INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the General Assembly that took place on
Tuesday 1 June 2004
at the Krakow University of Technology

1. Opening of the General Assembly

The President, Michael Breaks, opened the General Assembly and welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The proposed agenda was adopted.

3. Minutes of the last General Assembly

Minutes of the last General Assembly of IATUL held at the Middle East Technological University Ankara on Tuesday 3 June 2003 were approved.

4. Statement by the President

This has been another active and productive year for IATUL.

Bulent Karazozen and his colleagues at the Library of the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey were thanked most warmly for organising a highly successful 24th IATUL Annual Conference in 2003 – 'Libraries and Education in the Networked Information Environment'. This had been attended by almost 200 delegates. The current 25th IATUL Annual Conference in Krakow, at the Krakow University of Technology on the theme 'Library Management in Changing Environment' was proving to be equally successful.

The 2005 Conference would be held at Université Laval, Québec City, Canada from 29th May to 4th June. Planning was well underway under the chairmanship of Michel Dagenais Head of the Science Library. This conference will mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of IATUL.

The IATUL Board met twice in the past year, in Ankara at the 24th IATUL Conference in June 2003 and in Oxford in November 2003. Videoconference links were provided in November to Australia in order to allow Gaynor Austen and Barb Ewers, the IATUL Web Administrator, to take part in the Board meeting.

IATUL's Treasurer, Maria Heijne and her colleagues at the Technical University of Delft were thanked for all their hard work in managing the Association's finances. Thanks were also given to Tony Evans, a previous President of IATUL, for acting as the Association's Honorary Auditor.

The annual IATUL Travel Scholarship Fund of Euro 5000, which is available each year from IATUL's reserves, assists delegates from developing countries to attend

IATUL conferences and worked well in Ankara in 2003.   It enabled a number of delegates, who otherwise would not have been able to afford the registration, travel and accommodation costs to attend the conference and to present papers and posters on library and information developments in their countries. The Travel Scholarship Fund is operating again this year and will assist a number of delegates, particularly from Africa, the CIS, Eastern Europe and India to participate in the conference.

IATUL has continued to expand the membership, by adding 18 new members. There are now almost 250 members from 46 countries. The Board aims to recruit more members from the USA, Asia and the Indian sub-continent. The new recruitment leaflet has been helpful in providing an attractive summary of the benefits of IATUL membership and copies are available for members to distribute at relevant meetings.

Murray Shepherd, recently retired Library Director of University of Waterloo, Canada continues to provide IATUL members with the email alerting service, in which he selects and passes on items of interest from a variety of sources.

The new web site under the management of Barb Ewers, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia is working very well to provide a professional identity for IATUL and a means of providing information to members and potential members.   In addition a monthly IATUL Alert Bulletin is produced, which pulls together key news items from Murray Shepherd's alerting service.

On behalf of IATUL, the President attended the winter meetings of ICSTI (International Council for Scientific and Technical Information) in Paris in January 2003. Participation in ICSTI has helped to raise awareness of IATUL with a number of international library and information organisations. The President was also invited to attend the 8th Annual BAD – Congresso Nacional de Bibliotecarios, Acrquivistas e Documentalistas in Estoril, Portugal in May 2004 to present a paper on IATUL and the range of issues discussed at IATUL conferences. This was an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of IATUL in advance of the 2006 IATUL Conference which is likely to be held at the Universidade de Porto, Portugal, and will be organised by Ana Azavedo, a member of the IATUL Board.

As one of the benefits of membership, IATUL works with Eduserv, a UK not-for-profit company to provide preferential subscription rates to a range of online databases and software, including Reuters Business Insight Unlimited; Datamonitor Business Information Centre; Emerald Abstracts and Fulltext; ESDU Engineering Validated Data; Faculty of 1000; IEE Online; Inspec; and Knovel. However, the take up has so far been disappointing and the Board will be addressing this over the next year.

IATUL, like so many organisations has accumulated papers and documents over the years, and these have been stored in a range of locations, as the officers of IATUL changed. In 2003, the accumulated papers were centralised in Oxford at the Radcliffe Science Library and Sinikka Koskiala, a previous Secretary of IATUL and recently retired Director of the Helsinki University of Technology, undertook to organise and weed the IATUL archive. The President expressed his thanks to Judith Palmer, Director of the Radcliffe Science Library and the current Secretary of

IATUL, for organising this exercise and providing continuing space for the archive and to Sinikka Koskiala.

Three new members were welcomed onto the IATUL Board – Paul Sheehan, Librarian of Dublin City University, Ireland; Dr Reiner Kallenborn, Librarian of the Technical University of Munich, Germany; and Arja-Riitta Haarala, Director of Tampere University of Technology Library, Finland.
The death of Irmgard Lankenau, Librarian of the University of Koblenz Landau, Germany was reported with sadness and a minutes silence was observed. The annual IATUL Poster Prize has been named in her honour.
The death of Randi Gjersvik, who retired recently as Librarian of the University Library of Trondheim, and organised and hosted the 1997 IATUL conference was also reported.

The President thanked all the members of the IATUL Board for their commitment and enthusiasm and noted that this was his final annual report as President of IATUL and handed over to Gaynor Austen, Director of the Library of the Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia who now becomes the next President of IATUL.

The President's statement was approved.

5. Statement by the Treasurer on IATUL finances

The statement on the budget and finances was presented by Maria Heijne who also summarised the Auditor's Report. With respect to IATUL investments, there was less concern than last year but the returns were still not as large as in the past.

The Honorary Auditor commended the Treasurer on her good management of the finances. He urged the Board to consider altering the current fee structure. In reply Gaynor Austen confirmed that the membership fee structure was being reviewed.
The accounts were approved.

6. IATUL website development

An outline of proposed changes in the way the website and associated activities were managed was described. Major updates and redesign would be delayed until integrated software for financial and membership data was acquired and the management of the website transferred from QUT.
The report on website developments was approved.

7. Board Membership

The Board Members and their duties are now as follows:

Gaynor Austen, President
Michael Breaks, Past President
Maria Heijne, Treasurer
Judy Palmer, Secretary
Lee Jones, 1st Vice President
Marianne Nordlander, 2nd Vice-President
Ana Azevedo, Member
Cathy Matthews, Member

Murray Shepherd, Membership strategy and publicity

In addition 3 new members had been nominated and the General Assembly approved their membership. New members were

Paul Sheehan (Ireland)
Arja-Riitta Haarala (Finland)
Reiner Kallenborn (Germany

8. Future Conferences
The President reported that the next conference in 200 would take place at Université Laval, Quebec, Canada from 28 May to 3 June.

The 2006 conference was planned to take place at the University of Minho in Portugal.

No decision had yet been made about the 2007 and 2008 conferences.

The Board was reviewing the date of the annual conference to ensure that there was as little conflict as possible with other major competitors.

9. Any Other business
- Yogendra Singh emphasised the importance of extending the membership in Asia and India.

- Murray Shepherd urged members to contact him to obtain publicity materials and to use these to encourage and extend membership.

- The IATUL representative to the Engineering Libraries Division (ELD) of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), Jay Bhatt (Drexel University) gave a presentation on ELD activities.

10. Vote of Thanks
All present joined Gaynor Austen, the new President in a vote of thanks to the Past President for his commitment and hard work over many years on behalf of IATUL.

11. Conclusion
The General Assembly was concluded and would be reconvened at Université Laval, Quebec on a date yet to be determined.

Judy Palmer
Secretary
14 June 2004