



2020  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2021

The background of the lower half of the page is a gradient from orange on the left to light blue on the right. Several birds are shown in flight, scattered across the page, adding a sense of movement and nature to the design.

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2020  
 2021

## WELCOME

Dear Reader,

Welcome to LIBER's 2020-2021 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 Covid-19, 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 continue to pay special attention to the evolving situation of Europe's research libraries: how it has changed, which problems we as a community face, and the new needs we have. These are challenging, but also very interesting times. In fact, the LIBER [Covid-19 survey](#) held at the end of 2020 aimed to garner information on the topic of Covid-19 from our members and clearly illustrated their needs during this difficult time. With this valuable information at hand, we strive to fill in the gaps and continue our support of research libraries, helping them tackle current and upcoming challenges.

Despite our shared challenges, I want to assure you that we celebrate our achievements. As you will see in the coming pages, LIBER Working Groups, European Projects, Executive Board and Office have worked in various 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 publishing LIBER's [#ZeroEmbargo campaign](#) and [Draft Law for the Use of Publicly Funded Scholarly Publications](#), which aims to ensure a zero embargo period for lawful self-archiving on open, public, non-for-profit repositories. This Draft Law and campaign has been well received by organisations, member libraries and individuals in our network.

Additionally, 2021 marks LIBER's 50<sup>th</sup> year in existence and in turn, our 50th Annual Conference – milestones which we will celebrate at the Annual Conference held online in June together with our co-host – the University Library of Belgrade in Serbia. As such, I am pleased we can come together to celebrate, reflect, and plan for the future. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you.



*Jeannette Frey*

LIBER President

## ABOUT THIS REPORT

This Annual Report documents our activities from June 2020 to May 2021.

It clarifies how we support research libraries and provide value to LIBER Participants. The report's structure mirrors that of the 2018-2022 Strategy, with sections for each of the 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 the 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 2020-2021

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

Each year we report on the main events and achievements over the past reporting period, starting from the date of the previous Meeting of Participants of LIBER. It is no exaggeration to say in this year's report that the period we have just lived through has been one of the most momentous in modern world history, with the Covid-19 pandemic devastating the planet, effectively shutting down whole industries, human communities of all types and even entire countries. The statistics are grim, and the sadness is global. At the time of writing, over a million people have died of Covid-19 across Europe, and over three million across the world. These figures will undoubtedly rise much higher, with some countries not yet having reached peak infection rates. Before we even begin to consider what LIBER has achieved this year, we should acknowledge the terrible toll the pandemic has taken on the whole of humanity, and remember the lives lost, and the families and friends devastated by grief.

The LIBER world suffered this impact right across the 40 countries in Europe in which LIBER Participants are found. The users of research libraries – university students, academic staff, and researchers making use of national and reference libraries across the continent – found their studies and research grinding to a halt, then moving partially – and often innovatively – into digital-only mode. They then experienced them starting up again in tentative physical form in the slow and painstaking forms imposed by social distancing, sanitisation and quarantine, before being locked down or severely reduced again at different times and for different periods across the year, as spikes in infection rates caused governments to reverse reopening measures. As we reach the end of the current reporting period, in spring 2021, vaccination programmes across Europe are finally beginning to have a positive effect – at different rates in different countries – in slowing transmission rates and

reducing the heavy burdens endured by health and medical services, and we have reason to believe that the pandemic is in retreat across Europe. Our greatest hope is for a return to some form of normal life in the year ahead, in our universities and colleges and their libraries, and in our great European research and reference libraries. As we approach the second online Annual Conference, with our sympathies extended to both the Cantonal and University Library of Lausanne, and the University of Belgrade, who unfortunately lost their opportunities to host our conferences in 2020 and 2021, we hope fervently that the wonderful LIBER community can meet physically once again at next year's conference, which will be held in the Danish city of Odense, hosted by the University of Southern Denmark.

### Online Alternatives

Despite the enormous impact of Covid-19 on LIBER's work, we kept many of our activities going, and the LIBER Executive Board, members of the Working Groups, project partners, as well as the LIBER Office team based in The Hague, worked – mostly in online mode – to deliver services to our community, and to plan for the future.

Our first-ever fully online conference in June 2020 was a considerable success, well-attended and well-reviewed by Participants. Thanks are due in particular to the LIBER Office team who worked flat out at relatively short notice to ensure that it went ahead on schedule and with an excellent programme of quality speakers and events. Much was learned from the experience that will be of value as we consider the role of online delivery in our events in the post-Covid era.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the first of our new Mid-Term Events, which had been scheduled for December 2020 at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. It will be held in December 2021.



While several of our events have been run in alternative online-only format, the Board decided that this would not be appropriate for the LIBER Journées leadership Programme. These have been cancelled during the Covid pandemic, but planning is underway for the Programme to resume in in-person format as of May 2022.

### Finances

LIBER's finances have inevitably been affected by the Covid pandemic. We have suffered substantial loss of income due to the delivery of our conference free and online in summer 2020, and by the inability to receive income from other events.

### Projects

We have continued to be successful in winning new project funding, mostly from the European Commission. Although there were some delays in the implementation of projects and events had to be brought online, most projects are now back on track and the acquisition of new projects continues. LIBER Participants are involved as much as possible in the new and ongoing projects.

### Working Groups

We set up two new Working Groups: Innovative Peer Review and Data Science in Libraries. A further new Working Group on Libraries for Teaching & Learning is in the process of being established. The Library Architecture Group launched a refreshed and attractive Library Architecture website. Having completed its very useful programme of work, the Innovative Metrics Working Group was disbanded upon publication of a final report.

### LIBER Quarterly

We were delighted to welcome a new editor for LIBER Quarterly, our Open Access journal – Trudy Turner, from the University of Kent. A new Chair of the Editorial Board is now being sought, and the current mix of content will be reviewed as LIBER Quarterly moves forward.

### Collaborations

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the French academic library managers' association, ADBU, for a jointly-funded project which will be awarded to an external consultant. We envisage this new approach of working collaboratively with different national European associations on projects of mutual benefit will become a new and important area of activity for LIBER.

### New LIBER Strategy

Work has begun on creating the next LIBER Strategy, for the period 2023-2027. We have recently selected a consultant to assist us with this critical strategic vision for the post-pandemic era.

### Executive Board Meetings

The Executive Board met online in June and October 2020, and in February 2021.

# LOOKING BACK



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



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



**DR HILDE VAN WIJNGAARDEN,**  
LIBER Finance Committee Chair,  
Director University Library, Vrije  
Universiteit Amsterdam



**MS ASTRID VERHEUSEN,**  
Executive Director, LIBER



**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, Director,  
Library & Information  
Center, University  
of Patras



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



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



**DR LARS BURMAN,**  
Director, Uppsala  
University Library



**MS AGNÈS PONSATI  
OBIOLS,** Director, Unit of  
Information Resources for  
Research, Spanish National  
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**DRS ANJA SMIT,**  
LIBER Special Adviser  
to the Board, University  
Librarian at Utrecht  
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**DR ANDREAS  
BRANDTNER MBA MSC,**  
Library Director, University  
Library of Freie Universität  
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**DR HELI KAUTONEN,**  
Library Director, Finnish  
Literature Society,  
Finland



**CÉCILE SWIATEK**  
Director, University of Paris  
Nanterre, France



**DR ADAM SOFRONIJEVIC,**  
Deputy Director,  
University Library "Svetozar  
Marković", University of Belgrade

## Executive Board Members



### Executive Director's Report

Following the approval of the Proposal for a Sustainable LIBER at the 2019 Meeting of Participants, and considering the growth of the project portfolio, the Office began working on expanding its capacity in order to deliver the promised new services.

#### New Team Members

The Office team expanded in 2020, adding four new team members over the course of the year: Tatsiana Yankelevich started in February 2020 as Training Coordinator; Dr Iris Buunk, Community Engagement and Communications Officer, started in June 2020; Roos Knigge, Executive Assistant, started in October 2020; and Elizabeth Bethlehem, Communications Manager, started in November 2020. Due to the increasing number of projects in which we're involved, we have recently recruited a new team member, Oliver Blake, as the second Community Engagement and Communications Officer. Moreover, we also welcomed two interns dedicated to communications: Laura Steel Pascual who started in January 2020 and Rosie Allison in May 2021. With these new colleagues on board, we are in a strong position to steadily expand LIBER services by organising more events, webinars and training activities tailored to the needs of our community.

#### Back-Office Improvements

The Office has invested in IT. A new provider for laptops, printers and IT services 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 has taken place in September 2020 and email addresses have been changed to [@libereurope.org](mailto:@libereurope.org).

#### Covid-19

The Office has been working from home for over a year from mid-March 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and in line with measures taken by the Dutch government. 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.

As such, LIBER has had to cancel all in-person events and has made provisions to take the majority of our events, including our Annual Conference, online. In doing so, we have seen a tremendous response from our network, including specifically a huge and unexpected number of sign-ups to our annual conference. This demonstrated to us the need for our continued efforts to bring together and support our network during times

of crisis. Additionally, at the end of 2020, we sent out a survey on the topic of Covid-19 to our network. The results of which can be read [here](#).

Despite Covid-19, we remain strongly focused on implementing the current 2018-2022 Strategy and creating our future 2023-2027 Strategy.

#### New Strategy 2023-2027

The development of the new LIBER Strategy has begun and we have recently hired a consultant to support us in this process. The LIBER Strategy is of great importance to our network and we want to involve LIBER's Participants as far as we can in the process. At the upcoming Annual Conference Participants will have the opportunity to give their input on the themes to be addressed and the way forward.

#### Sponsors

Despite bringing all LIBER events online, which may reduce the visibility of sponsors, a majority of sponsors have confirmed their commitment to LIBER and will attend the Annual Conference in June 2021.

#### Office Staff in 2020 - 2021

- Astrid Verheusen, Executive Director
- Friedel Grant, Senior Communications Advisor (until September 2020)
- Vasso Kalaitzi, Head of International Projects
- Athina Papadopoulou, Events and Partnerships Coordinator
- Nienke van Schaverbeke, Partnership and Events Manager (until September 2020)
- Martina Torma, Community Engagement and Communications Officer (until December 2020)
- Tatsiana Yankelevich, Training Coordinator (since February 2020)
- Dr Iris Buunk, Community Engagement and Communications Officer (since June 2020)
- Roos Knigge, Executive Assistant (since October 2020)
- Elizabeth Bethlehem (née Joss), Communications Manager (since November 2020)
- Laura Steel Pascual, Intern (until June 2021)
- Rosie Allison, Intern (since May 2021)
- Oliver Blake (since June 2021)



### Stronger Network Ties

The LIBER Executive Board has evaluated and renewed LIBER's partnerships. The partnerships listed below deserve special attention:

#### European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)

Following on from LIBER's earlier efforts to strengthen ties with the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC), LIBER applied for membership in the newly established EOSC Association. This application was approved in March 2021. With the membership we hope to continue securing and strengthening the role of research libraries in the EOSC.

#### SKS

Furthermore, LIBER successfully worked with Scientific Knowledge Services to win EU funding for a series of workshops for research libraries, during which libraries would be asked for input on their role in the EOSC. Five workshops were held in January 2021. More details can be found [here](#).

#### ADBU

As of 2021, we have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with ADBU (Association des directeurs et personnels de direction des bibliothèques universitaires et de la documentation). This will enable us to work together on future projects within the library and research fields. Read the press release [here](#).

#### European Alliance for Research Excellence (EARE)

In April 2021, we joined the European Alliance for Research Excellence (EARE) as a new member. EARE is a coalition of companies and research organisations, formed in 2017, that are committed to the future of innovation and R&D in Europe. We have already been partnering with EARE on Text and Data Mining-related issues throughout the debate on the copyright reform, and hence becoming a member will strengthen and build on this cooperation – especially since the future agenda of EARE is closely aligned with the strategy of LIBER and our Copyright & Legal Matters Working Group. We look forward to working together with EARE members to create an enabling policy environment for Europe's research ecosystem. Read the press release [here](#).

*OCLC & LIBER Discussion Series on LIBER's Open Science Roadmap*  
LIBER and OCLC Research Library Partnership (RLP) have agreed to initiate community engagement in each other's networks on issues that could benefit from increased research. The issues must be relevant to both communities and in areas where cross-fertilisation can promote longer-term alignment of views and approaches. The LIBER-OCLC Open Science Discussion Series was the first engagement activity held in this regard. The seven discussion sessions took place from September to November 2020. More information can be found [here](#).

In May 2021, OCLC and LIBER held a second series of workshops. This was a pilot on 'Building strategic relationships to advance open scholarship at your institution'. The workshops focused on how librarians can develop strategic relationships across their universities to advance open scholarship. Read more [here](#).

#### UNESCO

UNESCO is leading a global dialogue on Open Science with a view to developing a standard-setting instrument in the form of a recommendation. This recommendation will be prepared through a regionally balanced, multi-stakeholder, consultation process and will be completed in 2021. In fact, a draft version of the UNESCO Open Science Recommendation has just been approved as of May 2021. Conversations between LIBER and UNESCO commenced early 2020 to explore the possibilities for cooperation in this. LIBER has encouraged its network of European research libraries to fill in the global online consultation on Open Science and has attended the Consultation days in July 2020 and in May 2021.

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

### Statements and Campaigns

10 July 2020:

[Update on Call for Urgent Copyright Action to Support Distance Learning & Research](#)

17 July 2020:

[Research Under Pressure: Impact of Covid-19 Through A Librarian's Eyes](#)

23 July 2020:

[IARLA Supports cOAlition S Rights Retention Strategy](#)

31 July 2020:

Endorsement of the Initiative for Open Abstracts. I4OA aims to achieve a massive increase in the open availability of scholarly abstracts via Crossref. [Read more here](#).

6 August 2020:

LIBER alongside EBLIDA, IFLA, NAPLE, Public Libraries 2030 and SPARC Europe has signed a joint letter calling on European leaders to reconsider their choices around the EU budget for 2021-27, and in particular, to do better for research, education, culture and digital inclusion. [Read more here](#).

7 September 2020:

Comments on the Current State of European Research Libraries during the COVID-19 Pandemic (as an answer to two inquiries for an interview: Springer Nature and Research Europe)

16 February 2021:

Letter to the European Commission, co-signed with Science Europe and the European University Association: Impact of Digital Services Act on scientific institutional repositories

30 March 2021:

LIBER co-signed the statement of COAR about the ['Data Repository Selection-Criteria That Matter'](#)

20 April 2021: LIBER co-signed the ['various publisher tactics against the Rights Retention Strategy'](#) from cOAlition S

#### #ZeroEmbargo Campaign and Draft Law

*for the Use of Publicly Funded Scholarly Publications*

In March 2021, we launched a [campaign](#) calling for Zero Embargo on Publicly Funded Scientific Publications. The campaign and Draft Law, garnered over 24,725 impressions on social media and thousands of webpage views within a month of publication, and has been enthusiastically endorsed by cOAlition S and COAR. The campaign will run for the duration of 2021 and events on the topic will be published via the news section of our website in the months to come.

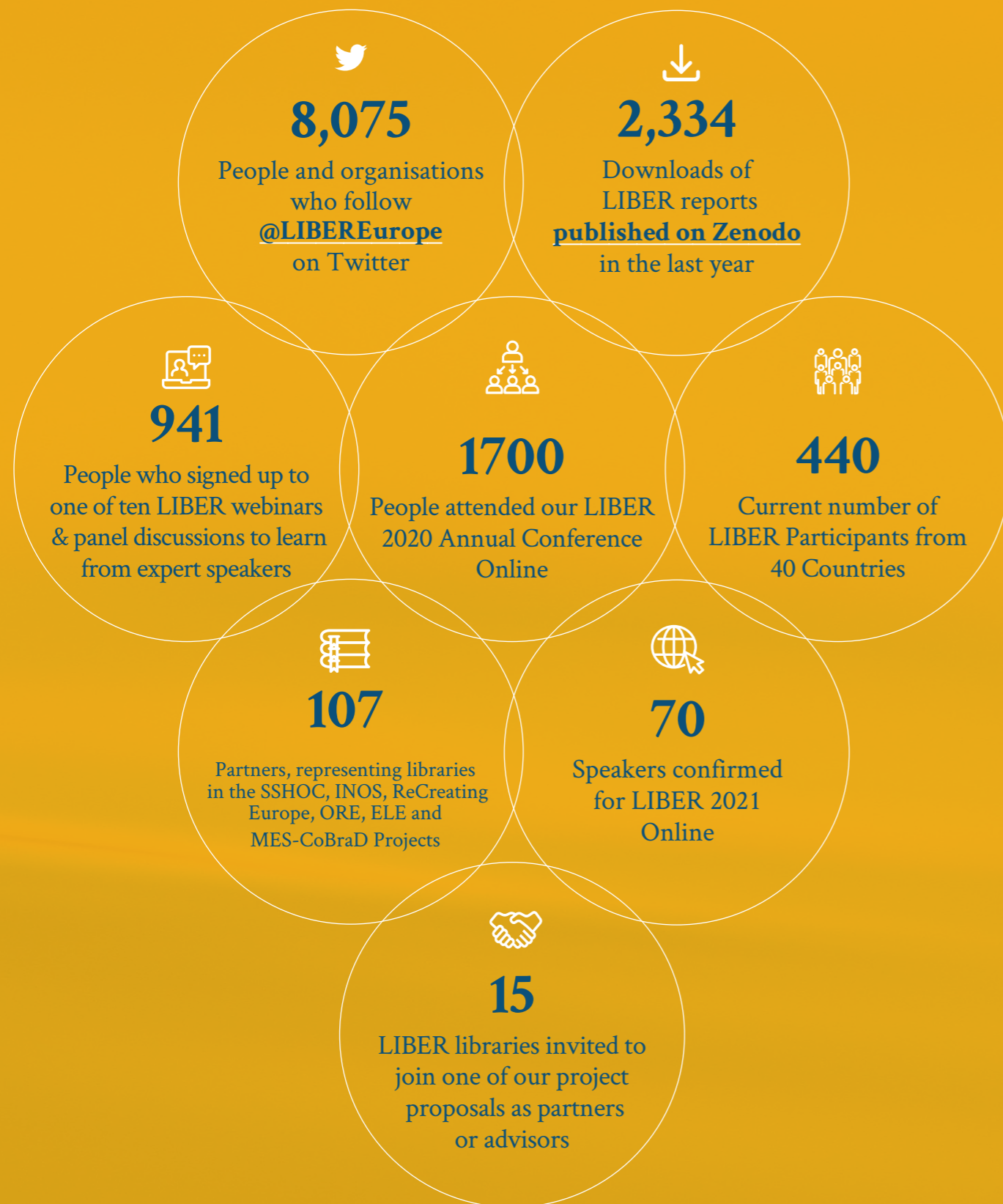
#### Other events

We represented LIBER and research libraries at events including:

- IARLA / cOAlition S Rights Retention Strategy Webinar Details (4 November 2020)
- IARLA Webinar: Discussion of Findings from the Reopening of Archives, Libraries, and Museums (REALM) Project (10 November 2020)
- CNI Fall Meeting (10 November 2020)
- Interview RLUK Scoping study: The role of academic and research libraries as active participants and leaders in the production of scholarly research (17 March 2021)
- Workshop RLUK Scoping study: The role of academic and research libraries as active participants and leaders in the production of scholarly research (17 March 2021)
- IARLA long-table: Covid-19 through the long-lens: an international discussion regarding the potential legacy of the Covid-19 pandemic on research libraries? (19 March 2021)

DESPITE COVID 19, WE REMAIN  
FOCUSED ON OUR STRATEGY

## 2020-2021 IN NUMBERS



## OUR NETWORK



We represent and cooperate with 440 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

Nine institutions joined LIBER between June 2020 and May 2021. Welcome!

- Flanders Marine Institute, Belgium
- University of Ruse, Bulgaria
- University of Zagreb Central Office for Coordination with Libraries, Croatia
- French Civil Aviation University, France
- University of Paris Nanterre, France
- University of Pau and Pays de l'Adour, France
- Georgian Integrated Library & Information System Consortium, Georgia
- National Széchényi Library Budapest, Hungary
- Norwegian Defense University College Library, Norway

### 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 2020 we published the annual [Strategy Update](#) for all Participants. To support the smooth running of Working Groups, we also updated the [Toolkit for Working Group Chairs](#).

In late 2020 we launched our new [organisational website](#), which now offers ease-of-use and added functionality including a new event calendar where you can search for and add specific events directly into your own [calendar](#).

As of 2021, we have created a brand new monthly mailer, the LIBER Insider, merging the LIBER All and LIBER Alerts mailing lists. We are pleased to say that we now reach over 2,500 research library professionals via the [LIBER Insider](#) and social media updates on topics such as copyright advocacy and upcoming webinars. We invite all research library professionals to [subscribe](#). Our Participants continue to receive the additional internal Quarterly Mailing.



# 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

Our new 2023 - 2027 Strategy planning is underway and we have recently hired a consultant to support us in the process. Further details about the way forward and how to provide input in this important process will be made available shortly.



## 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, Open Access and Educational Resources** WORKING GROUPS.

### Citizen Science

This **Working Group** was involved with advocacy and knowledge sharing activities including workshops, webinars and talks. They also coordinated and prepared a number of deliverables, for example, partnerships, templates and guides. Moreover, the group was involved in collaboration and knowledge sharing with regards to grants applications.

Additionally, the group updated its checklist for finding **suitable book publishers**. They also added more teaching material about terminology, for example, **'What is peer-review?'**

Lastly, they contributed to the work on the Secondary Publishing Rights/Rights Retention strategy together with the Copyright Working Group.

### Copyright & Legal matters

In 2020, this group has been monitoring and sharing information on the implementation of the **Digital Single Market Directive on Copyright**. They also drafted and consulted a model law for a scholarly publishing right with a 'zero embargo' date. They issued a public statement for the Commission/Member State governments requesting immediate copyright measures to support copying by libraries, given that all of Europe's universities were shut: **'Call for Urgent Copyright Action to Support Distance Learning & Research'**

### Educational Resources

This **Working Group** has launched in 2021 and is in its initial setup phase. It aims to support European librarians in their role to provide educational resources, both open and online. A call for new members has been sent out as of April 2021.

This year, LIBER joined as a member of the **European Alliance for Research Excellence (EARE)** since the strategy of LIBER and the Copyright & Legal Matters Working Group is closely aligned with the future agenda of EARE.

### Innovative Metrics

The group released a report titled, **'Why Do Measures Fluctuate? Metrics Report - Guidelines for Talking to Management'**. The report is geared towards those based in libraries who are trying to address (with senior management) the challenges of metrics in relation to research.

### Coming Up



- The **Citizen Science Working Group** has various partnerships underway with SciStarter and the European Citizen Science Association. The group is also publishing a series of templates for Citizen Science enabling libraries to become a point of contact. Additionally, they are working on the release of **'Research Librarians Guide to Citizen Science'** together with a number of collaborators.
- In 2021, the **Copyright & Legal Matters Working Group** will work with the European Universities Association, COAR and Science Europe to advocate for the exemption of university institutional repositories from the Digital Services Act. They will also continue their support of the roll out of the scholarly publishing right.
- The **Open Access Working Group** will arrange a workshop at LIBER 2021 Online in collaboration with OASPA. The theme will be on Open Access books. The group also plans to create output from this workshop in order to share this with the greater LIBER community. Additionally, they plan to follow up on the work from the renewed **'Five Principles for Negotiations with Publishers'** that the group started at 2020 LIBER Online. Lastly, they intend to update Think.Check. Submit and promote this to the LIBER community.

### Open Access

In 2020, the group ran a webinar about transformative agreements in collaboration with OA202 initiative. They also held a workshop at the LIBER Annual Conference 2020 Online titled: 'Transitioning Scholarly Journals to Open Access: A Guide to Transformative Agreements'. They presented at the Frankfurt Book Fair free programme on the theme of Open Science, and also contributed to a webinar arranged by the Copyright Working Group about access to content in the time of Covid-19.

Over the past year, the group continued collaboration via SCOSS – one member of the group representing LIBER on their advisory board. They also continued collaboration with SPARC Europe – one member of the group representing LIBER on the Board of Directors. Additionally, they continued collaboration with COPE, STM, ALPSP, DOAJ, OAPEN in the Think.Check. Submit project to create tools for librarians to use when teaching about publishing.





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** WORKING GROUPS.

### Digital Humanities & Digital Cultural Heritage

Over the last year, this Working Group has delivered numerous items including the ALJ article '[LIBER Digital Humanities and Digital Cultural Heritage Working Group: a case study of international collaboration and network building](#)'. The group also held a webinar titled 'Using IIF to share, open and enrich your Collections'.

They published a poster on '[Forming Relationships in Digital Humanities](#)', as well as a corresponding [blog post](#) on the topic. They also published a Reading List titled, '[Researcher Needs in Digital Humanities](#)'.

The group co-authored a book – '[Open a GLAM Lab](#)' – and published a [blog post](#) about it, 'Open a GLAM Lab'. They also held one webinar on 'Setting up a GLAM Workbench' and another webinar on the [Book Sprint on Open a GLAM Lab](#).

### Digital Skills For Library Staff & Researchers

In 2020, this group conducted a webinar on the topic of [Open Science Skilling & Training Programmes Across Europe](#). They also created an [Open Science Skills visualisation](#) for library staff and researchers, which has also been translated into French and, more recently, [Greek](#). As of 2021 this group has officially ended.

### Leadership Programmes

This Working Group ran the [LIBER Emerging Leaders Programme](#) online in 2020 due to Covid-19. The course began in Dublin in June 2019 and will end in Brussels in October 2021 (travel permitting).

Over the past year, Cohort 5 set up two webinars on the topic of '[Leadership in times of crisis](#)': [Part 1 – 'How are Research Libraries leading in the times of COVID-19?'](#), [Part 2 – 'New challenges and leading into the Post-COVID-19 Recovery for Research Libraries'](#).

The group continued maintaining the [Job Description Repository](#), in order to provide all LIBER Members whose roles includes hiring with some helpful inspiration.

### Coming Up



- **The Digital Humanities and Digital Culture Heritage Working Group** is looking to refresh its membership and will review the group membership and roles, review what has been delivered, discuss the focus of the next year's work plan with the existing group, and then advertise for new members and progress from there.
- **The Leadership Programmes Working Group** has the following activities planned:

1) *LIBER Journées 2022*. The 2021 edition has been postponed to May 2022 and will take place in Budapest. The event will bring together 20-25 library directors to discuss delivering strategic change, as libraries and institutions redefine themselves in continually evolving information and social environments. [Learn more](#) about the 2022 online event.

2) *LIBER Emerging Leaders Programme 2021 (Cohort 5 & 6)*. This high-level seminar is aimed at the next generation of senior leaders at European research libraries. It has already been successfully completed by 80 library professionals. The fifth cohort will round out **their programme** by the end of 2021. The Working Group received more than 40 applications for the call for Cohort 6, of which 24 were selected to begin with the new programme in October 2021. [Learn more](#) about the programme.

3) *Alumni Event*: During LIBER 2021 Online, our Annual Conference taking place at the end of June, the Emerging Leaders Alumni will present a workshop.

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**, **Research Data Management**, and **Data Science in Libraries** WORKING GROUPS.

### Architecture

At the beginning of 2020, the group finalised the organisation of its bi-annual conference, which was supposed to take place from the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> of April 2020 at the University of Luxembourg. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the group was forced to postpone the conference to April 2022. In 2020, the group launched the [Library Buildings](#) in Europe website and continues to update the database, adding useful information and new library buildings. Additionally, in 2020, new members joined the group and a new secretary, and a new Chair have been elected.

### FIM4L

In October, 2020 FIM4L published 'Federated Access to Online Resources: Principles & Recommendations for Library Services', and these recommendations were endorsed by the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL-ABRC), Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) and Research Libraries UK (RLUK). The group also established a [website](#).

### Linked Open Data

In early 2021, the group released a guide: '[Best Practices for Library Linked Open Data \(LOD\) Publication](#)', as well as a [blog post](#) about the guide. The aim of the guide is to familiarise the reader with the questions and choices that a library planning a Linked Open Data publication project needs to take into account. With this main deliverable now complete, the working group is in the process of shutting down.

### Research Data Management (RDM)

In 2020, the LIBER RDM Working Group prioritized eight '[hot RDM topics that require further guidance and articulation from the library perspective](#)'. These topics were also the starting point for dedicated task groups focusing on, for example, FAIR, Data Curation, Data Stewardship and Engaging Researchers. The task forces have reached different stages of the intended end products. The 'hot RDM topics' were also central to the RDM workshop at the LIBER 2020 Online Annual Conference. For one of these RDM hot topics – '[The 6 Pillars of Engaging Researchers in Research Data Management \(RDM\)](#)' – a publication was issued in late December 2020. The purpose of the publication is to give libraries practical guidelines on how to involve researchers in the topic of RDM.

Moreover, two webinars were organized in 2020: '[What to Keep? A Webinar about the Appraisal and Selection of Research Data for Curation and Preservation](#)' and '[Measuring the Impacts of Curatorial Actions on Research Data Reuse at ICPSR](#)'.

### Data Science In Libraries (DSLlib)

This group officially launched in 2021, and seeks to explore and promote library engagement in applying data science and analytical methods in libraries. It does this by taking into account all kinds of processes and workflows around library collections and metadata, as well as digital infrastructures and service areas.

### Coming Up



- In 2021 the **FIM4L Working Group** will work on promotion and actively engaging in library FIM worldwide. The group will participate in a lighting talk at the LIBER 2021 Online Annual Conference. They will also present a webinar at the UKSG conference as well as at the IFLA WLIC.
- The 2021 **RDM Working Group** activities will centre around research libraries enabling FAIR data practices. Three intertwined focal highlights coming up for 2021 are: a LIBER conference workshop highlighting research libraries enabling FAIR data practices, practical guidance for institutions through an updated FAIR factsheet, and a webinar series starting this year focusing on the role of research libraries in a networked (research) data infrastructure.
- **The Architecture Working Group** will commence work on the organisation of its 2022 conference in Luxembourg and will look into options for future conferences thereafter. Additionally, the group will organise two webinars, together with the LIBER office, taking place in September and December 2021. All-round improvement and updates to the [Library Buildings](#) in Europe website will also commence throughout the year.



## INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

We connect, represent and inform research libraries by participating in strategic and innovative projects.



### ABOUT

**INOS** aims to modernise the curricula of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) through civic engagement in Open and Citizen Science. INOS offers a means of staying up-to-date on Open and Citizen Science reports, roadmaps, and learning and training resources for academic and library staff in higher-education institutions. Via the INOS website, users can join an upcoming Open Knowledge event, or an interactive workshop.

### OUR ROLE

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

### VALUE FOR LIBRARIES

Libraries have already been introduced to INOS via a series of events, including an Open Knowledge activity on Citizen Science integration into **Higher Education Curriculum**, as well as a co-creation session, **'Citizen & Open Science in Higher Education: Co-creating a Shared Vision'** where libraries, among other participants, were able to discuss where Citizen Science is currently at, and how to advance it within higher education. In May and June 2021, libraries will be able to join three more 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.

Over the past year we started four new projects (the EOSC workshops started in 2020 and were executed in 2021); ORE (started in September 2020), ELE (started in January 2021) and MES-CoBraD (started in April 2021).

Additionally, we ran the first Projects Database Survey which was sent to all our Participants in order to identify the interest, needs, as well as potential roles within projects.

Below you can read about what we have been up to over the past year for each of our projects.



# LIBER CO-ORGANISED/ATTENDED NINETEEN WEBINARS, WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS



## ReCreating Europe

### ABOUT

**reCreating Europe** This project rethinks digital copyright law for a culturally diverse, accessible, creative Europe. We will be looking for libraries to share experiences related to digitisation-related issues, including how legal restrictions are dealt with. This will inform guides and best practices. Libraries will also be invited to attend workshops on legal aspects related to digitisation.

### OUR ROLE

LIBER participates in GLAM activities focusing on Libraries and Archives and analysing 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 by lowering the individual effort required to deal with copyright regulations. Various events to demo the materials and guidelines are planned for the fall of 2021, and the first event to kick-start the showcasing of project work will take place on 1 June and is titled *State of Exceptions & Limitations - Copyright Flexibilities in the EU and its Member States*.



### ABOUT

**SSHOC** Through SSHOC, we are helping to build the social sciences and humanities portion of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC). Join the SSHOC **Training Community**, check out our **Training Discovery Toolkit**, and view all upcoming **SSHOC events**.

### 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 2020, these included workshops at LIBER 2020 Online and a poster at the Open Science Conference, as well as webinars and workshops on topics such as:

- Digitising Museum Objects Using Basic Photogrammetry;
- Citizen Science & Cultural Heritage. Planning for success;
- Introducing the newly launched Ethnic and Migrant Minorities (EMM) Survey Registry;
- Sharing Datasets of Pathological Speech;
- Putting Data Protection into Practice: GDPR and the DARIAH ELDAH Consent Form Wizard;
- Tools and Resources for FAIR Data.

More information for the above trainings from 2020 can be found [here](#), with more events planned for 2021.

In 2020 the SSHOC Training Community was launched. The community meets every months to discuss SSH training-related topics and share experiences. Library professionals are part of this community, and as such also participate in bootcamps designed to boost their skills on a number of topics, including RDM and how to be a better trainer. In general, libraries are often invited to give feedback on the tools and services developed by SSHOC, in order to ensure that the project outcomes meet the needs of the library community. This is the case with the SSHOC Training Discovery Toolkit for SSH trainers, which was launched in 2020 and is constantly being improved by the SSHOC project.

### NOTABLE RESOURCES

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

Introducing the European Commission's dedicated open access publishing platform:

## Open Research Europe

### ABOUT

**Open Research Europe (ORE)** a new publishing platform launched by the European Commission. The platform provides all Horizon 2020 beneficiaries and their collaborators with an easy, high-quality venue to publish Horizon 2020 funded research at no cost and in full compliance with the Commission's open access policies.

### OUR ROLE

LIBER's role within the project is to spearhead efforts to engage research libraries and other stakeholders who could benefit from the platform. Our activities include the organisation of workshops and webinars to introduce the platform to the relevant stakeholders and provide training. We also contribute to the project's sustainability strategy and ensure that all project news reaches the right audiences within the Open Access landscape in Europe.

Moreover, the ORE project directly relates to LIBER's 2018-2022 Strategy, in particular to our goal to ensure that Open Access is the predominant form of publishing.

### VALUE FOR LIBRARIES

The ORE project and the Open Access values this project brings about are at the core of what we at LIBER do. Research libraries can benefit from the platform in a multitude of ways – the primary manner being that researchers and library patrons can utilise the platform for their research and can in turn submit articles in an open manner.

### NOTABLE RESOURCES

- [Open Research Europe Survey Outcomes: Perspectives of Libraries on ORE](#)
- [About ORE's Publishing Process](#)



### ABOUT

**The European Language Equality (ELE)** project is a brand new project for LIBER. The primary objective is to prepare the ELE Programme in the form of a strategic research, innovation and implementation agenda as well as a roadmap for achieving full digital language equality in Europe by 2030.

### OUR ROLE

LIBER participates by identifying and mapping the landscape of the European Language Equality project in 2020/2021. We do this by assessing the views, needs and vision of European

research libraries as far as achieving digital language equality by 2030 is concerned, and by engaging our community on the topic. Further, we will contribute to desk research and collecting feedback for developing a strategic agenda and roadmap. LIBER's role in this project also involves communication, dissemination, exploitation, sustainability and project management activities.

### VALUE FOR LIBRARIES

Twenty-four official languages and more than 60 regional and minority languages constitute the fabric of the European Union's linguistic landscape. However, language barriers still hamper communication and the free flow of information across the EU. Multilingualism is a key cultural cornerstone of Europe, and signifies what it means to be and to feel European. Thus, this project aims to bridge the striking imbalance when it comes to support through language technologies, and issue a call to action - highly relevant to research libraries and their patrons within Europe. The project will lay the foundations for a strategic agenda and roadmap for making digital language equality a reality in Europe by 2030.



## MES-CoBraD

### ABOUT

**Multidisciplinary Expert System for the Assessment & Management of Complex Brain Disorders (MES-CoBraD)** is an interdisciplinary project combining Real-World Data (RWD) from multiple clinical and consumer sources through comprehensive, cost-efficient, and fast protocols towards improving diagnostic accuracy and therapeutic outcomes in people with Complex Brain Disorders (CoBraD), as reflected in Neurocognitive (Dementia), Sleep, and Seizure (Epilepsy) disorders and their interdependence.

### OUR ROLE

LIBER participates in activities related to legal and ethical frameworks, landscape analysis and methodology, pilot RDW acquisition, and raising awareness, dissemination and communication. LIBER will lead stakeholder engagement activities and opportunity-based dissemination activities, while its overall role will focus on libraries in the lifecycle of RWD and their role in the creation and uptake of proposed solutions related to data management.

### VALUE FOR LIBRARIES

Libraries benefit from involvement as the project brings together a range of experts across various fields (medicine, engineering, computer science, social health science, law, and marketing and communication) and combines cutting-edge clinical information and scientific research to improve lives – very useful content for library patrons/researchers in these fields.



Our 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference was hosted online for the first time ever (due to Covid-19). The conference had 5,544 registrations for 21 online sessions – making it the biggest LIBER conference to date.



LIBER's first ever virtual conference, **LIBER 2020 Online**, attracted a massive 5,544 registrations from over 1,700 people, including staff at 276 LIBER institutions.

We were able to turn the Covid-19 travel restrictions into an opportunity to pursue our conference online. This enabled us to continue delivering inspiring speeches and workshops from research library professionals across Europe.

Shifting our conference online and free-of-charge allowed us to reach out to previously underrepresented areas of our LIBER network (and those who may have never had the chance to physically travel to one of our conferences).

As such, our conference was an overwhelming success and in the course of one week we had:

- 2 Panel Sessions
- 3 Winners of the LIBER Award for Library Innovation, sponsored by OCLC
- 6 Workshops
- 10 Sessions
- 11 Posters
- 27 #HowToRunALibrary selfies
- 1,778 Tweets tagged with #LIBER2020
- 3,616 session attendees

### 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

2021 marks a very important milestone in the history of our organisation and our Annual Conference: it's our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. For 50 years the LIBER Annual Conference has been established as the hub where research library professionals gather to network, learn and exchange ideas on relevant topics.

As a result of Covid-19, we've decided to once again hold a virtual Annual Conference. This time around we have partnered with our colleagues at the University of Belgrade Library to co-organise LIBER 2021 Online. This will allow us to, as far as possible, recreate the conference atmosphere and engage our network.

Added to this, we invite our LIBER Participants to join insightful sessions, network with colleagues, and exercise their voting rights during the Meeting of Participants.

### Future Conferences



**2021 – ONLINE (DUE TO COVID-19) / 23 - 25 JUNE**  
Hosted together with Belgrade University Library.

**2022 – DENMARK / 6 - 8 JULY**  
Hosted together with the University of Southern Denmark Library.

LIBER Quarterly ([liberquarterly.eu](http://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.

## The Journal

In 2020, LIBER Quarterly (LQ) published Volume 30 with 17 papers: two review papers, seven case studies and eight articles (in total 374 pages). From these papers one was added to the 'Special collection from the Annual General Conference 2018 in Lille', three to the 'Special collection of papers from the Annual General Conference 2019 in Dublin' and one to the 'Special collection of papers from the Annual General Conference 2020 - Online'.

During the calendar year 2020 LQ received 44 submissions, with the following results:

- 13 published (5 of them in Volume 31, 2021)
- 25 declined before peer review
- 6 declined after peer review

Since last year's report, we have amended the 'focus and scope' section of the LQ website to accentuate the requirement for submissions to have relevance for European research libraries. However, due to issues of scope or suitability, we declined to progress through to peer review 57% of all articles submitted (compared to 46% in 2019). Given we have no data about other, comparable journals' acceptance rates, we cannot know if this is a high, medium or low acceptance rate. Given that 2020 was also a very unusual year, it is hard to quantify the impact of Covid-19 on the rate and relevance of submissions. We take care to give feedback where papers are declined prior to peer review, and where appropriate, encourage authors to try alternative journals or platforms.

LQ's double-blind peer review mechanism assesses all relevant articles for clarity, validity, and soundness of methodology. Through the recent LQ risk assessment, we highlighted the difficulty of finding qualified reviewers as a significant risk, which we are seeking to mitigate by tapping into the extensive LQ and wider LIBER networks, and by highlighting the benefits to individuals of undertaking peer reviews. Despite the challenges, we have successfully applied double-blind peer review for all relevant papers in 2020. We can summarise review of the 44 papers submitted in 2020 as follows:

- 25 papers were reviewed by the Managing Editor and declined for peer review
- 18 papers were reviewed by 2 reviewers
- 1 paper was reviewed by 3 reviewers

The subject of papers published resonate strongly with LIBER's core mission and we are seeing new trends in subject matter, with strong focus on data, technology and ethics.

In 2021, LQ will transfer from Utrecht's UOpen platform to the newly established [openjournals.nl](http://openjournals.nl) platform. The current timeline for platform transfer completion is July 2021. We are also awaiting the outcome of an application for membership of OASPA.

## Article-level impact metrics

One way to have an idea of the impact of the journal is to look at the article-level metrics. The UOpen software automatically registers for each paper the number of views, downloads and twitter comments. The result for the 17 papers published in 2020 between their date of publication and 9 April 2021 was as indicated in the below table:

Article-level impact metrics	Views	Downloads	Twitter
Totals 2020	7,344	1,095	353
2019	15611	2627	1011
2018	7086	1489	275
Average per paper 2020	432	64	20
2019	650	109	42
2018	354	74	14
Average for 'review papers' 2020	333	82	10
Average for 'case studies' 2020	416	59	22
2019	328	78	18
2018	233	45	12
Average for 'articles' 2020	471	64	22
2019	951	147	60
2018	420	90	14

The highest number of views (1,600) was reached by Dony, C., Raskinet, M., Renaville, F., Simon, S. and Thirion, P., 2020. 'How reliable and useful is Cabell's Blacklist? A data-driven analysis'. LIBER Quarterly, 30(1), pp.1-38.

The values for 2020 are significantly lower than those for 2019, but 2019 appears to have generated unusual levels of activity, which we believe is because the statistics for 2019 were harvested after an 18-month (rather than one year) period of site activity. Number of views for 2020 compare favourably to those of 2018. It is clear that we are underperforming on social media mentions and work is underway to improve this, which in turn should boost views and downloads.

Google Analytics, on the other hand, provides a detailed analysis of all user activities on the journal website, and thus for all our available journal issues together. If we select calendar 2020 as the period of analysis, and group the results by the continent of the users, we find the following results for the total number of sessions, downloads and pages consulted:

Continent	Sessions	Downloads
Africa	6,677	413
Americas	11,885	1,050
Asia	16,030	1,278
Europe	17,853	1,608
Oceania	1,778	237
Not set	169	6

We can get an idea about the international interest for the journal from the top 10 countries (with respective session numbers): USA (8,887), India (5,107), UK (4,023), Philippines (2,303), Nigeria (2,743). Besides the UK, the top European numbers came from Germany (2,100), France (1,240), The Netherlands (850) and Spain (750).

## The Editorial Board

There were some changes to the Editorial Board in 2020. Zinaida Manžuch stepped down, owing to a change in her professional role and we welcomed five new members: Goran Hamrin, Heli Kautonen, Aurélie Terrier (Copy editor), Trudy Turner (Managing Editor) and Wilhelm Widmark. There are 20 board members, with roles and experience balanced as follows:

- Chair - 1
- Managing Editor - 1
- Copy editors - 2
- LIS Academic board members - 11
- LIS Senior professional board members - 5

The editorial board now meets twice yearly online. The most recent meeting was on 17 December 2020, with an agenda including LQ risk and mitigation, the LQ publishing platform move (subsequently agreed by the LIBER Executive Board), the report from the LQ Working Group (subsequently agreed by the LIBER Executive Board) and a discussion about how to improve the pool of LQ peer reviewers. The chair (Em Prof.

Mel Collier) also updated the group on a complaint regarding a paper published by LQ and the subsequent investigation and findings. The next meeting is planned for end of June 2021. The Chair would like to thank the LQ Editorial Board for all their support in 2020.

## Editorial Board

- Mel Collier, *Chairman*, KU Leuven, Belgium
- Trudy Turner, *Managing Editor*, University of Kent, United Kingdom
- Paul Ayris, University College London, United Kingdom
- Donatella Castelli, Istituto di Scienza e Tecnologie dell'Informazione (ISTI), Pisa, Italy
- Nicolaie Constantinescu, Kosson Community, Romania
- Raf Dekeyser, KU Leuven, Belgium
- Stefan Gradmann, KU Leuven, Belgium
- Göran Hamrin, KTH Royal institute of technology, Sweden
- Heli Kautonen, Finnish Literature Society (Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seura), Finland
- Tibor Koltay, Eszterházy Károly University, Hungary
- Derek Law, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, United Kingdom
- Achim Oßwald, Technische Hochschule Köln, Germany
- Angela Repanovici, Transilvania University Brasov, Romania
- Christian Schlögl, University of Graz, Austria
- Aurélie Terrier, Université de Lausanne, Switzerland
- 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

- John MacColl, University Librarian & Director of Library Services, University of St Andrews (Chair)
- Raf Dekeyser, Professor, KU Leuven, Belgium
- Heli Kautonen, Library Director, Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seura, Finnish Literature Society
- Wilhelm Widmark, Stockholm University Library, Sweden
- Trudy Turner, University of Kent, United Kingdom
- Friedel Grant, LIBER Office (until September 2020)
- Elizabeth Bethlehem (née Joss), LIBER Office (from November 2020)



# ACCOUNTS

## Accounts

LIBER's financial position is solid. The financial result for the foundation for the year ending 31 December 2020 is a loss of €82,445 (2019: a profit of € 7,973).

LIBER's capital and liquidity position is such that any financial disadvantage can be absorbed. The Covid-19 crisis has had financial consequences for LIBER during 2020. By cancelling all physical events, revenues from registrations and sponsors have decreased. Overall, expenses have also decreased, but at the same time more expenditure than budgeted was needed for staff, and less time than budgeted could be written on projects. Additionally, due to the pandemic, it has not been possible to organise events for projects.

The effect is twofold: less time to write on projects and less other direct costs on projects means that less overhead can be attributed to projects.

Solvency has dropped from 68% to 49% (Equity as a percentage of the balance sheet total). Although considerably less, the solvency is still good, and given the budget for 2021 (result €0), a further reduction is not to be expected.

The LIBER Office supports its Participants on all possible issues in order to provide them with a good basis for coping with the crisis. This means we have transformed from physical to online services as much as possible. The affiliated institutions can be operationally affected to the core by this crisis. The financial consequences for the affiliated institutions of LIBER can be dealt with in accordance with the commitments of governments, but this cannot be said with certainty as of January 2021.

More information about LIBER's finances can be found in the full 2020 Annual Accounts, sent as part of the May Quarterly Mailing.

## INCOME

	2020	2019
<b>FROM REGULAR ACTIVITIES</b>		
LIBER Participants	408.075	227.080
Annual Conference	8.000	41.760
Sponsorship	21.000	16.000
Events and activities	-	18.083
Other revenues	-	-
	<b>437.075</b>	<b>302.923</b>
<b>PROJECT FUNDING</b>		
SSHOC	106.386	88.761
INOS	20.481	5.956
reCreating Europe	49.727	-
EOSC WS	7.171	-
Open Research	6.205	-
FOSTER Adjustments grants		13.754
PASTEUR 4OA Adjustments grants		17.559
LEARN Adjustments grants		641
EOSC		67.355
AARC2		6.259
FOSTER+		31.193
	<b>189.970</b>	<b>231.478</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>627.045</b>	<b>534.401</b>



## EXPENDITURE

	2020	2019
Personnel costs	592.000	360.000
Executive Board	3.000	5.000
Steering Committees	8.000	11.000
Leadership Seminar	-	12.000
LIBER Office	73.000	41.000
LIBER Quarterly	2.000	3.000
Promotion and Representation	9.000	8.000
Operating costs	21.000	83.000
Other expenditure	2.000	3.000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>709.000</b>	<b>526.000</b>

## RESULTS

	2020	2019
<b>FINANCIAL RESULTS</b>	<b>-83.000</b>	<b>8.000</b>
<b>NET RESULT</b>	<b>-83.000</b>	<b>8.000</b>

[www.libereurope.eu](http://www.libereurope.eu)

