



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Anna Maria Tamaro



DEAR COLLEAGUES,

This is an election year for the IFLA Committees. We will be electing new members for the LTR Section. I invite you to encourage professionals and scholars, who are interested and have a passion for library theory and research methodology, to join the LTR Section. Currently, we have 80 members coming from all areas of the world (Fig. 1): Europe (49%), Asia (19%), Africa (8%), United States (13%), and Latin America (11%).

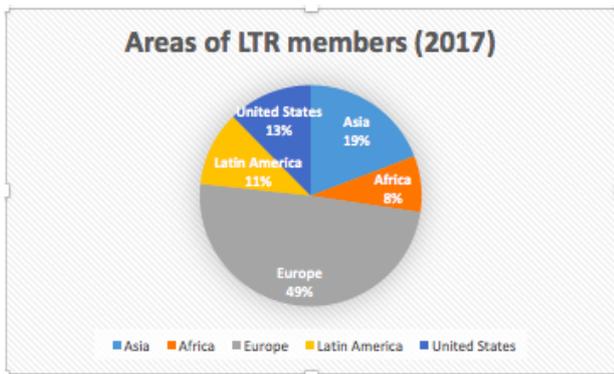


Fig. 1 Areas of LTR members

As demonstrated in Figure 2, current LTR Section members are working in: LIS schools (28), National Associations (22), Libraries (18), or are individual members (9), or are affiliated with an international association (1).

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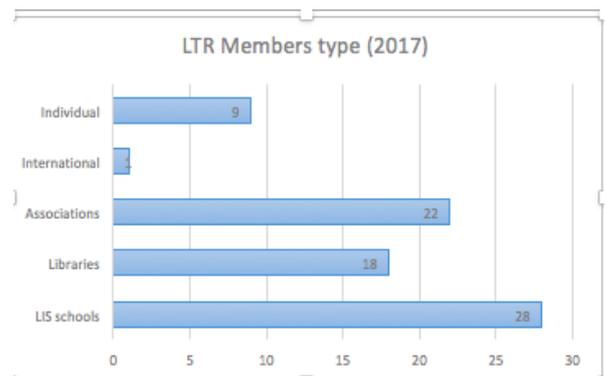


Fig.2 LTR Members

The LTR Section vision focuses on high quality research methodology and international discussions of the theoretical bases of library and information science that are essential to improving library services in a time of transformation of libraries. IFLA has assumed a key role in driving the transformation of the profession in a profoundly changed society, starting from the individual level and including organisational, national, and global levels, and actively advocating the importance of libraries and access to information (Lyon Declaration). The mission of LTR is to support the IFLA strategic role through stimulating discussions and debates about LIS theory and research in relation to activities, such as support for Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 United Nations Agenda (SDG UN2030) or mentoring professionals actively engaged in the

society as “change agents”.

I'd like remind you that the LTR website, updated by our Information Coordinator, is an excellent source of information on how the LTR can serve you. Please consider it your professional home. The website is available at: <http://www.ifla.org/library-theory-and-research>.

The Annual report 2015-2016 is available at <http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/library-theory-and-research/annual-report/2015-2016.pdf>

The report demonstrates that LTR realized its two main goals in 2016:

1) Conducting research projects and mentoring librarians in the areas of transformation of the librarian role.

Data curation has emerged as a new area of responsibility for researchers, librarians, and information professionals in the digital library environment. LTR has just completed a research project on the roles and responsibilities of data curators. Our study has examined different roles, qualifications and competencies of LIS professionals involved in data curation and research data management. The research team members continue analyzing data and presenting the findings at professional conferences. They will be participating in the panel presentation at the IFLA Satellite Conference in Warsaw. LTR participated for the second year in the De Gruyter Research Award. LTR members developed the call for papers and served as jurors evaluating the submissions. The winner of 2016 DeGruyter was Getaneh Alemu with a paper on enriching metadata through user engagement and participation. LTR has also a LinkedIn Group with 120 members. If are not active member, we encourage you to join and become more involved in sharing experiences and knowledge. You can join the group at: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/6666121>

2) LTR Section's programs and satellite conferences

LTR is preparing publications through an open access journal and book publications of the past conferences and events. The conferences held in Columbus were very successful and offered suggestions for new directions in the field. The 2016 Satellite Conference “International Quality Assessment of LIS Education Programs” prompted the formation of a Working Group called “Building strong LIS education-BSLISE.” The Group has created a Website and is preparing an Open Session for the IFLA Congress. It is also developing a survey on entry requirements for LIS professionals worldwide. The group presented its first webinar in November. The information about the BSLISE webinar is available at: <http://www.ifla.org/node/10969>

The 2016-2017 Action Plan outlines the activities planned (or completed) to achieve our objectives, continuing on our two focus areas. The Action Plan is available at: http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/library-theory-and-research/strategic-plan/ltr_action-plan_2016-2017.pdf. For the transformation of the librarian role in time of change, we are going to investigate the professional competencies by collecting a list of competencies from countries in the world. The focus is on fostering an open dialogue with all stakeholders and the use of an international competency framework to facilitate this dialogue.

The LTR Section is planning a satellite conference and two open sessions at the 2017 IFLA Congress. The results of the Data Curation project will be presented at the Satellite Conference in Warsaw, “Data Curator's Roles and Responsibilities: International and Interdisciplinary Perspectives.” The Satellite is organized in collaboration with the IFLA-Preservation and Conservation and IFLA-

Information Technology sections and hosted by the Faculty of Journalism, Information and Book Studies at the University of Warsaw. The Open Session, "Transformation of the Librarian Role" is organized with SIG New Professionals. Together with the Section Education and Training, SIG LIS education in Developing Countries, LTR is planning an Open Session "Building Strong LIS Education". LTR is also endorsing and supporting the role and activities of the Library History SIG, which is a very active SIG, under the direction of the Convener Kerry Smith. You can find more information about the upcoming programs and the call for papers on the LTR website at: <http://www.ifla.org/library-theory-and-research>

I would like to use this opportunity to thank all Standing Committee members who have generously contributed to the activities of the LTR Section, a special thank you to our Secretary, Yasuyo Inoue, our Information Coordinator, Simon Jules Koudjam Yameni, Krystyna Matusiak, our Newsletter Editor, and active members: Peter Lor, Kristin Olsen, Dan Dorner, Gaby Haddow, Milan Vasiljevic, and Jennifer Arns. Please join us in Warsaw for the Satellite, and in Wroclaw for the Standing Committee meetings, and the LTR Open Sessions.

Anna Maria Tammaro
Chair, Library Theory and Research

LTR 2014 PAPER PUBLISHED

In August 2014, at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Lyon, the LTR held an open session on "Libraries in the political process: benefits and risks of political visibility". After the session, authors of papers that had been presented, as well as authors of highly rated articles that could not be

accommodated in the session, were invited to submit full-length articles. Six of the papers have now been published in the journal *Library trends*, volume 65, no. 2, Fall 2016, along with two invited papers and an introductory essay by the issue editors, Christine Stilwell, Peter Lor and Raphaëlle Bats. The table of contents of this issue, entitled "Libraries in the political process", is as follows:

Introduction: redefining the role of libraries in the political process and conflict situations – Christine Stilwell, Raphaëlle Bats and Peter Lor (p.93)

Risks and benefits of visibility: librarians navigating social and political turbulence – Peter Lor (p.108)

Libraries after Charlie: from neutrality to action – Raphaëlle Bats (p.128)

Is the library a political institution? French libraries today and the social conflict between Démocratie and République – Denis Merklen (p.143)

Putting crises behind us: a new opportunity for libraries – Joseph Belletante (p.154)

The rhetoric of digitization and the politicization of Canadian heritage – Mary Kandiuk (p.165)

Politics and public libraries in the Republic of Turkey – Hasan S. Keseroğlu (p.180)

Libraries and a "Better life for all": the politics, processes, and promises of the South African LIS Transformation Charter – Genevieve Hart and Mary Nassimbeni (p.198)

Under-resourced, inadequately staffed, and little used: some issues facing many school libraries, seen through the lens of an exploration of the situation in Iraq – Ian M. Johnson (217).

Submitted by Peter Lor.

SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERSHIP

Gaby Haddow



GABY HADDOW is a relative newcomer to the LTR Standing Committee, commencing her term in 2015 at the IFLA conference in Cape Town. She is on the Section's programme committees for the 2017 conference in Wrocław, the 2018 conference in Kuala Lumpur, and helped to develop the LTR Action Plan with Peter Lor and Dan Dorner.

Gaby is a Senior Lecturer with the Department of Information Studies at Curtin University in Perth, Australia, and her teaching is primarily in research methods. The Department teaches courses at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, as well taking Masters and Doctoral research students. It is located in the School of Media, Culture and Creative Arts, and for the last four years Gaby has been the Director of Research and Creative Production for the School; a role that involved distributing small grants, organizing seminars and research events, and providing general advice about research process at the University.

Gaby's involvement in professional associations for libraries has included chairing the Australian Library & Information Association's (ALIA) Research Committee, being a panel member on ALIA course accreditation panels, four years as co-editor of *Australian Academic & Research Libraries*, and currently co-editor of the *Journal of the Australian Library and Information Association*.

Prior to entering academia, Gaby worked as a shelver at the State Library of Western Australia, memorabilia coordinator for an Australian Rules Football club, research project officer at the WA Evidence Based Nursing and

Midwifery Centre, and Faculty Librarian for Curtin University Library. For much of this time, Gaby has been interested in the communication of research to practice, the topic of her PhD (awarded in 2002 by the University of Western Australia), research support, bibliometrics and research evaluation for the social sciences and humanities (SSH) fields. At present, she is undertaking a large study with a colleague in Sweden that is exploring publication practices of SSH researchers within a research evaluation environment. Another recent project, with an academic librarian in Darwin, has investigated academic librarians' knowledge and skills about research metrics. Gaby has taught her the importance of a worldview in finding the best practices for one's library; libraries, in fact, learn from one another!

LTR SATELLITE MEETING

CALL FOR PAPERS

The IFLA Library Theory and Research Section (LTR), IFLA- Preservation and Conservation, IFLA- Information Technology, Warsaw University - Faculty of Journalism, Information and Book Studies are pleased to invite submissions for its forthcoming pre-Congress Satellite Conference, to be held in Warsaw, 16 and 17 August 2017 on the topic: "Data Curator's Roles and Responsibilities: International and Interdisciplinary Perspectives."

Focus and General Themes:

Data curation has emerged as a new area of responsibility for researchers, librarians, and information professionals in the digital environment. Digital technologies continue transforming scholarship practices including the ways research is conducted and disseminated. An increased emphasis has been

placed on data as valuable research products that need to be managed throughout the lifecycle, shared, and preserved. Research data management has also become a high priority due to the requirements of funding agencies and journal publishers to make research data readily available at the time of article publication. The variety and sheer volume of data that must be processed, preserved, and made available to the scholarly community and public at large is creating new roles, responsibilities, and challenges, both technical and theoretical, for researchers, librarians and other information professionals who support them.

The primary goal of the Satellite Conference is to engage the international scholarly community in a conversation leading to a better understanding of the challenges that the new requirements for the dissemination of research data are posing to researchers and information professionals and to discuss the main trends in data curation/research data management practices and education. The IFLA Satellite meeting to be held in Warsaw, Poland just prior to the IFLA 2017 conference in Wrocław, Poland, will explore the international and interdisciplinary perspectives on the roles and responsibilities of data curators. In this meeting, we want to focus on the role of the library as data curator, core competencies and skills, access, preservation, and data curation practices. Researchers and practitioners are encouraged to submit proposals for papers and poster presentations. Conceptual papers as well as case studies of data management practices and educational programs are welcome.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Data curator's competencies and skills
- Data management services
- Curatorial activities and functions

- Roles of data curators in supporting data lifecycle
- Roles of data curators in disciplinary and international contexts
- Data literacy and outreach
- Data sharing and release
- Data curation in open science
- Data curation and professional ethics
- Data curation education in library and information science (LIS) programs, post-graduate certificates, and professional development courses
- Curriculum development in data curation education

Important dates:

February 18, 2017: Deadline for submission of paper abstracts

April 8, 2017: Deadline for submission of poster abstracts

Organizing Committee:

Krystyna K. Matusiak (IFLA LTR), co-chair; Anna Maria Tamaro (IFLA LTR), co-chair; Alenka Kavčič Čolić (IFLA Preservation and Conservation); Justyna Jasiewicz (Warsaw University); Anna Mierzecka (Warsaw University); Ingeborg Verheul (IFLA Preservation and Conservation); Terry Weech (IFLA LTR); Evviva Weinraub (IFLA Information Technology).

Submission guidelines are available at: <http://2017.ifla.org/cfp-calls/library-theory-joint-with-preservation-conservation-and-information-tech>

LTR OPEN SESSION

CALL FOR PAPERS**Theme:**

"Engaged Communities: Transforming the Librarian Role"

The Library Theory & Research (LTR) Section in collaboration with the New Professionals

(NP) Special Interest Group are pleased to invite submissions for its forthcoming open session at the World Library & Information Congress, 19 – 25 August 2017, Wrocław, Poland

The session aims to bring together research and practice that illustrates how the library profession has transformed and is transforming to meet and/or challenge change, be it technological, societal, political, economic or a combination of these.

Papers that explore how research has investigated transformation of the librarian role as well as transformation of this role in practice are encouraged. Among the many perspectives possible, papers might consider new alliances and collaborations, the shifting emphasis from collecting to educating, convergence with other professions, and transformation in response to external forces. Submissions of papers that discuss initiatives and events designed to support the transformation of the librarian role are also welcome.

Possible themes to guide submissions are:

- Profession theory
- Transformation in theory
- Challenging change/fear of change
- Impacts of political or economic fluctuations
- Impacts of big data and data analytics
- New areas of responsibility in supporting research data curation/management
- Transformation leading to new collaborations, interdisciplinary/cross-disciplinary alliances
- Transformation from information

providers to educators

- New areas of research and services to address social and political change
- Convergence of professional roles in the libraries, archives, and museum communities (LAM)
- Transformative, alternative and innovative practices
- The contribution of theory and research to transformation

Important dates:

1 March 2017 Submission of Abstracts

31 March 2017 Decision notification

1 June 2017 Final papers due

Submission guidelines are available at:
<http://2017.ifla.org/cfp-calls/library-theory-research-joint-with-the-new-professionals-sig>

FOLLOW US!

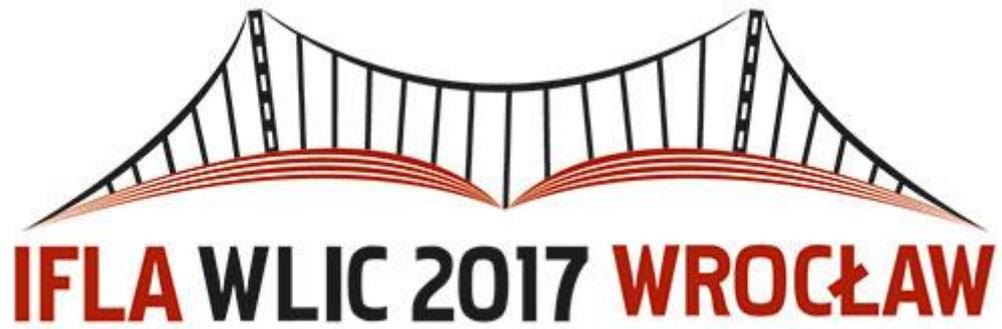
IFLA offers several convenient channels to keep you current with the LTR's portfolio of activities and events. You can join the conversation at:

- **Twitter:** @IFLA_LTR
- **News:** www.ifla.org/news/5794
- **Blog:** blogs.ifla.org/library-theory-research/
- **Web:** www.ifla.org/library-theory-and-research

NEWSLETTER CONTACT

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See you in August at the
2017 WLIC in Wrocław, Poland!