

Division IV Webinar Series  
for LIS Students

# Getting Engaged with Library Associations – Benefits, Issues, Factors

22 April 2021  
13.00-14.30 (CEST)



# GETTING ENGAGED WITH LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS – BENEFITS, ISSUES, FACTORS

A Webinar Series for Library and Information Science Students

Webinar # 1 - April 2021

**13:00** Albina Krymskaya (Secretary of the IFLA Division IV and Section on Education and Training, St. Petersburg State University of Culture, Russia) - *Welcome and Overview of the Webinar*

**13:05** Catharina Isberg (Chair of the IFLA Division IV, Library Director, Helsingborg City Libraries, Sweden) - *Engaging Students into IFLA Community*

**13:10** Loida Garcia-Febo (Information Coordinator of the IFLA Management of Library Associations Section, International Library Consultant, USA) - *Library Associations Engaging New Librarians and Students*

**13:20** Paria Tajallipour (PhD Student, Texas A&M University, USA) - *Introduction and moderation*

**13:25** Ma. Nicole Tacuboy (Bachelor's degree candidate for graduation in the School of Library and Information Studies, University of the Philippines Diliman, Philippines, Vice Chairperson for Human Resource at the UP Library and Information Science Students Association) - *“Scuba Diving” into LIS: Participating in LIS Engagements as a University Student*

**13:40** Christine Audrey L. Lu (President of the UP Library and Information Science Students Association, University of the Philippines Diliman, Philippines) and Ian Dominic P. Sipin (President of the UP Library and Information Science Students Association for AY 2019-2020, University of the Philippines Diliman, Philippines) - *The LIS Congress: Organizing the Annual Advocacy Project of the UP Library and Information Science Students Association*

**13:55** Elena Popova (PhD student at the University of Libraries Studies and Information Technologies, Sofia, Bulgaria) - *Library Associations – Source of Knowledge, Source of Inspiration*

**14:10** Alena Katina (PhD student at the Library and Information Science Department, St. Petersburg State University of Culture, Russia) - *IFLA BSLISE Working Group and LIS students: Advantages of Collaboration*

**14:25** Albina Krymskaya and Paria Tajallipour - *Wrapping up. Thank you*

**Students in Library and Information Science are the future workforce of libraries. Many of us usually say that our employees are our most important resource, and as such I would say that the students are our most important future.**

**You will all become part of the working life and come into the business with new eyes and new skills and competencies. As a manager I would request and invite you to look into the daily work and routines, collect your impressions and after a couple of weeks I would ask you what you have seen. This in order to constantly make use of the fresh eyes who comes into the business.**

**As an employee you will be part of the journey of development and innovations which the LIS field is travelling on. The changes are on different levels operational and strategic as well as international, national, regional and local. And we are all part of this.**

**In order to continue to develop and transform the business we all need to continuously upgrade our skills and our knowledge. We can do this in many ways and as I see it the most important one is when we learn together at the workplace, together with our colleagues, in our daily work.**

**As a student and future employee you are all also part of the future of IFLA. IFLA is the global voice of libraries, working on many levels and in many important areas. You are important for the success of IFLA and for the success of the library field.**

**By taking part in this webinar, as a student presenting your work or as a webinar participant – some of you start your IFLA journey. There are several ways to become part of the work – either by participating in different seminars, webinars as this one, and the yearly World Library and Information Congress.**

**Or by becoming even more involved in the work of IFLA. There are more than 60 sections and special interest groups within IFLA working on different topics. The sections are divided into divisions. And there I am chairing Division IV “Support of the Profession”. The role is to coordinate the work of the sections, enable effective communication between the sections and different parts of IFLA and ensuring that we work in line with the IFLA strategy.**

**Within division IV we have for example sections working within**

- Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning
- Education and Training
- Library Theory and Research
- Library Buildings and Equipment
- Management and Marketing
- Statistics and Evaluation
- Management of Library Associations

**And there are many more within IFLA.**

**I hope to see some of you getting involved in the work in the future.**

**Good luck with your studies and your future career within the LIS field!**

**We are living historical times!**

**COVID-19 rushed in many changes to the way libraries provide services and access to information. From heads of global bodies to national leaders, and frontline librarians- all have expressed to me questions about the future of libraries and our world impacted by COVID-19. New librarians and students can help contribute to help the community librarians serve at academic, public, school and all types of librarians!**

**Cohesive library leadership at national and global level is important to bring transformative change to benefit to communities that are deeply impacted by COVID-19. And to benefit diverse countries in different regions of the world: multi-lingual, multicultural.**

**Librarians, new librarians, all together - we, can position libraries as key players at national and global levels to bring change! We are that leader, we have the knowledge, the capability, and the power to together with IFLA, national and regional library associations help rebuild a fair and just society.**

**I love to work with newer leaders and with new librarians and students. I would like to mention IFLA's New Professionals as an example of what library associations can do to engage new librarians: In 2004 I co-established IFLA's New Professionals Special Interest Group with two colleagues from England and Denmark.**

**The goal of the group is to engage new librarians and students in IFLA's work. Association's work. Since then for more than 15 years the group has had different convenors which is how we call the Chairs of the group and all of them have worked hard to coordinate satellite meetings or conferences before the IFLA Congress – I coordinated one in Bologna before the IFLA congress in Milan in 2009 in collaboration with the IFLA continuing professional development and workplace learning Section. This is a very dynamic group, and you can join at any time.**

**I love that they are remarkably diverse and inclusive way of working with events in different languages and countries. Here is their website! And you can also follow them on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube! The New Professionals are part of the coordinating team presenting this webinar.**

**I have conducted two global research in the area of new librarians' engagement in library associations. I am glad to share that the main findings indicated that more than half of respondents said that their library associations offered leadership programs for new librarians. For instance, I will mention some examples and will use a map developed by IFLA New Professionals which you can also find on their website.**

**In the UK, CILIP has developed successful mentoring programs for new librarians. They also award a grant for a new librarian to attend the IFLA Congress.**

**ALIA, the Australian Library and Information Association, hosts the Aurora Institute to support new leaders from both Australia and New Zealand. The ALIA New Librarians Symposium is a two-day conference, and the ALIA Biennial Conference features programs coordinated by the New Graduates Advisory Group of the association.**

**ALA has the Emerging Leaders Program – a cohort of new librarians in a leadership program each year developing projects to help ALA divisions (associations like PLA, ACRL), committees, and round tables with research, to develop webpages, and much more.**

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ALA also has the New Members Round Table (NMRT)- this is for all new members of the association, not necessarily new librarians. The NMRT is a division of ALA- which is also how we call associations part of ALA. The NMRT has opportunities for new members to receive mentorship and develop leadership skills, participate in monthly conversations about topics of interest to new members and much more.

Based on my research, I have concrete recommendations for facilitating the development of new librarians which I published together with my research in Feliciter a journal from the former Canadian Librarian Association. I shared my findings and recommendations at my Keynote for the Management of Library Associations program at the IFLA Congress a few years ago and understand many library associations have follow them:

- Develop tools and materials to assist new librarians in becoming effective leaders within library and professional associations.
- Help to increase awareness about the interests, skills and professionalism of new graduates.
- Recognize new professionals' needs for appropriate pay, respect and inclusion in strategic planning activities; many newcomers want to help drive change.
- Partner with national, provincial, regional associations to offer workshops for all streams of new librarians.
- Increase funding that enables new librarians to attend professional conferences.
- Create in-house career-development and leadership training programs for newcomers.
- Promote new librarians as the future of the profession (and the workplace).
- Take risks with new librarians; trust that they have the education, skills and desire necessary to successfully execute projects.

At IFLA, I established a free webinar series in 2012 presented by the Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning (CPDWL) and the New Professionals with ALA. The topics presented include human rights, literacy, design thinking, innovation, broadband, open access, and coming up climate action.

My advice to the new leaders is to stay receptive and open to serve our diverse communities at all the different libraries we work at. I am always about serving communities.

Thanks to amazing librarians like you, we know that during the pandemic, Libraries stayed open online/building serving communities. Therefore, It is important to keep in mind that Libraries: CAN Reach everyone. Meet the information needs of individuals. Help develop skills needed now and for a post-pandemic world. Partner effectively to serve communities. Impact communities. Impact policies- and of course- we must work to Demonstrate our value impacting communities.

Finally, I would like to invite you to be creative, daring, to work hard for your goals, and to be persistent. I assure you that together, right where you are and with IFLA, we can bring change! Support new librarians and students!

Going into a higher education program is analogous to the experience of people delving into scuba diving. We see amazing perspectives underwater, we become interested in diving deeper, but we have to be educated before we can become certified in our respective professions. As someone who got stuck in my first undergraduate program, getting into LIS became a safe haven as I could see myself thriving in it. Turning over a new leaf drove me to advocate for the profession and it showed through a project output. With the creation of a visual novel to promote LIS, my group received encouragement from our professors to try and engage in events organized by IFLA and the Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. (PLAI). We got accepted for the poster presentation in PLAI Congress 2018, and we were the only undergraduate presenters in the event. During these attempts, we were only students who were only three courses into the program. Looking back, it looked naïve to have tested the waters that early, but it was definitely a great way to learn with the professionals in the broad and deep waters of library and information studies.

Christine Audrey L. Lu, Ian Dominic P. Sipin – *The LIS Congress: Organizing the Annual Advocacy Project of the UP Library and Information Science Students Association*

The LIS Congress is the flagship event of the University of the Philippines Library and Information Science Students Association. With eleven iterations, the Congress was created to foster academic excellence in the field of librarianship by promoting an avenue for the discourse of trends and new ideas in the profession among the community and by featuring timely and relevant talks from some of the country’s leading information professionals. The authors actively participated in the organizing committee of several iterations of LIS Congress.

The LIS Congress had an average attendance of 150 people from various institutions across the Philippines. The event themes revolved around librarians as agents for social change, new perspectives of the LIS field through the presentation of the developments and the versatility of the profession, and traditional skill-enhancement topics. Event speakers include career archivists, bibliotherapy advocates, clinical librarians, human rights lawyers and many more. However, the authors note several factors as to why participants dwindled considerably starting 2017. There were issues with the location of the event, a registration fee that led to the general disinterest of attendees to sign up for the event, and the clamor for the event to be accredited for Continuing Professional Development for licensed librarians. Similarly, the past organizing committee encountered problems. In terms of Marketing, the committee had insufficient time to promote the event. In logistics, there was a lack of manpower. In terms of finance, there were difficulties in securing funds that were vital to cover the cost for materials needed and the venue. A rebranded and revitalized iteration as the Information Convention was abruptly halted due to the imposition of community quarantine in the Philippines.

The authors, while acknowledging the importance of advocating for appreciation of the field, note that the decreasing trend in participation -- paired with the trend of rapid digitization due mostly to the pandemic -- warrant an overhaul in how organizations such as UP LISSA design and execute conventions. The authors narrate that organizing the event significantly developed their skills in project management, marketing and external relations, public relations, and other relevant competencies.

The LIS Congress, which acted as a trailblazer in increasing participation and appreciation of Library and Information Science, had now yielded to disruptive trends of digitization. Nonetheless, it served well not only as an advocacy project, but also as a training ground for members of UP LISSA in project management and events management.

As a student at specialty 'Library, Information and Cultural Management', Master Degree, I first learned about Library associations. Thanks to the course lead by Prof. DSc Tania Todorova, entitled Library associations, I was involved in a whole new perspective of the library world. This knowledge inspired me to make a research and prepare my Master thesis titled "European Commission policy on digitization of cultural heritage in memory institutions".

Knowing the theoretical and practical and applicable achievements of the national and international associations and unions is an important prerequisite for the successful realization within a globalized information environment which the librarians and information specialists of today work in. As a response to this need, ULSIT established Library Associations course as a mandatory training course in the curriculum of the specialty 'Library, Information and Cultural Management', Master Degree course. It gives theoretic knowledge about the essence of the library associations, about the history, mission, objectives, structure and functioning of the library associations.

The Bulgarian Library and Information Association works as a main support to the library institutions in the country and as a major connection on international level. The Association organizes conferences, discussions and competitions and highly encourages students to participate. Working together with universities within the country is a very important goal, providing and spreading professional information. Also, besides from the annual initiatives related to libraries and reading, the Association helps young people find internship programs or a job related to their professional interests and also is publishing BBIA Online magazine every two months in electronic and printed edition.

BOBCATSSS is an independent European non-governmental and non-profit association, promoting European cooperation within library and information science (LIS) education and research. I took two important roles in the January conference organized by BOBCATSSS. As a participant I presented a report called Digitalization possible – main achievements in Bulgarian libraries co-authored with Tania Todorova. As a moderator I guided a session in a Virtual room called Digital Library Services during the crisis of COVID-19.

As Library associations became my inspiration and my main source of current information, I am continuing my education as a PhD student in ULSIT. My professional interests formed the title of my research - Libraries and the Information Ecosystem of the Future. IFLA Trend report from 2013 and all followed updates (2018, 2019 up to now) are base of the theoretical part of the thesis and all the great-shared experience of the library associations around the world – main source of information.

The IFLA Division IV – Support of the Profession – is hosting a series of webinars for LIS students. These webinars aim to create a place for students to share their projects, research, and ideas about different topics related to libraries. Each month – April through June 2021 – will address a different theme and a new call for proposals will be issued for that month. All webinars are held online and are open to everyone (no registration fees).

The Building Strong Library and Information Science Education (BSLISE) Working Group is an initiative of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions' (IFLA) Section on Education and Training (SET), LIS Education in Developing Countries Special Interest Group (LISEDC SIG) and Library Theory and Research (LTR) Section. The BSLISE is devoted to strengthening the international quality of library and information science (LIS) education, and as a result, the excellence of LIS professional practice.

In June 2019 the IFLA BSLISE founded a communication team in order to promote the Working Group activity on social media. Later on the communication members suggested involving LIS students to volunteer promoting on social media. Thus, BSLISE gave an opportunity for LIS students to become interns during the semester. Since September 2019 to December 2020 four LIS students from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) served as interns: Lenny Tran, Alexandra Voorhees, Amanda Thompson, and Alice Herring. During this period interns initiated their own projects such as “The Student Spotlight”. It was proposed by Amanda Thompson (<https://ilab.uncg.edu/students-2/students/amanda-thompson/>) in summer 2020. The main goal of the project is to unite LIS students all over the world. It gives them an opportunity to communicate to each other, to know more about foreign LIS schools and develop professional contacts.

Another BSLISE interns' initiative is the project “Library and Information Science (LIS) Student Voices: Global Peer-to-Peer Dialogue”. This initiative develops a global student network of LIS students where they can meet each other, learn about each other's programs, and share their perspectives. Students are the future of LIS, and this initiative will give them the opportunity to shape their thoughts and opinions about the growth of this ever developing field. Some of these examples demonstrate benefits and advantages given by IFLA BSLISE Working Group to LIS students. It is a great and powerful platform for LIS students to develop professional contacts with LIS professionals from different countries, to build professional career, learn from professionals.

IFLA BSLISE projects for LIS students are relevant to the IFLA Strategic Plan and Key Initiatives 2019-2024:

- Strategic direction 1: Strengthen the global voice of libraries.
- Strategic direction 2: Inspire and Enhance Professional Practice.

A Webinar Series for LIS Students supports IFLA's strategic directions: to inspire, engage, enable, and connect.

1. It inspires students to conduct research and consider libraries' experience in timely and important LIS areas which are relevant to the LIS professional community.
2. It engages them to be members of a professional library community, introducing them to professional competencies and providing them with experiences that they can apply to future participation in IFLA activities.
3. It enables students to implement research or projects relevant in their communities and share their results with professional communities worldwide.

It connects actors involved in the library field: members of the units of Division IV - Support the Profession who represent professional communities, LIS schools' educators and students, libraries of various types; library associations at various levels, etc.

*Project Team:* Catharina Isberg ([Division IV](#)), Loida Garcia-Febo ([MLAS](#)), Kendra Albright ([SET](#)), Albina Krymskaya ([SET](#)), Susanne List-Tretthahn ([SET](#)), Magdalena Gomułka ([NPSIG](#)), Paria Tajallipour ([NPSIG](#)), Marija Simunovic ([NPSIG](#)), and Andrés Reinoso ([NPSIG](#))