

[Association of European Research Libraries Conference](#) (LIBER'17) on its 46th edition celebrated in Patras, Greece (5th-7th July) once again proved its primordial role in providing an abundance of valuable LIS knowledge building blocks related to major challenges and transformations faced by academic librarians today.

Thanks to the wide range topic coverage, from OA and metrics, to Research Data Management, interactivity and Metadata, from digital Humanities, LIS curricula development and Library innovation culture and organizational change, to copyright, data repositories and analytics, participants were offered a brief but nevertheless concise overview of what's hot and trendy, and a fairly good glimpse of what's coming next in the field.

From day one during this "first time ever" Greek LIS network hosted event, we had the chance to be actively engaged not only at the Q&A sessions but also during a [LIBER Metrics Working Group](#) lively workshop and the **Knowledge Café** gathering where we were invited to share our perspective and knowledge by contributing our own input to LIBER 2018-2022 Strategic Framework action areas' prioritization across different dimensions, namely innovative Scholarly Communication, Digital Skills and Services, and Research Infrastructure Partnerships.

And it was exactly this Collaborative Knowledge Management and Knowledge Innovation Culture-conducive climate fostered by the fine-tuned schedule that conferred a multiplier effect on Conference impact and overall participant positive experience.

The well-designed topic articulation indeed extremely facilitated the parallel session attendance choice according to delegates' different specialties over a wide variety of interconnected topics: staff engagement and change culture strategizing; User engagement; The Open peer review case; Agile project development; Reconceptualization of library organizational models; Open education; Librarian's role to helping the university go open; Value-based Humanities and Social Sciences scholarly publications indicators development; Librarian's role in Copyright Reform; Distributed, public infrastructure; Data conversations; LIS curricula reform; Analytics rising importance and Bibliometry and publication strategies.

Due to the impossibility of making reference to the entirety of LIBER'17 exceptional presentations within the report's limited extent, we are obliged to regretfully concentrate only on the ones that were most semantically related to the rapporteur's research orientation or geographical / institutional affiliations conveying first and foremost our greatest appreciation to both presenters and organizing committee for the rewarding experience.

During workshop video conferences on **How Libraries Can Get Started With Impact Metrics**, **Juan Gorraiz, Vienna University Library Bibliometric Services**, explaining how the leap from bibliometry to bibliometry and publication strategies marks a significant turning point towards the development of tailor-made multi-dimensional bibliometric services for researchers, administration and library, envisioning an expanded standardized service portfolio, **Anja López, DuEPublicA**, discussing pros and cons of a piloted **Duisburg/Essen University**-based personal bibliometric analysis application and **John Naiko, Göttingen State and University Library**, articulating a focus on extending current infrastructure to support researchers and guide decision

making through the creation of open and reproducible tools, introduced us to the intensive LIS research community effort to putting metrics into context and making research more open and transparent.

In the activity that followed, facilitated by Sarah Coombs and Isabella Peters from LIBER Metrics Working Group- currently focused on translating [Leiden Manifesto](#) general recommendations into more practical advice on how libraries can get started with Metrics in a wide range of areas such as discovery, research assessment, or showcasing achievement - we were invited to engage in a kick-off workshop that aimed rating Working Group recommendations on the use of Metrics according to priority and target group over four different dimensions, cognizant that our feedback will be not only integrated in the group's final report but also published online to further discussion.

This lively session was enough to spark our interest and boost our anticipation of what was about to come next. After the warm welcome address to the 340 delegates by Nikolaos Karamanos Vice-Rector of the [University of Patras](#), and Maria Ntaountaki, Deputy-Director of [Technical University of Crete](#) Library and Heal-Link Board Member, wishing us all a fruitful participation, LIBER President, Ms. Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen, (National Library of Finland) made a short reference to 2018-2022 LIBER Agenda focus on Innovative Scholarly Communications, Research Infrastructures and Digital Skills and Services and related reports already published in June, and thanked local organizers for their effort and dedication.

Following this introductory speech, LIBER Vice-President, Ms. Jeannette Frey (Bibliothèque Cantonale et Universitaire, Lausanne, Switzerland) invited first keynote speaker on the stage of the breathtaking 1000 seating capacity University of Patras Conference and Cultural Center Auditorium, **Dr Filippos Tsimpoglou, Director of [the National Library of Greece](#)**, who after highlighting information endogenous characteristics of Open Access, Reusability, Personalization and Interconnectivity as foundational parts of Greek physical philosophy, very eloquently illustrated the scope of the NLG transformation against a set of political, practical and societal challenges and NLG relocation project timeline to finally stress the importance of prioritization and comment on difficulties encountered to keeping personnel moral high along the process.

Having considered that Staff Education, Organizational Change and Open Data topics are closer linked to own research interests, the rapporteur took the opportunity of attending

- 1) Charlotte Nordahl Wien's (Head of Research and Analysis Department at the University Library of Southern Denmark)** argumentation on whether a single streamlined educational offer can adequately address subject librarianship challenges today and what a flexible Master's with personalized portfolio capabilities can confer to the changing landscape,
- 2) Martine Oudenhoven's (Community Engagement Officer, LIBER)** presentation of [FOSTER+](#) project and its multi-module Open Science Toolkit advantages to ensuring that librarians charged with providing training on open access, open data and data management are provided with a wide range of high quality customizable materials that can be easily reused and effectively cover key topics such as responsible research and innovation, research data management, software design, text and data mining, reproducible research and open peer review.
- 3) Birgitta Hellmark Lindgren and Wilhelm Widmark's, (Deputy Library Director and Library Director at Stockholm University Library, Sweden)** summarized report on important changes the library is undergoing and their plea to foster a common understanding of goals and priorities through library –

administration meaningful conversations and to pursue resource-efficient change through reorganization and adjustment.

During the next two conference days, we had the chance to get valuable insights into

- 1) “Reinventing organizations” (F. Laloux, 2014) impact on flexible work organization solutions at **Erasmus University Library Rotterdam**, built around, as analysed by Library Director **Dr.**

Markets for knowledge and information depend critically on reputation, on repeated interactions, and on trust.

Joseph Stiglitz,

Public Policy for a Knowledge Economy, 1999

Matthijs van Otegem, the three pillars of successful organizations, which are shared goals, self-governed teams and personal space, with colleagues freely deciding which role to take up depending on talent and inspiration.

- 2) Open education’s value in supporting open science and librarians’ role as powerful facilitators and successful advocates in promoting and successfully lobbying for open education policies, a natural extension of their traditional responsibilities. (**Hilde van Wijngaarden, Head of Education and Research Support at the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands**)
- 3) innovative fresh approaches to surveying staff motivations, connectivity, change resistance and prioritization pain points framed within **University of Manchester’s** ambitious new project envisioning increasing self-awareness of behaviours that could act as a barrier to change and resulting in an exponential increase in staff engagement at all levels of seniority. (**Penny Hicks, The University of Manchester Library, UK**)
- 4) [Catalan University Services Consortium](#)’s new strategic line for supporting research and open science and their vision to step from recommendations and IR

Libraries are after all about people

Lluís Anglada, CSUC

with Data, to Research Data

Repositories

Co-operation: the triumph of hope over experience?

Maurice B. Line, 1997

and Research Data

Management Repositories in the long run highlighting the importance of cooperation to supporting researchers through OA deluge times.

(Lluís Anglada Director of Open Science in CSUC)

- 5) effort taken by Lancaster University Library to facilitate Open Data in a sustainable way by initiating Data Conversations, a multidisciplinary community of practice aiming to support embedding effective RDM practices at early research career stages. (**Hardy Schwamm, Research Data Manager, Lancaster University, UK**)

Following similar lines, second and third day Keynote Speeches revolved around

- Sustainability as a critical issue for scholarly communication in the 21st century, journal metrics related challenges, distributed, public infrastructure and new generation repositories as components of a future system that would be more sustainable and inclusive (**Kathleen Shearer, COAR Executive Director [Confederation of Open Access Repositories]**)
- Challenges posed to the free flow of online information by the European Commission's proposals and the necessity to mobilize transdisciplinary advocacy in favour of a copyright reform that will create an environment supportive to libraries public interest mission to ensuring sustainable knowledge. (**Julia Reda, MEP, formerly responsible for the Parliament's evaluation of the Copyright Directive**)

Special credit should also be given to **Michael Ambjorn, CEO of Historypin, UK** for putting together a highly interactive bridging and bonding session that gave us a taste of the work in progress at the US national Archives to help innovate and better engage their community and practical insights and ideas on the amazing resources we can use on our own professional stage and to **Dr. Elliott Shore, ARL** for his exceptionally skilful [panel discussion](#) moderation. It would also be a regrettable omission not to convey our appreciation for the 1-minute poster pitch opportunity during plenary session increasing even more presenter chances to make the most of their participation by having their projects exposed to a greater audience.

Before closing this brief report, we feel the need to stress LIBER Conference's special value to anyone either engaged in Higher Education research or simply wishing to safely navigate the academic librarianship waters, presenting a unique opportunity to learn, be inspired by, network and collaborate with LIS researchers, library experts and administrators on a good number of occasions.

As contextual information especially in today's high transdisciplinary educational ecosystem becomes even more crucial to the design and implementation of LIS research, the rapporteur's active participation in sessions associated with

- *today's LIS education community's capability and effectiveness to inspiring attitudes and not just skill sets and to designing flexible individualized program portfolios and CPD opportunities,*
- *the importance of multidimensionality in research output evaluation and LIS curricula reform, and*
- *the need to integrate library into university*

served the trifold purpose of updating knowledge and further reflecting on current academic librarianship scenarios across Europe and ways any of these could potentially relate to her research, receiving valuable early feedback on her research endeavors from prominent experts in the field thanks to her [poster presentation](#), and exploring potential collaborations in her area of interest.



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