STRATEGY REPORT

A Year in Review

2020

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

2020 has been a turning point for research libraries in light of the Covid-19 virus. Increasingly, the role of libraries and the services they provide are crucial. Now, more than ever, libraries are required to innovate and ensure patrons have access to a wealth of (digital) resources.

With 2021 just around the corner, we want to reflect on the achievements and challenges of the past year and thereafter highlight what we will deliver in the months ahead.

Our 49th LIBER Annual Conference (online) was a huge success, attracting a massive 5,544 registrations from over 1,700 people (including staff at 276 LIBER institutions).

This year we launched an urgent call on copyright action in support of distance learning and research. We received a response to our call from the European Commission in which it acknowledged the disruption Covid-19 is causing to libraries and cultural heritage institutions.

Throughout the year, we also disseminated knowledge in a variety of formats. We released a steady stream of reports and case studies, workshops, and webinars — many created by our active Working Groups. Additionally, we published 16 articles in LIBER Quarterly, our very own Open Access Journal.

2020 saw the launch of two new working groups – Innovative Peer Review and Data Science in Libraries. Additionally, we shared our expertise within a range of international projects – reCreating Europe, ORE, INOS, and SSHOC.

Throughout the new year, we will be hard at work on the design of our new LIBER Training Programme – just one of the services we have initiated to meet the growing needs of our network.

We hope you enjoy reading our 2020 update. It highlights LIBER's many efforts during the year, all of which were made possible with your support.

To our 450 participants, fellow library organisations, global partners, and sponsors: thank you for your collaborative spirit, your commitment to the network, and your belief in our work to represent and strengthen research libraries across Europe. We look forward to continuing to serve you in 2021!

2020 in NUMBERS

9 LIBER members invited to join project proposals with an advisory role.

15 LIBER members invited by LIBER to join proposals as project partners.

178 Valued volunteers, driving the LIBER network forward.

451 LIBER participants from 42 countries, including 10 new members who joined in 2020.

1,500 Librarians, researchers, politicians, and other stakeholders attended our 14 webinars.

3,616 Attendees at our 21 activities and sessions during our online Annual Conference.

PART 2: NETWORK GROWTH

Ten institutions joined LIBER in 2020. We now have 451 Participants from 42 countries.

Orpheus Institute, Belgium — University Libraries of Burgundy, France — University of Italian Switzerland Libraries, Switzerland — Autonomous University of Lisbon Library, Portugal — Tallinn University of Technology Library, Estonia — French Civil Aviation University, France — Flanders Marine Institute, Belgium — Georgian Integrated Library & Information System Consortium, Georgia — Norwegian Defense University College Library, Norway — University of Zagreb Central Office for Coordination with Libraries

New Working Groups & Projects

2020 marked the successful culmination of our Digital Skills Working Group and the start of two new working groups. The Innovative Peer Review and Data Science in Libraries Working Groups were formed, making up 11 working groups in total. The Innovative Peer Review Working Group seeks to explore a wide spectrum of challenges in the peer review field and to understand how research libraries can further facilitate progressive elements of the scholarly communication system. The Data Science in Libraries Working Group is set to explore and promote library engagement in applying data science and analytical methods in libraries, taking into account processes and workflows around library collections and metadata as well as digital infrastructures and service areas. This group will officially begin work at the start of 2021.

During the past year, we also kicked-off two new projects - ReCreating Europe and ORE. The ReCreating Europe project is about rethinking digital copyright law for a culturally diverse, accessible and, creative Europe. The ORE project will be a scholarly publishing platform providing a full open access, peer-reviewed publishing service for Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe beneficiaries (and at no cost to them both during and after the end of their grants). The platform will enable open science practices, rapid publication times, and publication outputs supporting research integrity, reproducibility, and transparency.

Dedicated Volunteers

178 people made LIBER stronger in 2020 by serving on the Steering Committees, Working Groups, Executive Board, Conference Programme Committee, and the Editorial Board of LIBER Quarterly.

PART 3: ACHIEVEMENTS

Such voluntary efforts are guided by the pillars of the LIBER 2018-2022 Strategy: Innovative Scholarly Communications, Digital Skills & Services, and Research Infrastructures.

Strengthening Our Foundation

Together with our Working Groups, we held 14 webinars (and even more with our project partners) during 2020 and are planning a great number of webinars for 2021.

We have outlined plans for a database, to which our libraries will be invited to add their skills and project ambitions. As such, we are collating the results of a survey on this topic (which runs until the 18th of December 2020). The outcomes will be used to create a database (to be updated annually) that will define and optimise future project priorities. LIBER will commence work on this database in 2021.

Three new staff members joined the office team, bringing administration, training, information science, as well as marketing and communication skills in-house. We also employed two interns to support us with the Annual Conference and the new website.

Statements and Lobbying

Throughout 2020, we issued various statements, often in collaboration with organisations in our network, to lobby for the better footing of libraries and their patrons:

- Update on Call for Urgent Copyright Action to Support Distance Learning & Research (July 2020)

- IARLA Supports cOAlition S Rights Retention Strategy (July 2020)

- Endorsement of the Initiative for Open Abstracts (I4OA) (July 2020)

- Call for a reinforcement of the European cultural and educational dimension (August 2020)

- Comments on the Current State of European Research Libraries during the COVID-19 Pandemic (September 2020).

HOW WE COLLABORATED

COPYRIGHT GUIDANCE. LIBER launched an urgent call on copyright action to support distance learning and research and received a response from the European Commission.

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS. We shared the expertise and needs of research libraries in the reCreating Europe, ORE, INOS, and SSHOC projects, as well as in our co-creation workshops. Furthermore, we frequently brought our libraries, Working Groups, and projects together for joint webinars, workshops, and presentations.

REPRESENTATION. LIBER represented Europe's research libraries on the boards of Europeana, SCOSS, SPARC Europe, and the EOSC Executive Board.

DISCUSSION SERIES. We collaborated with OCLC Research Library Partnership on 8 Open Science Discussions held online.

TRAINING COMMUNITY. LIBER participated in OpenAire's Community of Practice for training coordinators and managers, the EOSC skills and training workshop group, and the EOSC enhance workshops on EOSC portal requirements validation. We also fostered the SSH training community within the context of SSHOC WP6, which we lead.

Providing Training

Over the course of 2020, we offered many training opportunities together with our libraries, projects, and partners.

WEBINARS. 14 webinars (held together with our Working Groups) attracted over 1,500 participants including librarians, researchers, politicians, and other stakeholders.

LEADERSHIP. Due to Covid-19, the Emerging Leaders Programme for library professionals as well as the LIBER Journées for library directors have been postponed to 2021. More details will be announced shortly.

SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES OPEN CLOUD (SSHOC). As part of our work to foster communities, empower users, and build expertise, we launched (together with our project partners), the SSHOC Training Community, which kicked off in March. The community facilitates the exchange of best practices and user cases, discussion of the challenges related to SSH training, and connecting with other trainers in the field. To assist SSH trainers in developing and improving training activities, we created a Training Discovery Toolkit - an inventory of learning and training materials. The Toolkit covers a variety of materials and topics, including Open Science, Research Data Management, and didactics. Additionally, and within the framework of the SSHOC project, we co-organised 2 bootcamps, 1 workshop, and 5 webinars for the SSHOC training community, researchers, and library professionals.

Webinar: Citizen Science At Universities Trends, Guidelines and Recommendations

INOS. We held a 3-day workshop on Citizen Science as well as 2 workshops (LTTA) for our consortium partners on research data management, FAIR data, and open science implementation.

Cooperating Through Working Groups

Our Working Groups carried out many activities — often together with our libraries, projects, and partners.

INNOVATIVE SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS

DATA SCIENCE. A New Data Science In Libraries Working Group was launched in October with the goal of exploring and promoting library engagement when it comes to applying data science and analytical methods.

CITIZEN SCIENCE. The Citizen Science group ran regular webinars and workshops, as well as published extensively on the LIBER website. As part of the LIBER Annual Conference, the group held a webinar ('Citizen Science at Universities: Trends, Guidelines and Recommendations'), a panel ('Building trust in re-search libraries through Citizen Science'), as well as a workshop with EBLIDA ('Citizen Science Supporting Sustainable Development Goals: The possible role of libraries').

COPYRIGHT & LEGAL MATTERS. The Copyright group responded swiftly to the needs of research communities (and beyond) during the Covid-19 pandemic by publishing an inclusive statement titled: 'Europe Must Take Urgent Copyright Law Action To Support Distance Learning & Research During the Coronavirus Pandemic'. This was done in consultation with our Open Access Working Group.

INNOVATIVE METRICS. As planned, the Innovative Metrics WG ceased operations after LIBER's Annual Conference in June. Prior to the conference, the group delivered a webinar, 'Metrics and Machines', and also played a role in an online panel for DORA ('Roles for libraries in research assessment reform'). Moreover, in June the group published a report, 'Why do measures fluctuate?') and by year-end, the group is set to deliver a number of reports on topics, such as alternative metrics for management reporting, ethics of alternative metrics, competence building, etc..
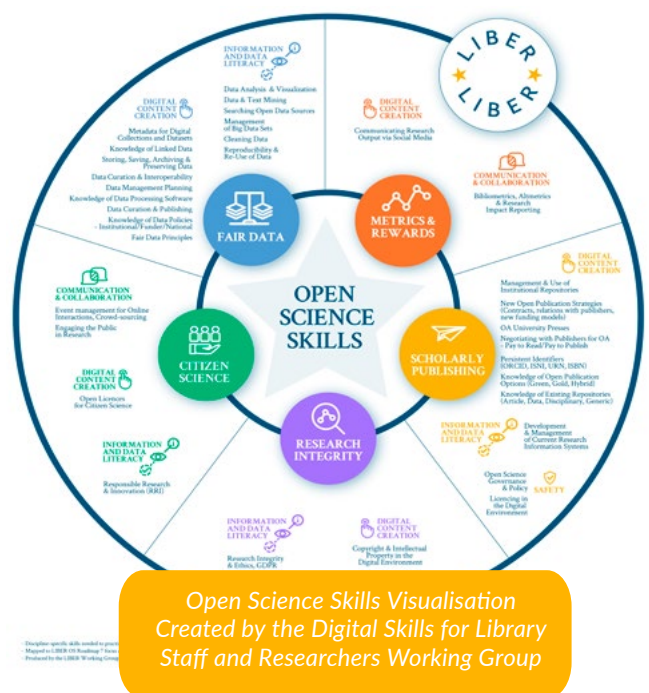
OPEN ACCESS. This group continues its work on the topic of sustainability and is now represented on the Advisory Group of SCOSS (as well as in the SPARC Europe Board). Experts from the working group participated in discussions during the joint OCLC-LIBER Discussion Series and supported key concepts for the sustainability and inclusivity of Open Access. The group also endorsed the Initiative on Open Abstracts. Moreover, the working group provided posts and webinars in support of the library community. A workshop at the LIBER Annual Conference contributed to this as well.

DIGITAL SKILLS AND SERVICES

DIGITAL HUMANITIES & DIGITAL CULTURAL HERITAGE. The group held webinars on the topic of GLAM as well as on IIIF and OCR and set up a GLAM Workbench. It also contributed to a book titled: 'Open a GLAM Lab'.

DIGITAL SKILLS FOR LIBRARY STAFF & RESEARCHERS. This working group held two webinars, one on RRI together with FIT4RRI, and one on Open Science Skills Training. A poster was presented in March at the Open Science Conference and the group also ran a workshop, FAIRsFAIR, at our Annual Conference. Additionally, they published an Open Science Skills Visualisation (see above), helping those new to Open Science concepts understand them better.

Open Science Skills Visualisation Created by the Digital Skills for Library Staff and Researchers Working Group

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMES. The LIBER Journées annual event for library directors is postponed to 2021 due to Covid-19. The second seminar of the fifth Emerging Leaders Programme, organized by the Leadership Working Group, has

also been postponed. Moreover, the Job Description Repository was expanded and two webinars, 'Leadership in the Time of Crisis' and 'New challenges and leading into the Post-COVID-19 Recovery for Research Libraries,' were held in November.

RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

The All-New 'Library Buildings in Europe Website

ARCHITECTURE. The LIBER Architecture Group successfully relaunched the 'Library Buildings in Europe' website, promoted by a blog post, and social media updates during the Annual Conference.

FEDERATED IDENTITY MANAGEMENT FOR LIBRARIES (FIM4L). FIM4L published guidelines and recommendations for federated identity management for public comments. The consolidated results were highlighted in a presentation titled 'Securing and building trust', at the Annual Conference. The official publication of the recommendations is in preparation.

LINKED OPEN DATA. A report was published summarising the results of a recent survey on library linked data publishing. The results were presented at a workshop, 'LOD Publication for Libraries' at the Annual Conference. The workshop showcased various aspects of library linked open data with a review of an advanced draft version of a set of best practices for releasing linked open library data. The final version was released in autumn.

RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT. The RDM working group continued its activities through its respective task groups on data stewardship, data curation, the DMP Catalogue, FAIR data, and engaging researchers. The group presented recent results and facilitated a discussion, 'Hot Research Data Management Topics', as part of a workshop at the Annual Conference. They also organised an RDM training workshop at TU Delft for the INOS project partners. Additionally, the group collected feedback on ongoing work (for example, guidance on engaging researchers).

Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche
Association of European Research Libraries

TOP THINGS TO WATCH FOR IN 2021

1. ANNUAL CONFERENCE — Our 50th Annual Conference will take place online from 23-25th of June 2021. The call for papers opens on the 25th of November!

2. MID-TERM EVENT — Due to Covid-19, the LIBER mid-term event for library professionals (at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) has been postponed to winter 2021. The programme, featuring dynamic and innovative sessions, will be made available in spring.

3. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT — Library directors are invited to the LIBER Journées leadership seminar taking place from the 19-21 May 2021. The theme will be Leading Libraries in a World of Openness and applications open in December 2020. Additionally, applications for the sixth Emerging Leaders Programme will open in early 2021.

4. PROJECT & CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS — 2021 will feature LIBER workshops, hackathons, bootcamps, and training events from the INOS, SSHOC, ReCreating Europe, and ORE projects.

5. LAUNCH OF EOSC CO-CREATION WORKSHOPS – LIBER, in collaboration with SKS (Scientific Knowledge Services), will launch the EOSC Co-Creation Workshop Series in January 2021. The series will focus on bringing together two EOSC Stakeholder groups representing end users, research/academic libraries, and researchers.

6. WEBINARS — Our webinars for 2021 will feature insights from Working Groups, projects, and guest speakers. Keep tabs on our upcoming webinars by signing up for our mailers.

7. PROJECTS DATABASE — The Projects Database survey runs until the 18th of December 2020. The outcomes will be used to create a database (updated annually) that will define and optimise future project priorities.

8. REVISED WEBSITE — We have just launched a brand-new LIBER website with increased functionality and ease-of-use and will continue to develop content for this in 2021.

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