

General Assembly Minutes

**Tuesday 14 July 2020, 11h00 UK time
Online platform Zoom**

1. Opening of the General Assembly

The President, Anne Horn welcomed all attendees to the General Assembly. Anne mentioned that sadly we are unable to meet in person at this time due to Covid-19, so the annual General Assembly had been arranged in a virtual setting instead.

Anne outlined how she had found being a member of this global community of library leaders, had enriched her professional and personal life over many years. Reflecting on the current situation, we recognise these are challenging times for us all. In the many countries that IATUL represents, the impact of COVID-19 has been felt in different ways in different places and there is uncertainty around what to expect next. Anne remarked that her own Library, at the University of Sheffield in the UK, are talking about a cycle of Return, Re-imagination and Retreat as they continue on a path to re-form their services. Services that in the foreseeable future are highly digital and low contact, and can respond to unforeseen COVID impacts at the local and global level.

As IATUL members, we have much we can share and learn from each other. Particularly now, when the place of libraries, in our communities and our cultures, has indeed been recognised in the midst of this COVID pandemic as central to our students, our researchers and our recovery.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda circulated to members was approved without any amendments or additions.

3. Approval of the minutes of the General Assembly Meeting held on Tuesday 25th June 2019, Perth, Australia.

The minutes of the 2019 General Assembly were approved as a true reflection of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

5. Membership report

The President reported on the status of IATUL membership and reflected on the growth of the organisation over the past few years. At present the IATUL Community consists of Library leaders from 70 countries. Membership of participating libraries has steadily increased and now stands at a total of 268 compared to 210 around 5 years ago. A warm welcome was extended to all new members.

The retention of existing membership has been identified as a key strategy for the Board to ensure sustainability of the Association and the Board are grateful to existing member institutions for their continued support. The President confirmed that the IATUL Membership fees will stay the same for 2020/21, with an exception for countries on the UN List of Least Developed Countries.

There will be an exception on membership fees for the 47 countries which are currently designated by the United Nations as “least developed countries (LDCs)”. As an Association we need to recognise and respond to the financial barriers that can prevent some countries from fully engaging with IATUL. The General Assembly endorsed the Board’s proposal to re-introduce a fee band for members based upon the UN List of Least Developed Countries. The membership fees for institutions in these countries will be reduced to 50% of the ordinary IATUL membership fee. For 2021, this would be €125.

6. Treasurer’s report

Donna Bourne Tyson, Interim IATUL Treasurer gave a detailed report of the Association’s financial situation. The financial aims of the Association are:

- Financial sustainability
- Providing value to members
- Responsible stewardship
- Responsible for fiscal circumstances of members

The Treasurer’s Report included:

- 2019 Returns; Fees & Incomes and Expenditure
- Financial Audit

- 2020-2021 Budget

The following are highlights from the report:

- IATUL income is obtained through two sources: membership fees (€40,066) and the annual conferences (€40,316, Oslo and €31,467 Perth).
- The Savings account stands at €113,354.
- The proposed spend on IATUL expenses, which includes all administrative fees, eg managing IATUL office, cost of audit, licences, conference expenses, travel grants and Board travel was €88,360 for 2019/20. Due to reduced Board travel and the postponement of the annual conference, the actual spend was considerably less, €54,797.
- The Annual Audit Report was conducted in Munich on 27th May 2020. All IATUL records were true and complete and the cash account and deposited securities were correct. The Interim Treasurer thanked Christine Meister from the IATUL Office for her support with all IATUL finances.
- The budget for 2020-21 has been set at €72,400.

7. Board matters

The aim for Board membership is to have representation from diverse parts of the world. According to our Constitution, the Board consists of eight members, with an option to co-opt a further two. We aim for representation from different parts of Europe (and we have considered the UK as part of Europe); the Americas; Australia & Asia; Africa & the Middle East.

The General Assembly approved the following proposed changes to the Board membership:

- Anne Horn will be stepping down as President following the General Assembly. She will be retiring from the University of Sheffield in October this year to return to family in Australia. Anne will be available to assist the new Board in their transition over the next few months.
- Charles Eckman will become the Interim President for the next 12 months, up until the General Assembly in 2021. He will then be turning his attention to the Annual Conference Planning for Miami 2022.

- Donna Bourne Tyson will formally replace Howard Amos as Treasurer. The President offered thanks to Howard for all his excellent guidance and management of IATUL accounts during his time as Treasurer.
- Lucille Webster has completed her term as Secretary and again our sincere thanks to her for her service to IATUL. Anna Walek has agreed to take on this Executive Role.

These changes have required a recent nomination process for new Board members from two regions: the Africa & Middle East, and Australia & Asia. We received a strong response and the President thanked all those members who put themselves forward for their commitment to the Association.

The new Board members were confirmed as Ujala Satgoor (Executive Director of Libraries at the University of Cape Town) and Teresa Chitty (University Librarian at the University of Adelaide).

8. Governance and Constitution

IATUL is registered as a not-for-profit organisation in Germany. The Rules of Governance have been updated since the last General Assembly and are available on the official website alongside the Constitution.

9. IATUL Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

The President reinforced that the Special Interest Groups are a valuable part of IATUL's offer and encouraged members and their staff to get involved. There are opportunities for professional engagement within the following areas: information literacy; research data management; metrics and research impact; the advancement of library services in emerging economies; and library spaces.

The President reported on the activities of the SIGs:

SIG-ALICE. Special Interest Group for the Advancement of Library Services in Emerging Countries.

The Chair for SIG-ALICE is Bethany Wilkes from Singapore Management University. The current focus of SIG-ALICE is on connecting with libraries in Cambodia, however the group would like to work closely with additional countries in the future and welcomes new members and partners.

The group's primary initiatives have included a coaching programme where the group coordinated three pairs of colleagues to work together as the inaugural

cohort of the ALICE coaching programme during the winter and spring of 2020. All three coaches (IATUL Members) are committed to working with our Cambodian partners and having a positive impact on the growth of Cambodian university libraries.

The group also facilitated a three-part webinar series for academic librarians in Cambodia. The series included “Library Management: An Introduction”, “Marketing Your Academic Library”, and “Stakeholder Engagement: Singapore Management University Libraries, A Case Study,” More Webinars are to be scheduled, to address topics identified by members.

The President offered special thanks to Bethany Wilkes who will be stepping down as Chair of SIG ALICE at the end of the year. We will be seeking a new SIG Chair in due course.

SIG-DATA. Special Interest Group for Research Data Management.

The primary focus of the SIG DATA group is to understand and inform about the practices and applications of data and e-research services in an academic environment. The group promotes discussion, exchange of resources, and support for e-research infrastructure and data information management among IATUL members.

The group now consists of thirteen members from ten different countries who met recently to discuss research data services in light of the global pandemic. The Chair, Cameron Riopelle from the University of Miami, has recently been holding discussions with individual members of the group, and has circulated a questionnaire to group members regarding data management practices and goals, as well as asking for opinions on what they would like to see from the SIG in the coming year.

The next meeting in the Summer will be a discussion around the results of the questionnaire and the group’s plans for Autumn.

SIG-IL. Special Interest Group for Information Literacy.

Vicky Grant, University of Sheffield and Linn Kristensen, Oslo Metropolitan University were appointed co-chairs of the SIG in February 2020. The group has representatives from South Africa, Germany and Kenya with interest from Australia and the US.

The long term plan is to collaborate with other national and international information and digital literacy (IDL) groups to create a global vision for IDL.



The group is currently focused on sharing and supporting good practice in information literacy through the COVID-19 situation and are talking and writing reflectively about their experiences. This reflective writing, it is hoped, will form a paper for the 2021 Porto Conference.

SIG-MARI. Special Interest Group for Metrics and Research Impact.

Our Special Interest Group – Metrics and Research Impact (SIG MaRI) was formed in early 2018 and is now a well-established active group which meets bi-monthly via Zoom. It is Chaired by Trish Wilson from the Victoria University of Wellington and there are currently 13 members from nine institutions, with a 14th member from University of Adelaide about to join.

Meetings are well attended and focus on sharing knowledge and initiatives with other members. Recent topics have included:

- Research Services: rethinking service delivery
- Visibility and Research Impact – Bibliometrics, Scholarly Communication and Publication Strategies
- Implementing Figshare as an IR at Victoria University of Wellington

The development of an online professional development tool for research metrics and impact has been a major initiative for the group this year using the 23 Things construct. It is based on the UNSW Library's Research Impact Things programme, and we are grateful for their support to adapt and reuse this for the IATUL community. It will provide a training tool for IATUL members to develop foundational skills related to research impact for their library staff. The project is progressing very well and on track for completion late July. It will then be launched and made available for use to all members via the IATUL website.

Initial connections have also been made with members of the a similar interest group associated with US Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) and it is hoped this connection can be strengthened and consideration given for future collaborations.

SIG-SPACE. Special Interest Group for Library Space and User Services.

This is our new Special Interest Group responding to interest expressed by members. The Group is Chaired by Kelly Miller from the University of Miami and promotes discussion and exchange of ideas about the design and delivery of library spaces and the services in those spaces, across systems and cultures. The group plans to meet monthly in this organising phase of work and held an inaugural meeting in May to discuss how libraries are responding to the Covid-19 pandemic.

10. Conferences & Events

After the successful Annual Conference in Perth in June 2019, we held the IATUL Directors Seminar in Poland in December. The Seminar was organised by Gdańsk University of Technology Library and the theme was “Organizing the Open Science Framework – Strategies and Legal Aspects”.

The main aim of the event was to present an overview of the current state of openness in science and provide a starting point for the debate about opening up research. The seminar focused on reviewing the policy behind institutional repositories and research data services. It explored the legal barriers and solutions to greater access to research data, and discussed and presented analysis of Open Access and legal aspects of research data collection.

This year the annual IATUL Seminar was scheduled to take place in Innsbruck. Due to Covid-19, this will now be organised as a digital workshop for library leaders and directors on three tracks: organisation and strategy, competence and services. The workshop will present experience from different regions, best practice and will give the participants the chance to discuss and learn from each other. Call for presenters and other details will be published soon.

Due to concerns regarding the Covid-19 outbreak, the IATUL Board reluctantly took an early decision to postpone this year’s Annual Conference scheduled to be held in Portugal in July. Our hosts, Universidade do Porto – Faculdade de Engenharia – SDI Library, have generously agreed to host next year’s Annual Conference instead. For some this may be in person, for others we will invite you to connect online.

The themes for the Porto Conference are:

- Expanding information and digital literacies
- Library spaces and services advancing innovation and engagement
- Partnerships with communities, local and global
- Library strategies and actions supporting open science and collaboration
- Open Science: communicating and measuring impact beyond the university
- Workforce development in open science practices (repositories, presses, RDM and more).

Looking beyond 2021, our hosts, University of Miami and Florida International University are progressing with their planning for the IATUL Annual Conference 2022.



The President encouraged members to consider hosting a future IATUL event. Given that we do not know when travel restrictions may be lifted in the different regions, members may wish to host a virtual meeting of Directors and senior library managers from around the world. IATUL can assist in making this happen. The process for submitting a proposal to the IATUL Board can be accessed via the Events tab on the IATUL website

11. AOB

There were no other matters to consider.

12. Next Meeting

The next General Assembly Meeting will be held during the 41st IATUL Annual Conference in Porto, Portugal in 2021.