



2019

ANNUAL REPORT

2020

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2019 2020

WELCOME

Dear Reader,

Welcome to LIBER's 2019-2020 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 the coronavirus, 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 pay special attention to the evolving situation of Europe's research libraries: how it has changed, which new problems we as a community face, and the new needs we have. These are challenging, but also very interesting times.

Despite the fraught context surrounding this Annual Report, I want to ensure that we celebrate our achievements. As you will see in the coming pages, our Working Groups, European Projects, Executive Board and Office have worked in dozens of 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 securing the future of LIBER, when our network overwhelmingly approved a plan to extend services while giving LIBER a more solid financial base. As we approach LIBER's 50th year — a milestone which we will celebrate in 2021 at our Annual Conference in Belgrade, Serbia — I am excited to continue working with all of you.

Jeannette Frey

LIBER President



ABOUT THIS REPORT

This Annual Report documents our activities from June 2019 to May 2020.

It clarifies how we support research libraries and provide value to LIBER Participants. The report's structure mirrors that of our 2018-2022 Strategy, with sections for each of our three strategic priorities.

In addition, we reflect on the activities of the Executive Board and Office, our participation in international projects, network growth, upcoming activities and our financial accounts.

OUR MISSION

- Provide an information infrastructure to enable research in LIBER Institutions to be world class;
- Enhance the experience of users in LIBER Institutions, which is enriched by the facilities and services which LIBER can offer;
- Promote and advocate for European libraries in all European and national fora where the voice of LIBER needs to be heard;
- Develop library and information professionals who are innovative and can offer leadership to LIBER and to the national/international library community.

OUR VALUES

- High-quality services for all users of library and information services;
- Intellectual freedom and access to scholarship;
- Collaboration with campus, local, national, European and global partners;
- Stewardship of collections and institutional resources, in the most appropriate format;
- Leadership, innovation and a willingness to embrace opportunities for change;
- Inclusivity, equality of opportunity and fulfilment of potential.



REFLECTIONS ON 2019-2020

LIBER's Secretary-General, John MacColl, and Executive Director, Astrid Verheusen, reflect on the achievements of the past 12 months from the perspective of the Executive Board and the Office.

Executive Board Report

The proposal on the sustainability of LIBER as a foundation, Ensuring LIBER's Viability & Building On Success, was passed by the Meeting of Participants at our 2019 Annual Conference in Dublin, Ireland.

This move to greater sustainability marked a watershed moment in the development of LIBER as an organisation, allowing LIBER to move forward with the financial confidence to provide services to its community of Participants. A number of new services — including more webinars, a database of LIBER Participants interested in working with LIBER on projects and increased lobbying of the European Parliament — are now starting to be introduced.

New Board Members

The Executive Board also welcomed significant interest in new Board members, with 11 candidates for the four Board vacancies to be filled at the Meeting of Participants in Dublin. As a result of the ballot, we were happy to welcome the following new members to the Executive Board: Dr Heli Kautonen, Dr Hilde van Wijngaarden, Dr Andreas Brandtner and Dr Birgit Schmidt.

Extending Our Reach

Over the past year, the Board has considered ways in which LIBER can more effectively extend its reach into less well-represented parts of Europe, particularly Central and Eastern European countries. Open Science has continued to feature strongly in its work, particularly in relation to supporting the Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services (SCOSS) and Plan S. The Board has worked on analysing LIBER's relationships with other sectoral bodies and organisations internationally, with a view to strengthening these in areas of key importance for the LIBER community.

Our journal LIBER Quarterly has received considerable attention this year. A small group of Board members met with Professor Raf Dekeyser and Professor Mel Collier in Leuven in December to consider the question of how to find a successor to Professor Dekeyser as Managing Editor and Professor Collier as Editorial Board Chair, and to discuss the hosting platform and business model of the journal. A taskforce was then convened to continue this work.

Governance

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Board has adjusted its way of working to ensure that LIBER continues to be properly governed. The Board's June meetings will take place in video form, as will our annual Meeting of Participants. Crisis often leads to innovation, and it is our hope that by holding an online Meeting of Participants more institutions than ever will join and take an active role in setting our future direction.

Sponsors

As ever, the Board would like to thank LIBER's sponsors for their invaluable support. Gold Sponsors are EBSCO, Emerald Group and Ex Libris, and Silver Sponsors are OpenEdition, RetroNews and Digital Science. We also thank OCLC for their ongoing sponsorship of the Award for Library Innovation, which recognises the three Annual Conference abstracts best describing innovative work.

Regarding the future role of sponsors in LIBER, the Board discussed guidelines at the beginning of this year regarding how new sponsors should be assessed and setting out which LIBER values should take precedence in this respect.



Looking Ahead

Two new places on the Board have become available, as Drs Anja Smit and Mr Martin Svoboda reach the end of their terms of office. The Board will appoint Dr Hilde van Wijngaarden as LIBER's next Treasurer from June 2020. Drs Smit will remain on the Board for two years as a Special Advisor on Financial Matters.

In the longer-term, the priorities of the Board are to continue overseeing our work towards the vision expressed in our 2018-2022 Strategy. This seeks to develop a world in which scholarly publishing is transformed by the values of Open Access, research data is managed efficiently and transparently by research libraries, digital skills within our profession meet the needs of the research lifecycle, research infrastructure is fit for the purposes of all research disciplines, and the future of the documentary cultural heritage of today is digital. This will be done through our Steering Committees, Working Groups and the projects in which LIBER is involved across the EU and further afield.

We will also begin the process of preparing the next strategy, for the period 2023-2027. This new Strategy will be the 'Post-coronavirus Strategy', and reflect the values of a profession with much to offer global societies chastened and transformed by a pandemic for which we were under-prepared in many of the countries within Europe, and across the world. As the global community reflects on what it has learned from the pandemic of 2020, the role of research libraries in making the necessary information fairly and speedily available to all who need it for the good of humanity will become more important than ever, as will the elimination of unjust interference in scholarly publishing by commercial entities whose values are inimical to the free flow

of information in the service of human development. In its 50-year history, the coronavirus pandemic has been the greatest challenge the LIBER community has ever faced, and its next Strategy will be the most important it has ever produced. The Executive Board understands its responsibility to give this new Strategy the seriousness it deserves.

Executive Board Meetings

In 2019-2020, meetings were held at LIBER's 48th Annual Conference in Trinity College Dublin, Ireland (June 2019), in the Residencia de Estudiantes, Madrid, Spain (October 2019) and in Bibliothèque Cantonale et Universitaire Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland (February 2020). LIBER's Finance Committee met at all Executive Board meetings, and the Appointments Committee in October 2019.

LOOKING AHEAD



MR JULIEN ROCHE,
Vice-President, Director
of Libraries, University
of Lille



MS JEANNETTE FREY,
President, Director,
Bibliothèque Cantonale
et Universitaire (BCU)
Lausanne



DRS ANJA SMIT,
Treasurer & Finance Committee
Chair, University Librarian,
Utrecht University



DR BERTIL F. DORCH,
Chair of the Digital Skills &
Services Steering Committee,
Library Director, University
Library of Southern Denmark

DR GIANNIS TSAKONAS,
Chair of the Innovative Scholarly
Communications Steering
Committee, Acting Director,
Library & Information Center,
University of Patras



DR BIRGIT SCHMIDT,
Chair of the Research
Infrastructure Steering
Committee, Göttingen State
and University Library,
Germany



MR JOHN MACCOLL,
Secretary-General,
University Librarian
& Director of Library
Services, University of
St. Andrews

Executive Board Members



DR LARS BURMAN,
Director, Uppsala
University Library

**MS AGNÈS PONSATI
OBIOLS,** Director, Unit of
Information Resources for
Research, Spanish National
Research Council (CSIC)



DR HELI KAUTONEN,
Library Director, Finnish
Literature Society,
Finland

**DR ANDREAS
BRANDTNER MBA MSC,**
Library Director, University
Library of Freie Universität
Berlin, Germany



**DR HILDE VAN
WIJNGAARDEN,** Library
Director, University Library
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam,
Netherlands

MR MARTIN SVOBODA,
Director, National Library of
Technology, Prague (NTK)



Special Advisor



MS KRISTIINA HORMIA-POUTANEN,
Director, Library Network Services,
National Library of Finland

Thank you to the
Executive Board members
who completed their
term in 2019.



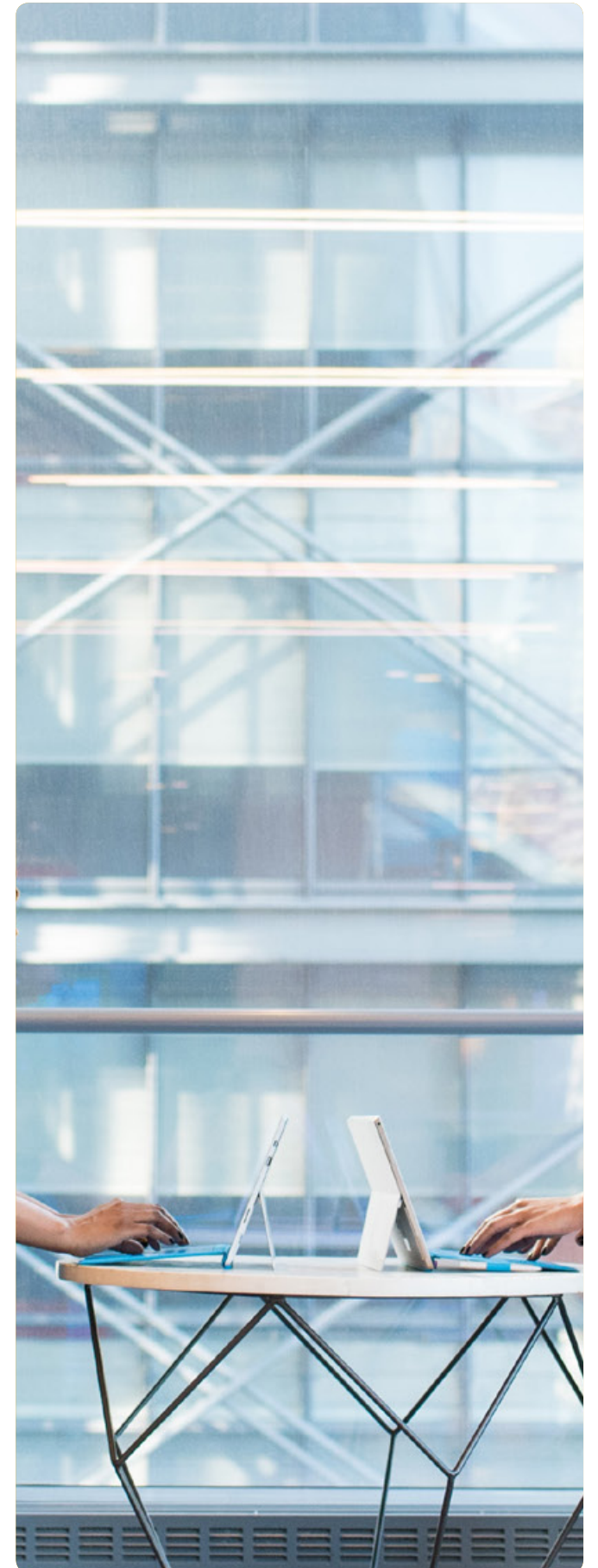
**PROF. DR WOLFRAM
HORSTMANN,**
University Librarian,
Göttingen State and
University Library



**DR MATTHIJS
VAN OTEGEM,**
Director, Erasmus
University Library
Rotterdam



MR ANDRIS VILKS,
Director, National
Library of Latvia





Executive Director's Report

Following the approval of the Proposal for a Sustainable LIBER at last year's Meeting of Participants, as well as the growth of the project portfolio, the Office immediately began working on expanding its capacity in order to deliver the many new promised services.

New Team Members

A key part of this was the expansion of the Office team. Tatsiana Yankelevich and Nienke van Schaverbeke both joined in early 2020 as Training Coordinator and Partnership & Events Manager respectively. With our new colleagues on board, we are in a strong position to steadily expand LIBER services by organising more events, webinars and training activities. We also welcomed two interns to the Office: one in January to research the profile of LIBER institutions and to assist the communication team, and a second in May to support communications activities for the Annual Conference.

Coronavirus

The Office has been working from home since mid-March because of Covid-19 and in-line with measures taken by the Dutch government. LIBER has taken its responsibility and cancelled all in-person events in the first half of 2020. Some, like the Annual Conference, are being transformed into virtual events while others are postponed.

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.

Despite the coronavirus, we remain focused on implementing our 2018-2022 Strategy. We are also paying extra attention to our relationships with sponsors. After cancelling the LIBER Annual Conference (during which sponsors would normally receive benefits such as a speaking slot and advertisement in the printed programme), a new proposal was made to LIBER's current Gold and Silver sponsors to support LIBER 2020 ONLINE.

Stronger Network Ties

Securing a Role for Research Libraries in the EOSC

We made a special effort in recent months to strengthen ties with the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC). Libraries already were involved thanks to LIBER's attendance at events such as the EOSC Symposium (October 2019) and work in projects such as EOSCpilot, FOSTER and SSHOC but there was a desire to expand on this role.

Therefore LIBER's President, Jeannette Frey, Vice-President Julien Roche and Executive Director Astrid Verheusen met European Commission officials Kostas Glinos, Head of Unit, Open Science, DG Research and Innovation, and Andreas Veisapak, Head of Unit, Infrastructure and Science Cloud, DG CNECT, in January.

The importance of research libraries as intermediaries, trainers and multipliers in Open Science in general and the EOSC was discussed, as was the way to expand this role in the future. Partly as a result of these meetings, LIBER's President became an official observer in the EOSC Executive Board in March.

Furthermore, LIBER successfully worked with Scientific Knowledge Services to win EU funding for a series of workshops for research libraries, during which libraries will be asked for input on their role in EOSC. Five workshops will be organised online, starting this autumn.

International Alliance of Research Library Associations (IARLA)

Our cooperation with IARLA has intensified. Several calls have taken place between IARLA and cOAlition S regarding Plan S implementation guidelines and a common statement on the guidelines was issued. IARLA has made statements on Covid-19 and the Sorbonne Declaration on Research Data Rights, and is organising an online IARLA symposium on the re-opening of research libraries and the new normal in the Covid-19 landscape, for research library deans and directors.

Community of Open Scholarship Grassroots Networks (COSGN)

In October, we received a request from the Centre for Open Science to join a proposal to the National Science Foundation (US) for a network to support Open Science. The proposal aims to strengthen the connections, communication, and impact of our individual and collective efforts to advance open scholarship. LIBER's Executive Board endorsed this proposal along with 125 other networks and the proposal was ready to be submitted to the National Science Foundation in January.

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 advancing making training FAIR, especially when it comes to training within the EOSC.

Back-Office Improvements

The Office has invested in IT and human resources. A new provider for laptops, internet connections and printers 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 will take place when staff are again physically present in the National Library's premises. Regarding our staff, we made provisions to comply with a new Dutch labour law which came into force in 2020.

We represented LIBER and research libraries at events including:

- World Library Information Conference (Athens, August 2019)
- Open Science Fair (Porto, September 2019)
- EOSC Symposium (Budapest, November 2019)
- Swedish Library Association (visit to LIBER Office; December 2019)

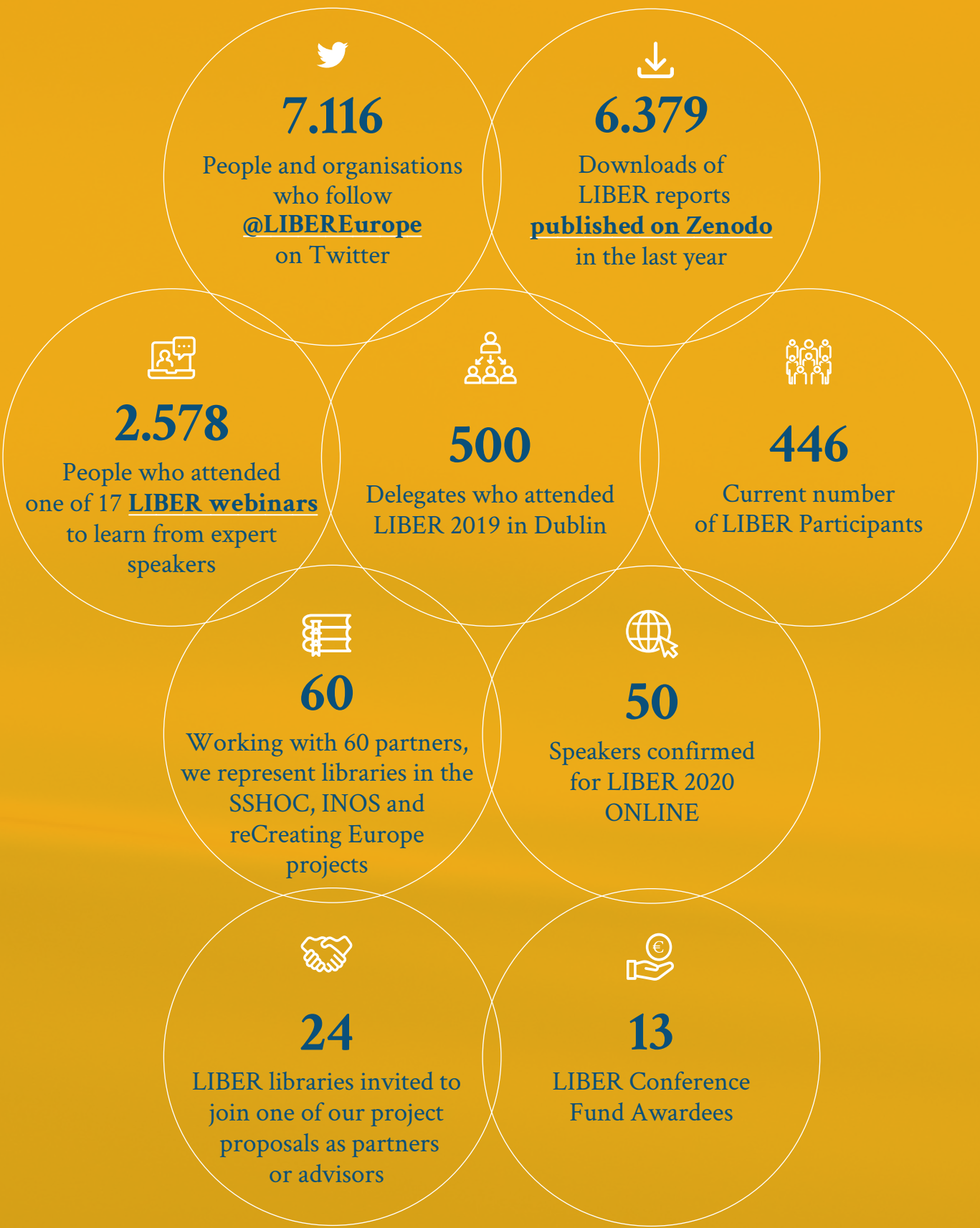
We also prepared for several events which were cancelled because of Covid-19, including a joint LIBER-OCLC workshop, an IARLA panel during the RLUK Annual Conference and a presentation at the Croatian EU-presidency event.

Office Staff in 2019-2020

- Astrid Verheusen, Executive Director
- Friedel Grant, Senior Communications Advisor
- Vasso Kalaitzi, Head of International Projects
- Athina Papadopoulou, Operations & Projects Officer
- Nienke van Schaverbeke, Partnership & Events Manager (since February 2020)
- Martina Torma, Community Engagement and Communications Officer
- Tatsiana Yankelevich, Training Coordinator (since February 2020)

DELIVERING MANY
NEW SERVICES

2019-2020 IN NUMBERS



OUR NETWORK



We represent and cooperate with 446 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

Ten institutions joined LIBER in 2019-2020. Welcome!

- Orpheus Institute (Belgium)
- The Research Library Dubrovnik, Dubrovnik libraries (Croatia)
- Tallinn University of Technology Library (Estonia)
- Center of research and restoration for French museums (France)
- University Libraries of Burgundy (France)
- Siegen University Library (Germany)
- University Autónoma de Lisboa Library (Portugal)
- School of Economics and Business LU, Central Economics Library (Slovenia)
- USI Libraries (Switzerland)
- University of Strathclyde, Andersonian Library (United Kingdom)

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 2019 we published a [Strategy Update](#) for all Participants. That was followed by a [2020 Network Guide](#) outlining the many opportunities available to our community. To support the smooth running of Working Groups, we also created a [Toolkit for Working Group Chairs](#).

In addition, we send regular updates to our internal LIBER-ALL Mailing list and, in the past year, have expanded our range of public newsletters. Some 800 research library professionals now receive our [LIBER Alerts](#) and targeted updates on topics such as copyright advocacy and upcoming webinars. We invite all research library professionals to [subscribe](#).

The next step in our drive to create value for LIBER Participants is the launch of a new website which will make it much easier to access our reports, webinars and other resources. The updated LIBER website will be live later this year.



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 add value by Powering Sustainable Knowledge in the Digital Age. In practical terms, this means working towards a world in which:

- Open Access is the predominant form of publishing;
- Research Data is Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (FAIR);
- Digital Skills underpin a more open and transparent research life cycle;
- Research Infrastructure is participatory, tailored and scaled to the needs of the diverse disciplines;
- The cultural heritage of tomorrow is built on today's digital information.

To realise these, LIBER is working together with its network on the themes identified by three (interconnected) strategic directions: Innovative Scholarly Communication, Digital Skills and Services, and Research Infrastructure.

As an organisation, LIBER brings added value and support in the form of the following enablers:

- Advocacy and communication capacity;
- Engagement in international projects;
- Policy development;
- Leadership capacity building;
- Connecting to our international network and partners.



STRATEGIC
DIRECTION

#01

INNOVATIVE SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION



We are strengthening and expanding the roles of research libraries in Innovative Scholarly Communications through our **Citizen Science, Copyright & Legal Matters, Innovative Metrics** and **Open Access** working groups.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

After launching last spring, this group wrote a journal article **Citizen Science & Libraries: Waltzing Towards Collaboration**, held a LIBER 2019 workshop and presented at the **Focus On Open Science** workshop series.

COPYRIGHT & LEGAL MATTERS

After helping to secure a **TDM Copyright Exception for research**, this group continued its lobbying work. A statement calling for **urgent copyright law action** was released in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and guidance was issued for libraries related to Europe's incoming Directive. This included a **guide to advocating for libraries and research, briefing documents**, a checklist for the **mass digitisation of out-of-commerce works**, **transposition guidance** and a **webinar series**. Tips for libraries who want to support TDM were provided through a **webinar** and a **report**. A **survey on TDM blocking** was also carried out.

INNOVATIVE METRICS

Two webinars — **Innovating The Ways Metrics Are Applied, Responsible Metrics & Measuring Openness** and **Metrics & Machines** — were run. The group is now focusing on six key topics, as explained in their **mid-year update**. They have presented at international conferences, organized a workshop **"Where to From Now On"** at LIBER 2019 and begun cooperating with the **INORMS research evaluation Working Group**.

OPEN ACCESS

A survey on **Open Access Monographs in European Research Libraries** was a major undertaking. The survey was discussed in a **LIBER 2019 workshop** and at several conferences. The group also engaged on international initiatives and topics, ran a webinar on **Transformative Agreements** and represented LIBER in the following discussions:

- **Plan S** — In Plan S consultations, the group underlined **the importance of the Green Road** as a way of reaching full and immediate Open Access and contributed to an **IARLA statement** highlighting the key role of research libraries in advocating for and encouraging the negotiation of Transformative Agreements.
- **SCOSS** — Group members represent LIBER on the SCOSS Board. LIBER backs SCOSS funding calls for key services because our goal of ensuring that Open Access is the main mode of Scholarly Communication cannot be achieved without the robust and viable support of key infrastructures.
- **Think.Check.Submit** — The group continued work to develop more tools for librarians and guidelines for books.

Coming Up



- Research Librarian's Guide to Citizen Science and a webinar on Citizen Science at Universities: Trends, Guidelines and Recommendations (Citizen Science Working Group)
- Continued copyright advocacy regarding the implementation of the DSM Directive and related to online learning during the coronavirus crisis (Copyright & Legal Matters Working Group)
- Talking to Management About Metrics report (Innovative Metrics Working Group)
- Updated **Five Principles for Open Access Negotiations with Publishers** (Open Access Working Group)



DIGITAL SKILLS & SERVICES



We are developing research libraries as hubs for digital skills and services in both physical and virtual environments, and contributing to this goal through three working groups: **Digital Humanities & Digital Cultural Heritage, Digital Skills for Library Staff & Researchers** and **Leadership Programmes**.

DIGITAL HUMANITIES & DIGITAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

This group published a **Europe-wide landscape study** on digital humanities and collections within LIBER libraries and ran a webinar, **Setting Up A GLAM Workbench in Your Library**. They also held a **LIBER 2019 workshop** with the SSHOC project and the **Digital Skills** group and collaborated with global colleagues to write a book on **Opening A GLAM Lab**.

DIGITAL SKILLS FOR LIBRARY STAFF & RESEARCHERS

Open Science skills for research librarians and researchers are at the heart of the evolution towards openness. To support this transition, this group created an **Open Science Skills visualisation**, which identifies the skills and knowledge needed to practice OS effectively. This goes along with their many **Open Science Skilling and Training case studies, workshop on Open Science Essentials** and list of **Open Science training resources**. They also ran webinars on **Responsible Research practices** and on **Open Science Skilling & Training Programmes Across Europe**.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMES

Twenty-seven senior library professionals were welcomed to the fifth **Emerging Leaders** programme in 2019, which this group organises. Work also began on the 2020 edition of the **LIBER Journées** in Budapest, Hungary. This unfortunately had to be postponed due to Covid-19 but will be rescheduled for 2021.

Coming Up



- Beginner's Guide to Open Science Oriented Library Services and LIBER 2020 workshop on Integrating FAIR Data Science Competencies in Higher Education Curricula (Digital Skills Working Group)
- Intake for the next Emerging Leaders programme, and the LIBER Journées leadership programme in Budapest in 2021 (Leadership Programmes Working Group)
- Poster on Forming Relationships in Digital Humanities (10 Building Blocks for Libraries); a Reading List on Handwritten Text Recognition and Optical Character Recognition for Digital Collections, a LIBER Quarterly article looking at how trust and knowledge can be established in digital collections, and a webinar (Digital Humanities & Digital Cultural Heritage Working Group)

RESEARCH
INFRASTRUCTURE

We promote the development of interoperable and scalable infrastructure — which supports sustainable knowledge and is seamlessly linked with institutional services — through our **Architecture, FIM4L, Linked Open Data** and **Research Data Management** working groups.

ARCHITECTURE

A redesigned **Library Buildings in Europe database** (due to launch in summer 2020) has been the focus of this group's work in the past year. The group also held a webinar on **Planning Library Spaces**, and put significant work into planning their 20th Architecture Seminar. The seminar was postponed to 2021 because of the coronavirus.

FIM4L

Launched in autumn 2019, this group immediately began drafting **10 Implementation Principles for single sign on (SSO)**, and on collecting feedback from libraries and publishers. The group presented its work on **federated authentication with SSO** to UN libraries.

LINKED OPEN DATA

The group released a survey on the **current state of Linked Open Data among European libraries** and is now preparing a practical guide for research libraries who want to publish their data in a linked and open format.

RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT

A report on the **FAIRness of Repositories and their Data**, webinars on **research data and what to keep** as well as on **data curation** and **case studies on RDM support** were all provided by this group. A LIBER 2019 workshop on **Applying the FAIR Data Principles in Day-to-Day Library Practice** was also held.

Coming Up



- Final version of Implementation Principles for SSO, followed by work to establish broad support for the policy, ensuring use of uniform implementations of authentication procedures by service providers (FIM4L Working Group)
- Launch of the new Library Buildings in Europe website and 2021 Architecture Seminar in Luxembourg (Architecture Working Group)
- Report on Linked Open Data Best-Practices for Research Libraries (Linked Open Data Working Group)
- **FAIR Data Factsheet** update; deliverables on RDM Training, engaging researchers in RDM, implementing RDM policies; professionalising data stewardship in libraries, data rights and data curation; extension of the **DMP Catalogue**; (Research Data Management Working Group)



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, numerous training opportunities and resources are created, from workshops and webinars to reports and white papers. Through our project work in 2019-2020, LIBER co-organized/attended seven webinars and eleven workshops and events.

LIBER also uses its role as a project partner to consult and involve research libraries whenever possible, so that any new infrastructures or other innovations reflect their needs. In the last year, we actively consulted libraries regarding the SSHOC project, to ensure that the Social Sciences and Humanities part of the European Open Science Cloud built by SSHOC will be relevant and useful for libraries and their researchers. Our presence in this project also guarantees that libraries maintain their status as essential EOSC stakeholders.

Meanwhile in the INOS project, the hot topics of open and citizen science are being developed. Through INOS, libraries will benefit from recommendations for open and citizen science to be better integrated with higher-education learning approaches. Co-creation activities will also take place in 2020 and libraries can participate.

Copyright law — another critical topic for libraries — is being put under the magnifying glass in the reCreating Europe project. And later in 2020 we will start work on Open Research Europe, a project building the European Commission's first Open Access publishing platform for H2020 and Horizon Europe grantees.

We continue to actively submit proposals for new roles. In the 2019-2020 period, we won funding for four projects and submitted seven proposals. Fifteen LIBER institutions were invited to join our proposals as project partners. A further nine were asked to join as advisors.

In the coming months, we will strengthen our ability to include LIBER libraries in project proposals by inviting all Participants to share their skills and project ambitions with us. With this overview, we will be able to more efficiently invite libraries to participate as partners when searching and applying for projects. We will also be able to better identify opportunities for LIBER participation in proposals based on this feedback.



ABOUT

Funded by the European Union's Erasmus+ Programme, **INOS** began its work to modernise Higher Education Institutions' curricula and skills through civic engagement in Open and Citizen Science in September 2019.

OUR ROLE

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



ABOUT

SSHOC kicked off in January 2019. It is creating the social sciences and humanities (SSH) part of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) by offering a scalable and flexible access to research data and related tools and services adapted to the needs of the SSH community.

OUR ROLE

LIBER leads the work package on Fostering Communities, Empowering Users and Building Expertise. We developed and are coordinating the implementation of strategies to foster communities and build expertise, and are directing workshops, webinars, the project's stakeholder forum event and a final conference. To achieve this we are in constant contact with all relevant stakeholders. We also support general project communications, are working towards making data findable by being citable and are helping with project governance and sustainability.

VALUE FOR LIBRARIES

Through SSHOC, LIBER libraries can participate in training activities and in discussions around building the SSHOC and contributing to the EOSC. In 2019, these included workshops **at LIBER 2019** and the **Open Science Fair**, as well as **webinars** on topics such as FAIR Data, corpus analysis and repository certification. In 2020 the **SSHOC Training Community** was launched. In general, libraries are often invited to feedback on the tools and services developed by SSHOC, in order to ensure that the project outcomes meet the needs of the library community.

NOTABLE RESOURCES

- [Inventory of SSH Citation Practices](#)
- [Inventory of Learning Materials](#)
- [Toolkit for SSH Trainers](#)
- [\(Meta\)data Interoperability Problems report](#)
- [Policy API Tool](#)

VALUE FOR LIBRARIES

Libraries have already been introduced to INOS at a series of events, including via a presentation and poster at the **Open Science Conference**. In the coming months, libraries will be able to join Open Knowledge activities organised by INOS. They can follow the project's work on defining how universities and their libraries can better meet demand for civic engagement, public participation and societal impact, and will benefit from an INOS guide to designing open and citizen science activities in a pedagogically sound way.

NOTABLE RESOURCES:

- [Engagement Use Cases](#)
- [Recommendations for Higher Education](#)
- [Pedagogical Underpinnings of Open Science, Citizen Science and Open Innovation Activities](#)
- [Roadmap for Organising Open Science, Citizen Science and Open Innovation Activities](#)



ABOUT

The EU-funded **reCreating Europe Project** began in January 2020. It is rethinking digital copyright law for a culturally diverse, accessible and creative Europe. It takes a multidisciplinary approach, bringing together libraries with researchers, practitioners and other stakeholders. It will clarify the type of regulatory framework needed to promote culturally diverse production, and will optimise inclusive access and consumption of digital culture and creative work.

OUR ROLE

LIBER participates in GLAM activities focusing on Libraries and Archives and analyzing conducts with regard to (i) legal compliance and compliance with policies and standards for Openness; (ii) implementation of technological measures; (iii) adoption of social norms and common practises, particularly if in conflict with formal legal norms and more aligned to Open Knowledge principles; (iv) access to content by people with disabilities. LIBER also leads the work package on Dissemination, Engagement and Outreach, including training activities.

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 showcase their own work in this area. Through the project, libraries and other stakeholders can meet, discuss and work with each other so that everyone benefits from lower individual efforts in dealing with copyright regulations.

Other Project Resources

[Research Culture Change, One Grant at a Time](#)

[A Case Report: Building Communities with Training and Resources for Open Science Trainers](#)

[Workshop Report: Training In The EOSC](#)

Open Science, **Citizen Science**, Responsible Research and Innovation, Blockchain, **Open Data**, Ethics, European Code of Conduct, Operational Guidelines, Training Material, Cryptanalysis, Digitalisation, Cultural Heritage, **Research Integrity**, **Research Misconduct**, Ethics in Research and Innovation, **Data Protection**, Data Privacy, Research Data, Political Systems and Institutions, **Governance**, Public Engagement, Policy, Knowledge Hubs

ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Our 48th Annual Conference, hosted by Trinity College Dublin in Ireland, was attended by nearly 500 people from the LIBER network — making it one of the biggest LIBER conferences to date.

Delegates heard **presentations** from inspiring keynote speakers and research library practitioners from across Europe. Representatives of LIBER institutions also attended the Meeting of Participants, where they overwhelmingly voted to approve a plan which will deliver more activities in services for our network, and will keep LIBER strong and stable.

According to our original plan, we would have travelled to Belgrade for the 49th Annual Conference this year. Like so many others around the world, however, we were forced to rethink our yearly gathering in response to the coronavirus. Unfortunately this means we cannot meet in Serbia.

The Office and LIBER's Conference Programme Committee therefore worked together closely in the early months of 2020 to reinvent the conference in an online format. LIBER 2020 ONLINE will be held the week of 22 June, and will be free for our network to attend. We thank the 50 speakers who have agreed to take part, and look forward to an exciting week of keynotes, parallel sessions, panel discussions and workshops.

Our annual network meeting — the Meeting of Participants — will also be held virtually. We hope for record attendance of this meeting, which is now more inclusive than ever since representatives of LIBER institutions do not have to be physically present in order to hear about our work and to vote on key issues.

Because LIBER 2020 ONLINE is free to attend, there are no awardees of our Annual Conference Fund for 2020 — a special grant which allows library representatives from specific European countries to attend the conference. The money collected towards the fund in Dublin will be used to issue grants for our 2021 Annual Conference.

Future Conferences



2021 - BELGRADE, SERBIA / 30 June-2 July
(tentative) University of Belgrade, University Library "Svetozar Markovic"

2022 — GHENT, BELGIUM



LIBER QUARTERLY



LIBER Quarterly (liberquarterly.eu) is our peer-reviewed, Open Access journal. It covers all aspects of modern research librarianship and information delivery, and publishes both theoretical contributions as well as examples of best practices.

In 2019 there were 54 papers submitted to the journal, of which 27 were published (seven of them in volume 30, 2020). Two are still under revision and the remainder were rejected because they were outside the focus and scope of the journal.

Total content published in 2019 amounted to 516 pages including 12 Articles, 10 Case studies, one Book Review and one Guest Editorial.

Impact

Interest in LIBER Quarterly articles is rising. Statistics for the 27 papers accepted in 2019 (for each paper between its own date of publication and the end of April 2020) show that views are up 70% compared with the previous year. Downloads also increased by about a third.

	Views	Downloads	Twitter
Total	12,031	1,976	838
Average per paper	480	78	35
Average for 'case studies'	209	49	11
Average for 'articles'	846	126	62

For all available content in the journal website from Volume 9, issue 1 (1999) till volume 29 (2019), Google Analytics registered in 2019 some 55,000 sessions from 42,000 users.

Future Development

LIBER Quarterly is run by an Editorial Board, with oversight and funding provided by LIBER. The journal has a long and successful tradition. At the same time, the journal faces questions about its future direction. For example, should practitioner content be admitted alongside academic papers? Should an open publishing model be adopted, with open peer review?

In order to discuss these issues, the journal's Chairman Mel Collier and Managing Editor Raf Dekeyser met with members of the LIBER Executive Board and Office in December 2019. At that meeting, a temporary Taskforce was set up to review and determine the best future path for LIBER Quarterly. The group began its work in April 2020 and will deliver a final report by year-end.

Editorial Board

- Mel Collier**, *Chairman*, KU Leuven, Belgium
- Raf Dekeyser**, *Managing Editor*, KU Leuven, Belgium
- Marc Martinez**, *Co-Editor*, Library Services Lyon 3 Jean Moulin University, France
- Paul Ayris**, University College London, United Kingdom
- Donatella Castelli**, Istituto di Scienza e Tecnologie dell'Informazione (ISTI), Pisa, Italy
- Nicolaie Constantinescu**, Kosson Community, Romania
- Stefan Gradmann**, KU Leuven, Belgium
- Tibor Koltay**, Eszterházy Károly University, Hungary
- Derek Law**, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, United Kingdom
- Zinaida Manžuch**, Vilnius University, Lithuania
- Achim Oßwald**, Technische Hochschule Köln, Germany
- Angela Repanovici**, Transilvania University Brasov, Romania
- Christian Schlögl**, University of Graz, Austria
- Yasar Tonta**, Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey
- Cristóbal Urbano**, Facultat de Biblioteconomia i Documentació Universitat de Barcelona, Spain
- Herbert Van de Sompel**, Data Archiving and Networked Services (DANS) The Hague, Netherlands
- Julian Warner**, Queen's University Belfast, United Kingdom
- Wilhelm Widmark**, Stockholm University Library, Sweden

Taskforce

- Friedel Grant**, LIBER Office
- Heli Kautonen**, Library Director, Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seura – Finnish Literature Society
- John MacColl**, University Librarian & Director of Library Services, University of St Andrews
- Wilhelm Widmark**, Stockholm University Library, Sweden



ACCOUNTS

Accounts

LIBER's financial position is solid. We recorded a profit of €7,973 for the year ended 31 December 2019, compared to a loss in 2018 of €29,717.

Income from regular activities was roughly level with 2018, while staffing costs decreased due to a stricter hiring policy and a declining project portfolio (as a result of which fewer staff were required). The project portfolio has been growing since mid-2019, which means that higher personnel costs are to be expected in 2020.

In 2018 the Office carried out a project to modernise its operational management systems and to digitalise its financial processes as much as possible. A €53,000 reduction in Office costs in 2019 is explained by the absence of such a one-off investment in 2019 and lower costs as a result of this investment in 2018.

More information about LIBER's finances can be found in the full 2019 Annual Accounts, sent as part of the May Quarterly Mailing.

INCOME

	2019	2018
FROM REGULAR ACTIVITIES		
LIBER Participants	227 080	226 042
Annual Conference	41 760	28 451
Sponsorship	16 000	16 000
Events and activities	18 083	18 900
Other revenues	-	4 492
	302 923	293 885
PROJECT FUNDING		
Future TDM	-	5 635
FOSTER Adjustments grants	13 754	-
PASTEUR 4OA Adjustments grants	17 559	-
OpenAIRE	-	66 164
LEARN Adjustments grants	641	-
OpenMin Ted	-	74 144
EOSC	67 355	165 818
EUDAT	-	12 848
AARC2	6 259	14 031
FOSTER+	31 193	55 738
SSHOC	88 761	-
INOS	5 956	-
HuMetrics	-	7 650
	231 478	402 028
TOTAL INCOME	534 401	695 913



EXPENDITURE

	2019	2018
Personnel (LIBER Office) incl. travel costs	272 279	386 229
Social security charges	42 443	54 389
Pension charges	45 347	50 173
Executive Board	4 671	11 376
Steering Committees	11 385	5 809
Leadership Seminar	12 791	12 430
LIBER Office	40 628	93 684
LIBER Quarterly	2 862	2 286
Promotion and representation	8 079	8 165
Operating costs	82 928	99 272
Other expenses	3 048	2 055
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	526 461	725 868

RESULTS

	2019	2018
OPERATING INCOME	7 940	-29 955
FINANCIAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE		
Interest received 2.13%	33	238
RESULT	7 973	-29 717

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