

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Minutes of the General Assembly that took place on
Tuesday 3 June 2003
at the METU, Ankara**

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 University of Missouri, Kansas City on Tuesday 4 June 2002 were approved.

4. Statement by the President

This has been another active and productive year for IATUL.

The President thanked Lee Jones and his colleagues at the Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering and Technology and Ted Sheldon and his colleagues at the University of Missouri Kansas City for organising a most successful 23rd IATUL Annual Conference in 2002.

IATUL was particularly grateful to Bulent Karasozen, Library Director of the Middle East Technical University who had agreed, at short notice, to host the 24th IATUL Annual Conference, which is being held from 2nd to 5th June in Ankara. All indications suggested that this would be as successful.

The President note the contribution made by Murray Shepherd, Library Director of University of Waterloo, who provided IATUL members with the alerting service that has taken the place of the printed IATUL News.

The Board met twice in the past year – in Kansas City at the 23rd IATUL Conference in June 2002 and in Edinburgh in November 2002. Videoconference links were provided in November to Australia and South Africa in order to allow Gaynor Austen and Egbert Gerrys to take part in the Board meeting.

Together with Lee Jones, Director of the Linda Hall Library, the President had attended the 2nd Central Asia Conference ‘Internet and Libraries: Information Resources in Science, Culture, Education and Business’ in Bukhara, Uzbekistan, where he had presented a paper on IATUL. Besides publicising the existence and work of IATUL, this had provided an excellent opportunity to meet representatives of the Soros Foundation (Open Society Initiative), who have since been helpful in

publicising the current IATUL Conference, assisting us with the awarding of IATUL Travel Grants and advising on recruitment strategy.

Membership has continued to expand with 27 new members this year, and we now have 250 members from 46 countries. The President emphasised that IATUL was keen 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 were available for members to distribute at relevant meetings.

The new web site under the management of Barb Ewers, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia was working very well to provide a professional identity for IATUL and a means of providing information to members and potential members.

The new annual IATUL Travel Scholarship Fund of Euro 5000, which is available each year to assist delegates from developing countries to attend IATUL conferences, worked well in Kansas City, where it was generously supplemented with funds from the Linda Hall Library. It enabled a number of delegates from developing countries to attend the conference and to present papers and posters on library and information developments in their countries. The Travel Scholarship Fund was operating again this year and had assisted a number of delegates, particularly from Russia, the CIS, Eastern Europe and Central Asia to participate in the conference.

During the year the President had attended two meetings of ICSTI (International Council for Scientific and Technical Information) on behalf of IATUL. The winter meeting was held in Paris in January 2003 and was accompanied by an international seminar organised jointly by INIST/INSERM with input from ICSTI and CODATA on 'Open Access to Scientific and Technical Information: State of the Art and Future Trends'. The Annual Congress was held in Ottawa, Canada in May 2003 at the Canadian Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI) and was accompanied by an open seminar on 'The Information Imperative: Impacts of STM Information and STM Information Organisations', hosted by the National Research Council Canada. Participation in ICSTI has helped to raise awareness of IATUL with a number of international library and information organisations.

The President thanked members of the IATUL Board for their commitment and enthusiasm...

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. Income had been higher than expected mainly due to the profits from the Kansas City Conference. The greatest proportion of expenditure had been on the development and maintenance of the web site and on a slight increase in the costs of representing IATUL. The accounts were approved

6. IATUL website development

Gaynor Austen reported that there had been major developments over the past year and that the website continued to attract many visitors.

Three new mailing lists had been set up – an official list for members, a news alerting service and a discussion list which would be open to all and which operated on a self-subscribing basis.

Improvements continued to be made in the management of the membership database and in the coming year it was proposed that a filestore should be established for the exchange of large documents. Linked to the news service was a web page and this would hold information about new members.

A change in policy meant that conference proceedings would, in future, be sent to all conference participants as well as to members.

The report on website developments was approved.

7. Board Membership

The Board Members and their duties are now as follows:

Michael Breaks, President

Maria Heijne, Treasurer

Judy Palmer, Secretary

Gaynor Austen, 2nd Vice President

Lee Jones, 1st Vice President

Murray Shepherd, Membership strategy and publicity

Ana Azevedo, Member

Irmgard Lankenau, Member

Cathy Matthews, Member

Marianne Nordlander, Member

Matjaz Zaucer, Member

8. Future Conferences

The President reported that the next conference in 2004 would take place at the Politechnika Krakowska in Krakow, Poland from 31 May to 3 June.

The 2005 conference was planned to take place at the Université Laval in Quebec and the 2006 conference in Portugal.

9. Any Other business

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.

Alan Bundy commended the Travel Grant scheme and suggested that the resources to fund this should be increased. MB confirmed that the Board had reviewed its current spend and had agreed to maintain this amount for the coming year, as the Travel Grants scheme involved considerable management from the conference organiser.

Bulent Karasozen asked whether IATUL might encourage exchange visits between libraries on an international basis. It was agreed that this matter would be an appropriate topic for discussion on the iatul-1.

10. Vote of Thanks

All present joined in a vote of thanks to the President for his commitment and hard work over the past year on behalf of IATUL and thanks and bouquets were presented to the organising Committee of the Conference.

The meeting ended with a presentation from Marek Gorski of the Politechnika Krakowska in Krakow, Poland, the venue for the 2004 conference.

11. Conclusion

The General Assembly was concluded and would be reconvened at Politechnika Krakowska in Krakow, Poland during the 25th IATUL Conference on a date yet to be determined.

Judy Palmer
Secretary
27 June 2003