



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Anna Maria Tammaro



DEAR COLLEAGUES,

I wish you, your families, and all of your friends a happy 2016!

We begin the new year with two exciting calls for papers. The Library Theory and Research Section will host an Open Session at the WLIC in Columbus on August 13-19; and on August 10 LTR will co-sponsor a satellite meeting with the Section on Education and Training (SET) in nearby Dublin, OH.

LTR's Open Session will build on the WLIC's 2016 global theme, "Connections. Collaboration. Community," by exploring the participatory paradigm of librarianship, an approach that encourages the development of new partnerships between libraries and the diverse communities they serve. The session title is "Participatory Projects in Libraries: Connecting Collaborative Communities." Community participation, as a mode of public activity, has enjoyed a massive resurgence over the past 10 years. The LTR is particularly interested in research methodologies that support the evolution of libraries towards this larger participatory paradigm. Key questions include: How are libraries encouraging their communities to engage their local culture as active creators and participants, not passive consumers? What strategies are libraries using to reconnect with this newly activated public sphere? How can libraries demonstrate their value and relevance among rapidly evolving public identities?

The joint LTR-SET satellite session in Dublin

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(birthplace of the Dublin Core Metadata Initiative) will explore the feasibility of establishing an international standard for assessing the quality of higher education programs in a time of unprecedented transformation for libraries and librarians. The panel title is "International Quality Assessment of LIS Education Programs." In addition, the Library History Special Interest Group will sponsor an open session with ALA Library History Round Table on the subject of "Libraries and Immigrants: Historical Perspectives."

Please help us encourage the contribution of diverse perspectives to WLIC 2016 from every part of the world by sharing the LTR's call for papers in your home country. More information regarding format, guidelines, and how to submit your work can be found at:

- LTR Open Session:
<http://2016.ifla.org/cfp-calls/library-theory-and-research-section>
- LTR-SET Satellite Meeting:
<http://2016.ifla.org/cfp-calls/education-and-training-section-joint-with-library-theory-and-research-sections>
- The SIG Library History Open Session:
<http://2016.ifla.org/cfp-calls/library-history-sig-joint>

The year 2015 was rich in activity and accomplishments for LTR, including

conferences, publications and new research initiatives. Let's recall each achievement in detail.

CONFERENCES

In 2015, the LTR collaborated with the IFLA Sections on Statistics and Evaluation, Education & Training, and the LIS Education in Developing Countries Special Interest Group, to sponsor two highly successful WLIC Open Session panels. The first panel, entitled "The Lyon Declaration in Action: Measuring the Impact of Access to Information and Development," expanded the principle of universal information access embodied in the Lyon Declaration to address methods for measuring the impact of expanded access to information worldwide, including IFLA plans for implementing community partnership models. The second session, entitled "Quality Assurance in LIS Education," addressed the accreditation of education programs for future library and information professionals, and explored the potential for consolidating responsibility for the accreditation process (including related practices of "certification," "approval," "recognition" and "sanctioning") to regional and international bodies.

Prior to the 2015 WLIC in South Africa, the LTR Section organized a Satellite Conference in collaboration with the University of Western Cape Town. "Digital Preservation as a Site of Contestation: National Heritage, Memory, Politics and Power—Beyond Technology and Management" examined issues of ownership and control of national heritage, including the preservation of memory and indigenous knowledge in digital spaces.

PUBLICATIONS

In 2015, the LTR Section was actively involved in the administration of the De Gruyter Research Award, developing the competition

theme ("Digital Libraries: Knowledge Creation and Sharing") and selecting the jury of experts. Jurors included Anna Maria Tammaro (University of Parma), Krystyna Matusiak (University of Denver), and Liu Xiwen (Chinese Academy of Sciences). The winner was Ana Parvan, currently a reference librarian at the International Labor Organization and formerly librarian at European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN). Ana's truly excellent submission, "The role of data curator in the CERN Particle Physics Data-Sharing Community," will appear in the September issue of *LIBRI*, a leading international scholarly journal published by De Gruyter. The De Gruyter Research Award will be offered again in 2016, with a prize of €1000. The LTR is currently preparing the call for De Gruyter papers and will announce the theme and submission guidelines soon.

A group of papers from "Beyond Technology," the 2014 WLIC Turin Satellite Conference, were published in *The Annual Review of Cultural Heritage Informatics* (ARCHI).

The proceedings of the 2015 Cape Town Satellite will be published in "Innovation", the journal based at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (forthcoming December 2016).

RESEARCH INITIATIVES: THE DATA CURATOR

The elusive role of "data curator" has become the subject of a great deal of discussion and some consternation among librarians worldwide, professionals who are increasingly tasked with responsibility to manage the vast quantity of digital data generated by scholars, governments, and cultural institutions. Who is a data curator? Is a data curator a form of data scientist? A computer scientist? A cultural heritage professional? Or is the data curator a completely new role for a completely new digital age? In 2016, the IFLA LTR hopes to bring new empirical research to bear on some

of these perplexing questions.

Several members of the LTR Standing Committee are organizing an IFLA-sponsored project dedicated to investigating the roles and responsibilities of data curators worldwide, and the contextual terminology used to describe them. Preliminary qualitative research indicates, not surprisingly, that diverse approaches and definitions to data curation exist within diverse regions of the world. The LTR Project Team's goal is to develop a glossary and, ultimately, an ontology that can be used to navigate this complex terrain. The members of the LTR Project Team – Anna Maria Tammaro, Terry Weech, Krystyna Matusiak, Heidi Kristin Olsen, and Ana Parvan – will discuss the findings of the first phase of the project at the BOBCATSSS Conference in Lyon on January 28, 2016. We hope to see you there.

On a personal note, I would like to extend my gratitude to all Standing Committee members who have generously contributed to the LTR Section's remarkable achievements in 2015, and whose commitment to active discussion and collaborative engagement helped to advance the Section's mission and strengthen its diverse project portfolio. My hope is that in 2016 the LTR will continue to attract the insight and intellectual energy of all its membership. I would also like to announce that the LTR Section is participating in the IFLA test of Basecamp, an online tool for collaboration; interested members can request observer accounts to gain current information about our group's activities.

Best wishes for the New Year,

– Anna Maria Tammaro
Chair, Library Theory and Research

SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERSHIP

Heidi Kristen Olsen



HEIDI KRISTIN OLSEN is associate professor of Archives, Library, and Information Science at Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences (HiOA) in Norway. Heidi has

worked at HiOA as a full-time teacher and researcher in library and information science since 2013. Her academic interests are broad but gravitate towards subjects related to library reference services.

Heidi is an experienced member of the IFLA Library Theory and Research Committee. She graduated as a librarian from the University of Oslo in 1983, and earned a Master's degree in Pedagogical Texts in 2008. For her masters thesis Heidi studied faculty behavior with respect to electronic resources offered by university libraries. Heidi maintains an enduring interest in library services for faculty and staff researchers, as well as issues regarding the service of academic libraries and their unique user base. Currently, she is collaborating in a project researching counter transactions in university libraries.

Prior to joining the academic faculty at HiOA, Heidi worked in various types of libraries and ICT-related positions. Her scholarly contributions draw on this robust professional experience. Recent publications include "Research group librarian – a cooperating partner in research?" *LIBER Quarterly*, 22(3), 190-212; and, with Evjen, Sunniva, "Med viten som verktøy – referansebibliotekaren i det digitale skiftet. Audunson, Ragnar Andreas (Red.), *Samle, formidle, dele: 75 år med bibliotekarutdanning*. 6. s. 127-143.

NEW VOICES ON THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Saki Hagihara and Kate Davis

A NUMBER OF NEW graduate students joined LTR's international communication team in Autumn, 2015. The student volunteers come from MLIS graduate programs at the École Nationale Supérieure des Sciences de l'Information et des Bibliothèques (ENSSIB), and the University of Denver (DU). The mission of the LTR international communication team is to assist with editing and translation of the LTR newsletter and to support the LTR's collaborative information dissemination project. The group was initially created by Raphaëlle Bats at ENSSIB in 2011. A new flock of DU students joined the ENSSIB team in the fall of 2014. Currently, the group has twenty student members from ENSSIB and eight from DU. Raphaëlle Bats and Krystyna Matusiak oversee communication team training and projects.

We would like to begin the New Year by introducing two of our new volunteers, one each from ENSSIB and DU.



KATE DAVIS is a graduate student in the Masters of Library and Information Science program at the University of Denver, Colorado, USA.

SAKI HAGIHARA is a graduate student (Master 2) in Library and Information Policy at the École nationale supérieure des sciences de l'information et des bibliothèques (ENSSIB), Lyon, France.



THE INTERVIEW: TWO PERSPECTIVES

Could you tell us about your background? What motivated you to choose librarianship as a

profession? What aspects of librarianship are you most interested in?

Saki: After completing my undergraduate degree in sociology in Japan in 2009, I went to France to perfect my French language skills. After returning to Japan, I worked in a high school as administrative staff for four years, where I continued studying French. I've always been interested in information research so when I decided to reorient myself professionally, librarianship seemed like the obvious choice. I wanted to know how to find valid and reliable information, how to evaluate it, and how to classify it. For me, a librarian is a specialist in information research. But why did I really return to France? Because studying French is one of my passions and I deeply value French culture.

Kate: When I first went to university, I wanted to be a librarian, but I talked myself out of it in lieu of becoming a teacher. After teaching in South Korea, Vietnam, the United Arab Emirates and the United States, I found myself still wishing to be a librarian. It was clear to me after returning to the USA and partaking in the excellent library services offered here that I would like to earn an MLIS in order to help other countries develop the new roles that libraries are taking across the globe.

How did you become interested in international librarianship?

Kate: While living abroad, I used many different public libraries around the world and it seemed as if they were not as well-funded and well-resourced as their patrons would have liked. After a few years of experiencing this, I wanted to do something to help librarians that wished to change the roles of their libraries to fit with changing times, technologies and users.

Saki: As Japanese student, learning librarianship in France introduced a global dimension for me. I am very interested in the profession of the librarian and I would like to know how this profession operates in the rest of the world. That is why I have chosen “International librarianship” as my first coursework elective at ENSSIB. I joined the IFLA LTR team work because it provides practical experience in how to monitor information, use international communication tools, and publish information across multiple channels.

What are your career plans after graduating from the library and information science program?

Saki: My goal is to work at a university library in France with Asian collections, particularly Japanese collections. And in fact, I just took a position as an Asian studies librarian at the university library in Lyon! I am delighted to be able to put into practice what I have learned at the university — and will continue learning over the course of my career.

Kate: At the moment, I would like to return to the United Arab Emirates. The country is building many new libraries and seeking better library instruction in their Library Science programs, so I would love to be a part of the exciting developments happening there.

IN MEMORIAM

Professor Gary Gorman



Those of you who knew Professor Gary Gorman will be saddened by the news of his death. Gary passed away on 19 August, 2015, in Wellington, New Zealand, after a period of illness.

Gary was well known as a library educator, writer and journal editor. He worked as a librarian in the United Kingdom in the mid-1970s before moving to Australia where he eventually became a Senior Lecturer in the School of Information Studies at Charles Sturt University. In 1999 he moved to Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand where he soon became Professor of Information Studies in the School of Information Management. In 2011 and 2012, he was a Visiting Professor of Library and Information Science at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur. Right up to his death, Gary remained active as the editor of *Online Information Review* and was the book review editor for the *Australian Library Journal*. His last book, *Information Needs Analysis*, was co-authored with two colleagues and was published in early 2015.

For many years Gary was highly active in IFLA – and especially in the Regional Standing Committee for Asia and Oceania (RSCAO). He was Chair of RSCAO for four years and had just finished serving another term as a member of RSCAO at the time of his death. Working with the IFLA ALP Program and through his many connections in library education, Gary conducted numerous workshops on topics such as Information Literacy Education, and Digital Preservation Management in many countries including Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Gary is survived by his wife, Anna in New Zealand, his daughter Caroline and two grandchildren in Australia.

Professor Gary Gorman – you will be sadly missed.

— Dr. Dan Dörner

Victoria University of Wellington
New Zealand

CALL FOR PAPERS 2016

Open Session at The WLIC

THE LTR SECTION is pleased to invite submissions for its forthcoming WLIC Open Session in Columbus, Ohio.

THEME

Our theme this year, "Participatory Projects in Libraries: Connecting Collaborative Communities," deepens and advances IFLA's 2016 global theme, "Connections. Collaboration. Community."

IMPORTANT DATES

- ✓ **15 February 2016** Submission deadline for abstract
- ✓ **15 March 2016** Notification: of proposal acceptance/rejection
- ✓ **31 May 2016** Submission deadline for paper/presentation

AIM AND SCOPE

How are libraries reconnecting with the public and demonstrating their value and relevance in contemporary life? As a consequence of what could be summarized as a "crisis of representation," the disintegration of physical social ties, and chronic cultural isolationism, community participation, as a mode of public activity, has gone through what seems like a tectonic shift over the last 10 years. The main driver of this change is vastly expanded electronic connectivity among individuals and organizations. The "social web" has ushered in a dizzying array of tools and design patterns that make participation more accessible than ever.

Part of the mission of libraries, as public service organizations, is to facilitate and encourage community actions and activity in the cultural field in a host of ways: access to information, reading and literacy, free internet

and computer literacy, preservation of cultural heritage, cultural programs (theatre, dance, movie projections), social programs (language exchange, forums, etc.), and countless others.

How are libraries encouraging their local communities to engage one another as active cultural participants, not passive culture consumers? As persons become more accustomed to participatory learning and entertainment experiences, do they want more from libraries than the traditional ability to borrow books and retrieve information? Are library communities expecting the capacity to discuss, share, and recreate what they consume? If so, how are public and academic libraries responding to this new social challenge? How are libraries working to bolster their position as centers of cultural and community life? Are libraries leading, by themselves or at the request of elected officials, this interactive form of public participation? If so, how are they achieving it?

The LTR Section is keenly interested in hearing from librarians around the world about the research strategies they use to investigate these complex issues. What background research (no matter how informal or non-technical it may have been) was necessary to develop the participatory project your library has put into practice? How is your library measuring and evaluating the successes (and failures) of the project? What are your library's next steps? Did your library's participatory project(s) require redefining any traditional aspects of librarianship — for example, your acquisitions program, your cultural and social programs? In short, how is your library evolving? Is your library in fact evolving?

Here are a few concrete ideas to help you get started on your panel paper:

- Did your library administer a public opinion survey? What were the results and how did your library programs respond to them?
- Did your library come under political pressure to change the way it was operating? If so, how did you explore ways to deal with this?
- What preliminary research did you undertake on social issues emerging in your community to compel your participatory project rethink the role of your library in inclusion, visibility and empowerment of communities?
- Did your participatory project(s) require a redefinition of the librarian him/herself — for example, from an expert in library science to a collaborative cultural projects animator/leader?
- Did your participatory project discover new communities to engage? What background investigations/research did you undertake to do this?

Conversely, questions regarding the practical limits of community participation projects can't be avoided:

- The effectiveness of the project: Did the public really participate?
- The potential exploitation of these projects or the instrumental political reaction
- The utilization of participation as a business way to rethink the model of the library?

The Open Session will examine in a collaborative, scholarly way these community participation projects with theoretical frameworks, case studies, and best practice guidelines.

Scholars of all stripes exploring research into participatory projects in libraries, or libraries that are participatory in their core services, are warmly invited to submit proposals. The LTR Open Session welcomes sociological, professional, educational, philosophical and historical approaches, all of which have the potential to contribute to a better understanding and engagement with our public.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The proposals must be submitted in an electronic format (PDF preferred) and must

contain:

- Title of presentation
- Abstract (250 - 350 words maximum)
- Speaker's name, address, telephone and fax numbers, professional affiliation, email address and biographical note (40 words)

The proposal must be submitted by email in English; French-speaking presenters can present their abstract in French **and** in English. Papers accepted will be presented during the 2016 conference in one of the official languages of IFLA.

Ideally, your final presentation should be submitted as a full paper (which may eventually be published on the IFLA website or, optionally, in the IFLA Journal). If your presentation is in PowerPoint (or similar) format, then a more substantial abstract may be required, including references such as URLs and bibliographies.

Papers and presentations should be written to fill 15-20 minutes, no more, with time for questions at the end of the session.

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions should be sent by email, before February 15, 2016, to:

Raphaëlle Bats, IFLA LTR Section SC Member, International Relations Officer, ENSSIB, France: raphaelle.bats@ENSSIB.fr

Milan Vasiljevic, IFLA LTR Section SC Member, Electronic Resource Management Librarian, Qatar National Library, Qatar: mvasiljevic@qf.org.qa

Jennifer Weil Arns, IFLA LTR Section SC Member, Associate Professor, School of Library and Information Science, College of Information and Communications, South Carolina University: arnsj@mindspring.com

PLEASE NOTE

It is the speaker's sole responsibility to secure funding for travel, accommodation and incidental expenses. Unfortunately, the IFLA and its Sections are not in a position to underwrite any participant costs.

CONGRESS ATTENDANCE GRANTS

The Columbus, Ohio Committee and IFLA have worked hard to garner limited resources for Conference Participation Grants. Up-to-date information is available on IFLA's [Conference Participation Grants](#) webpage. The process of applying for a grant is the responsibility of participants. Neither the Section nor the session's organizing committee can provide substantive assistance, including translation, in this regard.

FOLLOW US!

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

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

This English version of LTR Newsletter will be translated into French and Spanish by our communications team. We would like to

translate it into other languages as well. If you are interested distributing the newsletter in your language, please send us a translation, plus any additional relevant content. And please consider joining the communications team — we welcome your contributions.

NEWSLETTER CONTACTS

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See you this summer at the IFLA WLIC 2016 in Columbus, Ohio!

