

Library Theory & Research Section 2019-2023 candidates' profiles

Name	Title	Institution	Country	Brief summary
Helen Balfour	University Copyright Coordinator (Librarian)	Murdoch University	Australia	<p>I'm a highly experienced researcher having completed research and written and presented papers at several library conferences. My papers were on various aspects of librarianship including library design, future libraries and engaging and developing staff, creative thinking and managing projects in libraries and global librarianship. I'm a great advocate for library theory in the design and application of research projects. I feel like this is one of the best ways to deal with our changing profession. To carry out rigorous research and then take action on the findings. I want to contribute and be a part of this committee and it's future work. I also want to learn from the others in the group. I feel this is a great opportunity for me and I'm grateful for ALIA recognising my contributions and nominating me. Please consider me as a suitable candidate for this group.</p>
Theo Bothma	Professor	University of Pretoria	South Africa	<p>Theo Bothma is professor emeritus / contract professor in the Department of Information Science at the University of Pretoria. He is the former Head of Department and Chairperson of the School of Information Technology. He is currently a member of the IFLA LTR SC (2015-2019) and the current Chair of LTR (2017-2019); he was a member of the KM SC for two terms. His research focuses on information organization and retrieval, knowledge management and web development. He was the editor-in-chief and joint author of two IFLA FAIFE World Reports (2007 and 2010). He is a member of the IFLA BSLISE research group and joint author of the Whitepaper presented to the IFLA President in Kuala Lumpur. He has published widely and presented many papers at local and international conferences, including on topics related to the specialisation fields of LTR. He is joint editor of Libri, editorial board member of a number of journals and member of various professional associations. For more details, please see https://www.up.ac.za/information-science/article/1913355/prof-t-j-d-bothma.</p>

Carla Colombati	Librarian	University of Teramo	Italy	<p>I am following many projects to reinforce students' competences in Research methods, Information behavior and Literacy, Digital skills, all along my European documentation centre librarian role, following the EU policies such as DIG COMP 2.1. I study topics connected to Open Science, Open Education and Citizen Science in order to support my University's missions. I am engaged with Wikimedia projects and platforms as a new for reshaping online education. I am involved in Libraries Association with study role in working groups, such as AIB (Italian National Librarian Association), SIG-DL (Special Interest Group Digital Libraries Association for Information Science and Technology). I use social media and professional channels to stay updated and to disseminate info, best practices and calls.</p>
Benoît Epron	Professor	HEG Genève	Switzerland	<p>I have been working on library research projects for ten years. More precisely, I work on the challenges of the digital environment for a socio-economy of the library. My question concerns the issues of the Web economy for the library model. I was Director of Studies and Director of Research at Enssib before joining the Information and Documentation Department of the Geneva School of Management. I completed my doctoral thesis and my first research work on the uses of digital documentation at the University. My latest publications focus on digital books in libraries and digital publishing. My current research projects focus on the role of libraries in relation to Fake News and the issues of hybrid editorialization of physical library spaces. I am currently involved in a European project that is studying the place of library activities and their relationship to collections.</p>

Michael Flierl	Assistant Professor and Learning Design Specialist	Purdue University	United States	<p>I have four years of experience working at Purdue University. I have published in The Journal of Academic Librarianship, portal: Libraries and the Academy, and Library & Information Science Research. I have also given presentations at international conferences, including the European Conference on Information Literacy, Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries, and, in a few weeks, the International Society for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. Theoretically, I am most interested in Informed Learning, Self-Determination Theory, and pedagogy. The core of my research and theory resides in investigating the relationship between information literacy and student learning. I have drawn from my previous philosophical training, psychology, and information sciences to investigate these topics using both quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods. In short, theory and research is a passion of mine. I firmly believe participating on the Library Theory and Research Committee would help me learn about innovative research currently going on, as well as to help empower others around the world to learn to use theory and research to better their library and patrons. I thank the committee in advance for their consideration of my application.</p>
Agnese Galeffi	Catalogue services responsible	Sapienza University Library System	Italy	<p>Before and after a PhD in Library Science (2007) I have presented and published about library science, mainly focusing on cataloguing and users' perception of data, design of interfaces, cognitive aspects of information research, etc. I have obtained 2 research grants from University of Pavia (2008-2012) and from La Sapienza University of Rome (2014-2016). Since January 2018 I work for the Sapienza Library System, in the coordinating office. We plan services and projects for the 55 academic libraries. LinkedIn account https://www.linkedin.com/in/agnese-galeffi-7a79288b/</p>
Valentina Gamboni	librarian	University of Perugia	Italy	<p>E-resources librarian, interested in lifelong learning and continuing education in library and information science, especially on the field of digital libraries, conducting as a reflective practitioner collaborative working projects and using participative research.</p>

Jung Eun Kim	Deputy Director	National Library of Korea	Republic of Korea	<p>I have over 20 years experiences in library field and also a Ph.D candidate for LIS. My research interest includes assessment strategy for scholarly communications, library space design as well as digital scholarship. Recently I have launched a new service at National Library of Korea, Research Information Services which are designed especially for academic researchers. Further to this initiative, I am eager to extend the service to support of digital scholarship and also do research on what is the role of libraries and librarians in this field.</p>
Debbie Schachter	University Librarian	Capilano University	Canada	<p>I have nearly 30 years of experience working in special libraries, public libraries, non-profit organizations, and academic libraries, and I am currently the University Librarian at a small teaching university, where I have been supporting a new research focus for librarians and other faculty. I am fortunate to have lengthy experience working in collaborative environments through participation and leadership with a number of library associations (BCLA, SLA) and as a regional representation on the OCLC Global Council Executive. Recently, I have been undertaking a Doctor of Education programme with the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, through which I have been conducting research on information literacy teaching in higher education. I have presented at IFLA Congress 2018 and ECIL 2018 on the topic, and I am anticipating defending my thesis in early 2019. Through my own research activities, and through identifying significant gaps in library research and scholarship, I am interested in helping to support and encourage library research initiatives globally. I would like to be able to contribute on this committee to support the important work of communicating the need for library research and furthering the developments in library theory and practices that support the libraries and the communities they serve.</p>

Stefan Schmunk	Professor in Information Science and Digital Library	University of Applied Sciences Darmstadt	Germany	As part of my previous activity as deputy head Research and Development Department (RDD) of the Lower Saxony State and University Library, in recent years I have been largely responsible for the fields of information literacy and the development of digital tools for the use, enrichment and analysis of research data. In the context of my work as Managing Director of DARIAH-DE - Digital Research Infrastructures in the Arts and Humanities - I was involved in designing and building user-oriented services and tools in cooperation with scholars and scientists. At the same time, this topic spectrum represents my own research and teaching focus. I would like to use these competencies in the context of my work in the section.
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Ekaterina Shibaeva	Deputy Editor in Chief - Executive Secretary of the Periodicals Department	Russian State Library	Russian Federation	Author of over 30 research publications, among them 11 have been published in scientific peer-reviewed journals. Research profile: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5264-3401 . Professional interests: Social media in Librarianship, Publishing Activities in libraries. Working in the Russian State library since 2001 as project and event manager, since 2015 - Deputy Editor-In-Chief of the Periodicals Department. Co-author of the International Cooperation and Communication Program for Library Professionals of the Bibliotekovedenie journal. Responsible for communications with foreign authors and reviewers of journals. I believe that the most effective development of Library and Information Science should rely on interdisciplinary and international communication and cooperation in international research and practice projects. Library blogger since 2007. Author of the "Library Items" blog (in Russian), co-founder of the groups for professional library cooperation in different social networks (VKontakte, Odnoklassniki, Facebook). Coordinator of the Working Group "Libraries & Social media" of the Russian Library Association (since 2014). Participated in IFLA Annual Congresses several times (since 2005). In 2018 (Kuala Lumpur) presented a poster: "The Russian State Library International Cooperation and Communication Program for Library Professionals" http://library.ifla.org/2350/ . Since autumn 2018 — member of IFLA Building Strong LIS Education (BSLISE) Working Group.
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Rebecca Vargha	Head of Information and Library Science Library	University of North Carolina Chapel Hill	United States	<p>My keen interest in the Library Theory and Research Section is two-fold: both as a practicing librarian and a faculty member teaching in a graduate program at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. Research methods are an integral part of our program and I supervise master's research papers regularly. From a qualitative and quantitative point of view, research is an essential part of education for students and also essential to the practice of librarianship globally. Here is what I can bring to the section in terms of current and previous IFLA experience. I have actively contributed at a high level to the Statistics and Evaluation SC in a number of successful roles over the last eight years—Chair, Secretary and convener of a SIG. Most recently, another colleague and I planned and moderated our sessions in Kuala Lumpur. Here is a link: https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/ifla-honors-transformative-power-libraries/ We are planning a satellite conference for Athens 2019. It would be an honor to work with members of the Library Theory and Research SC especially since I teach graduate classes in our information and library science program. I am keenly interested in the current and future research trends in information and library sciences worldwide. Thank you.</p>
Zuzanna Wiorogorska	Academic librarian	University of Warsaw Library	Poland	<p>Being an academic librarian and a researcher (assistant professor at the Department of Information Studies) as well as an active IFLA member (Information Literacy Section Standing Committee) for almost ten years now, I would like to get involved in another field of LIS expertise. And I found Library Theory and Research Section as the most relevant for my current activities and areas of interest. I am happy that my institution supports me in my IFLA activities and IFLA gives the opportunity for professional development. That is my after the end of my second term in InfoLit Section, I decided to change the IFLA unit</p>

Steven Witt	Associate Professor	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	United States	As an active scholar in Library History, academic librarian, and current editor of IFLA Journal, I feel I can contribute to the continued success of the Library Theory and Research Standing Committee. I served on the committee previously for one term and have also held other leadership positions in IFLA, including as a Section Chair (Social Science Libraries) and Division Chair. As a Division Chair, I served on the IFLA Governing Board and Professional Committee for two terms. I would look forward to further collaborating with colleagues in the Library Theory and Research Section and would aim to use my expertise in the globalization of information, international library networks, and publishing to contribute to both ongoing and future projects of the section.
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