARCH ON LIS EDUCATION

### THE FIRST YEAR OF THE IFLA BSLISE WORKING GROUP

Clara M. Chu, Director and Mortenson Distinguished Professor, Mortenson Center for International Library Programs, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Email: [cmchu@illinois.edu](mailto:cmchu@illinois.edu)

Jaya Raju, Associate Professor and Head, Library and Information Studies Center, University of Cape Town, Email: [jaya.raju@uct.ac.za](mailto:jaya.raju@uct.ac.za)

Primož Južnič, Professor, Department of Library, Information Science and Book Studies, University of Ljubljana, Email: [Primož.Juznic@ff.uni-lj.si](mailto:Primož.Juznic@ff.uni-lj.si)

- On behalf of the IFLA Building Strong LIS Education (BSLISE) Working Group <https://lisedu.wordpress.com/>

#### *Background and Year One*

The IFLA Building Strong Library and Information Science Education (BSLISE) Working Group emerged out of deliberations at the 2016 IFLA Satellite Meeting (Dublin, Ohio, USA) <https://publish.illinois.edu/ifla-set-ltr-2016/> on quality assessment of LIS education programs, hosted by the IFLA Section on Education and Training and the Section on Library Theory and Research. The BSLISE Working Group is comprised of members from across the globe and is an initiative of the IFLA Section on Education and Training (SET), LIS Education in Developing Countries (LISEDC) SIG, and Section on Library Theory and Research (LTR). The BSLISE is working towards the development of an international quality assessment framework that promotes quality in LIS education programmes, is inclusive of

regional and national contexts, and recognizes the LIS education needs arising out of such geographical and cultural diversity. The framework would also seek opportunities for articulation of principles of reciprocity and transferability of LIS education programmes in an effort to promote better mobility of LIS professionals across the globe.

Since its inception in August 2016 to date, the BSLISE Working Group has been active on a number of fronts. It has promoted its visibility and that of its activities through the development of its own website (<https://lisedu.wordpress.com/>) where it posts news of its activities and webinars, resources related to LIS education and research, and information about the members and work of the BSLISE Working Group and its sub-groups. A significant BSLISE event in November 2016 was the hosting of a webinar (Developing an international quality assessment framework for LIS Education: experiences and opportunities from three accreditation programs), which considered how associations cooperating internationally could create an international quality assessment framework for LIS education. The presentation drew on the experience of delivering accreditation of LIS education programs by the American Library Association (ALA), Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), and the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), and the wider international context for quality assessment. It also considered the challenges and opportunities in developing a framework and how it could promote parity between accreditation criteria used by national library associations to promote professional mobility globally. The presentation by Simon Berney-Edwards (CILIP), Judy Brooker (ALIA) and Karen O'Brien (ALA) was followed by

discussion involving around 50 participants from around the globe. For those who were not able to join the webinar, a recording of it is accessible via the BSLISE website (<http://tinyurl.com/BSLISE-2016-11-audio>).

As part of the research endeavors of the BSLISE Working Group, in 2017 much of its time was dedicated to the development of an international survey as part of a study on qualification requirements for library and information “professional” practice in different parts of the world, in order to understand equivalence of credentials. Details of the survey are provided in the next section. A joint project funding proposal by SET to IFLA secured a small grant which was used to employ the services of a student researcher to assist the Working Group with the survey data analysis and dissemination. Findings from this first international survey of its kind will be presented at an Open Session during the 2017 IFLA World Library and Information Congress, Wroclaw, Poland, 19-25 August. Critical engagement with participants on the findings will inform the development of a White Paper on Building Strong LIS Education.

The BSLISE Working Group meets regularly using Blackboard Collaborate Ultra hosted by the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, to which the Working Group is grateful for technological as well as administrative support. The BSLISE Working Group is co-chaired by Clara M. Chu and Jaya Raju. Beth Sandore Namachchivaya, now at the University of Waterloo, co-chaired until March 2017.

### *International Survey of Entry Requirements for Library and Information “Professional” Practice*

To address the deficiency in the knowledge on international education and to map the LIS professional and educational landscape around the world, BSLISE conducted a survey that was available in six languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) and administered online on March-May, 2017. The online questionnaire, that included multiple choice and open-ended questions, examined: (1) LIS qualification and certification requirements; (2) the definition and meaning of an LIS “professional”; and (3) authorities that determine professional entry requirements. The online questionnaire (<https://www.1ka.si/a/115316>) was deliberately kept short as the goal was to receive answers from all countries worldwide. The survey received 801 responses from 102 countries. Especially valuable were answers to question 8: In your country, who is considered an ‘LIS professional’? Please provide a short definition that is common in your country and if appropriate, cite the source(s); and to the last question where comments or information on LIS qualification and/or certification in your country or region were requested.

### *Implications/Contributions to Research on LIS Education*

The BSLISE Working Group is committed to strengthening LIS education globally and in doing so undertakes research, provides resources on its website to inform research on



LIS education and fosters a network of scholars interested in understanding the common and distinct LIS education practices internationally. Its research shines a light on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges in educating and training future library and information professionals. Conducting research that is international is always a challenge and in our case, various issues were addressed: reach, accessibility, understanding of terminology, regional use of terminology, and local knowledge and perspectives to ensure appropriate interpretation of practices.

To ensure broad reach and accessible participation, the survey was made available online and in diverse languages. The survey was translated into six of the seven IFLA official languages and participants were encouraged to respond in the six languages of the survey. German translation was not provided because the team did not have easy access to a German language speaker and had knowledge that Germans in the LIS field had English fluency. Knowing that respondents would have access to the Internet, an online survey ensured 24/7 access and broad reach. To address those with connectivity issues, respondents were able to request and respond to a print version of the survey. Having an international research team also meant that they had access to regional electronic discussion/distribution lists that otherwise would not be easily identifiable to those outside the region.

Lastly, the regional and language expertise by team members was valuable in developing the survey and interpreting responses to ensure

that differences in terminology and educational structures (e.g., post-secondary education levels of study and entrance requirements), and entities that shape LIS “professional” entry requirements (e.g., professional organizations, policies, etc.) were understood and clearly presented.

### *Forthcoming Plans and Participation*

The BSLISE looks forward to the Open Session at the 2017 IFLA World Library and Information Congress, Wroclaw, Poland on 24 August 2017 at which findings from its international survey will be presented and input sought from participating delegates, including LIS practitioners, educators and other stakeholders. Drawing from the engagement at this Open Session, an international panel comprising of members of the BSLISE Working Group intends to participate in the 2018 ALISE (Association for Library and Information Science Education) Conference taking place in Denver, Colorado on 6-9th February 2018. The BSLISE Working Group has submitted a panel proposal to ALISE. Further plans for its second year include the BSLISE continuing with its Webinar Series involving topics of interest in LIS education and research. In looking forward to a second year of activities and the development of a White Paper on Building Strong LIS Education, the IFLA BLISE Working Group invites interested individuals to visit its website (<https://lisedu.wordpress.com/>) and to join its international collaborative ventures towards strengthening LIS education internationally.

## LTR SATELLITE MEETING

The IFLA Satellite Meeting, “Data Curator’s Roles and Responsibilities: International and Interdisciplinary Perspectives” will be held at the University of Warsaw on August 16 and 17, 2017. LTR is organizing this two-day conference in collaboration with IFLA- Preservation and Conservation, IFLA- Information Technology, and Warsaw University - Faculty of Journalism, Information and Book Studies. The conference is focused on the roles and responsibilities of data curators in international and interdisciplinary contexts. Data curation has emerged as a new area of responsibility for researchers, librarians, and information professionals in the digital environment. The primary goal of the Satellite Conference is to engage the international scholarly community in a conversation leading to a better understanding of the challenges that the new requirements for the dissemination of research data are posing to researchers and information professionals and to discuss the main trends in data curation/research data management practices and education.”

The Satellite Conference will feature three key note speakers: Reinhard Altenhöner, a Deputy General Director of the State Library Berlin, Lynn Silipigni Connaway, a Senior Research Scientist and Director of User Research at OCLC Research, and Sarah L. Shreeves, the Associate Dean for Digital Strategies at the University of Miami Libraries. The Organizing Committee selected 12 papers, which present different aspects of data curation and case studies of implementing research data management services and training of library professionals. The authors represent seven different countries, including Canada, China, Germany, Korea, UK, US, and Zimbabwe. The extended paper abstracts are available through the IFLA Library at:

<http://library.ifla.org/view/divisions/div4=5Fltr.html>. In addition, LTR members, Anna Maria Tamaro, Krystyna K. Matusiak, and Terry Weech, and a member of the research team, Frank Andreas Sposito will participate in the panel presenting the findings of the LTR-sponsored research project “Data Curator: who is S/he?.” The program of the conference is available at:

<https://ifla.wdib.uw.edu.pl/programme/>.

The conference information is at: <https://ifla.wdib.uw.edu.pl/registration-and-fees/>.

### Organizing Committee:

Krystyna K. Matusiak (IFLA LTR), co-chair; Anna Maria Tamaro (IFLA LTR), co-chair; Alenka Kavčič Čolić (IFLA Preservation and Conservation); Justyna Jasiewicz (Warsaw University); Anna Mierzecka (Warsaw University); Ingeborg Verheul (IFLA Preservation and Conservation); Terry Weech (IFLA LTR); Evviva Weinraub (IFLA Information Technology).

## LTR OPEN SESSION

### Theme:

“Engaged Communities: Transforming the Librarian Role”

The LTR Section organized the Open Session at the IFLA Congress in Wrocław in collaboration with the New Professionals (NP) Special Interest Group. The session aims to bring together research and practice that illustrates how the library profession has transformed and is transforming to meet a variety of challenges, including technological, societal, political, or economic.

The call for papers was issued in early 2017. The response to the call was very positive. We received 44 submissions, several times the number of presentations we could select for the

limited time that was allocated to the session. We are happy that this important issue is engaging many professionals worldwide!

The Organizing Committee, assisted by the LTR Committee members, Anna Maria Tammaro and Yasuyo Inoue, reviewed the proposals and selected six presentations:

1. *Contingent Valuation Applied to the National System of Public Libraries of Chile*,

Pablo Andrade Blanco (Dirección de Bibliotecas, Archivos y Museos de Chile, Chile)  
Alberto Gil Lajaña (Dirección de Bibliotecas, Archivos y Museos de Chile, Chile)

2. *From Collecting to Tracing Documentary Realities: The Intertextuality of "New Society,"*

Iyra S. Buenrostro (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)

3. *"Time Is Out of Joint". The Impact of Digimodernism on the Transformation of Librarian's Role*,

Olga Einasto (University of Tartu Library, Estonia)

4. *Changing Landscapes: New Roles for Academic Librarians*,

Danuta A. Nitecki (Drexel University Libraries, United States), Mary Ellen K. Davies (Association of College & Research Libraries, United States)

5. *Turn on Literature*,

Sverre Helge Bolstad (Bergen Library, Norway), Allan Thomsen Volhøj (Roskilde Libraries, Denmark), Martin Campostrini (Roskilde Libraries, Denmark)

6. *Strategies, Competencies and Transitions Roles in a Digital Transformational Labour Market*,

Paula Ochôa (Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, Portugal), Leonor Gaspar Pinto (Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, Portugal).

The speakers represent seven different countries. The presentations focus on the

librarian role in public as well as academic libraries. The topics range from the transformation of the labour market to changing roles of academic librarians and librarians' engagement with the new literary genres. The keynote speaker at the Open Session is Prof. Maria Próchnicka of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. The title of her presentation is: *Librarian Role in the Transforming Information Society. Between Profession and Mission*. Gaby Haddow and Milan Vasiljevic are chairing the session. We invite you to join us for the session no. 187 on Wednesday, August 23, 9:30-11:30 AM, in Auditorium Hall (SI).

#### **Program Organizing Committee:**

Gaby Haddow and Heidi Kristin Olsen, co-Chairs, Krystyna Matusiak, and Milan Vasiljevic

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## **FOLLOW US!**

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- **Twitter:** @IFLA\_LTR
- **News:** [www.ifla.org/news/5794](http://www.ifla.org/news/5794)
- **Blog:** [blogs.ifla.org/library-theory-research/](http://blogs.ifla.org/library-theory-research/)
- **Web:** [www.ifla.org/library-theory-and-research](http://www.ifla.org/library-theory-and-research)

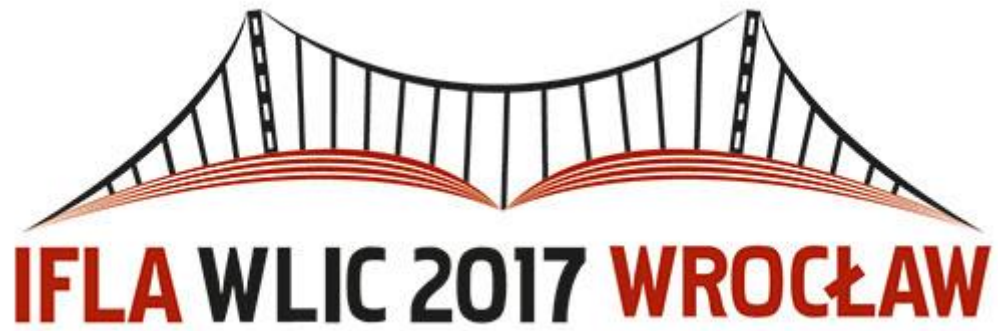
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See you in August at the  
2017 WLIC in Wrocław, Poland!