



**International  
Federation of  
Library  
Associations and Institutions**



# **Libraries of the Future: Rare Books and Special Collections**

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# Rare Books and Special Collections Section

## **Rare Books and Special Collections Section**

This Section provides a forum for discussion and exchange of information on matters of particular concern to rare book, manuscript, and special collections librarians, including the collection, preservation, description, and use of such materials, in all types of libraries worldwide.



# The Future of Rare Books and Special Collections

- Unique heart of libraries and communities
- Relevant to all
- Accessible and discoverable
- Unlocked with digital tools, available for digital scholarship



*the proposed decree - Resolved, that the committee of three, appointed by this Board  
decreased to 5 - on April 20, 1908, consisting of Messrs. Whitaker, Jordan and  
Henry Hallman, to examine the proposed decree, which it is contemplated*

# Challenges

- Expanding competencies: more digital skills, outreach and community engagement
- Investigating history of collections: focus on provenance, possibility of repatriation
- Collecting issues of current significance and future research interest
- Recognizing silences and gaps in our collections: working to include missing voices



# Events

- *Libraries in the Time of War*: Symposium, Uppsala, Sweden, March 2023
- *Empire, Indigeneity, and Colonial Heritage Collections: Confronting Difficult Pasts, Enabling Just Futures*: Satellite meeting, Leiden, August 2023
- *21st-century description for heritage collections: changing perspectives, changing language, changing cultures*, WLIC session, August 2023
- *What happens when a book is lost?* Cooperation between Libraries and the Rare Book Trade & the ILAB Missing Books Register Webinar, 11 May 2023





# Publications and Other Activities

- *Competency Guidelines for Rare Books and Special Collections Professionals*, 2020.
- Value of Special Collections: survey and analysis
- Survey on Rare Materials Cataloging with RDA
- Partnerships and collaborations with Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL), International League of Antiquarian Booksellers (ILAB), International Council on Archives (ICA)

# Thank you!

**IFLA Rare Books and Special Collections Section**

**<https://www.ifla.org/rare-books-and-special-collections>**

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**Blog: <https://iflarbscs.hypotheses.org/>**

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