

## News for Members

www.iatul.org



## June 2021

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*In the Service of University Libraries*

### President's message

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this message finds you well. These continue to be challenging times wherever you are in the world. I trust that your libraries are continuing to provide critical services and building upon the qualities of resilience and commitment that have become so necessary during the past year. It is more important than ever that we find ways to learn from the pandemic and our colleagues at peer institutions across the world. That is why the IATUL Board is so pleased that the 41<sup>st</sup> IATUL annual conference in Porto is taking place in just three weeks. The conference theme is "Bridging Universities and Society: Libraries as Connectors". Luís Miguel Costa and his colleagues at the University of Porto's Faculty of Engineering have created a wonderful program. We are particularly excited that the conference organizers have implemented an online platform that is designed to simulate a full in-person conference experience. Further details about the Porto conference are provided in this newsletter.

Sharing experiences and discoveries with our colleagues across the globe has never been more important to the global community of university and research libraries. The Porto conference provides an opportunity to continue conversations that began last year during the Innsbruck seminar. This Board and I are very hopeful that we will be offering a seminar this autumn to keep the conversations going – please see the [call for expressions of interest](#) on the IATUL website and described in this newsletter.

I also want to remind members that there are a number of ways to take advantage of their IATUL membership. These include participation in one of the five [Special Interest Groups](#). The Special Interest Groups (SIGs) focus on a number of topics: metrics and research impact; library space; information and digital literacy; research data management; and advancing library services in emerging economies. Updates from the Special Interest Groups appear later in this newsletter. The SIGs will also be presenting during the Porto conference. Please take advantage of the opportunity to hear from the SIG chairs and consider volunteering to serve on one of these groups.

I also want to extend a special note of thanks to IATUL Board member J. K. Vijayakumar, who has been serving the past two years as the editor for this newsletter, and he is committed to ensuring that IATUL maintains strong communication with its members.

I hope all of you are able to keep well and safe. I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming Porto conference.

Best wishes,  
Chuck Eckman on behalf of the IATUL Board

## Register your free spots for the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference



IATUL Board and the Library of Faculdade de Engenharia at Universidade do Porto, in Portugal, cordially invite you to attend the 41st Annual IATUL Conference, which will be held online in July 13 - 15.

Conference registration is free but required to take advantage of the full virtual conference experience. Please register from <https://iatul2021.fe.up.pt/>

The 2021 sessions will also be streamed to IATUL's YouTube channel, allowing other interested viewers to follow the presentations.

Conference papers of previous years are available from <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/iatul/>

The Conference's theme is "**Bridging Universities and Society: Libraries as Connectors**". The emergence of movements such as Open Science, Open Innovation, and Citizen Science highlights how society benefits when Higher Education institutions expand access to research and teaching. Ongoing engagement and collaboration between universities and communities are essential components of these open initiatives. The recent developments in research to fight COVID-19 emphasize the advantages of open collaboration. Academic libraries worldwide play a crucial role in facilitating these initiatives by developing new and innovative services and infrastructure.

## IATUL 41st General Assembly invitation

The General Assembly will be held as part of the 41st IATUL Annual Conference 2021 in Porto, as a webinar on Tuesday 13th July, 11:00-12:30 CEST via the online conference platform FLOOR. The assembly will allow the members of IATUL to get to know and review all the work done through the last year, especially in such difficult circumstances. The plans for the upcoming year will also be presented. The link for the meeting is sent in a separate e-mail to all members.

The next General Assembly Meeting will be held during the 42nd IATUL Annual Conference in Miami, the USA in 2022.

### Agenda

- 11:00-11:05 Opening of the General Assembly
- 11:05-11:10 Approval of the Agenda
- 11:10-11:15 Approval of the Minutes of the General Assembly Meeting held Online on Tuesday 14 July 2020.
- 11:15-11:20 Matters arising from the minutes
- 11:20-11:30 Membership report
- 11:30-11:40 Treasury report
- 11:40-11:55 Board matters
- 11:55-12:10 Administration (IATUL Office)
- 12:10-12:25 Activities and Initiatives
- 12:25-12:30 Any Other Business

## Call for expressions of interest to host the IATUL Fall 2021 Seminar.

IATUL issued a call for proposals to host the 2021 IATUL Fall Seminar. The seminar should devote to a theme of importance to the members and host by an IATUL member institution. Recent themes have included: sustainable crisis management in libraries (Innsbruck, 2020); open science and data management (Gdansk, 2019); and workplace information literacy (Munich, 2018).

IATUL events aim to support a professional and close exchange among the member libraries by giving them the possibility to meet international colleagues in person. Aside from the valuable content delivered at these events, they stand out because of the high level of engagement among the participants, library directors and senior managers from renowned institutions around the world. Members and delegates from more than 70 countries guarantee an international atmosphere and international perspectives on current issues in the library world

The IATUL Board invites member institutions to submit expressions of interest to host the 2021 IATUL Fall Seminar. The seminar can be conducted as an online or in-person event. Requirements are the same as those for **hosting an annual conference**. Please note that financial support from IATUL for the seminar is possible this year. Board members are available to consult on any potential proposal. Please consider submitting a proposal – these may be addressed to: [iatul@ub.tum.de](mailto:iatul@ub.tum.de)

## IATUL 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference: save the dates

The University of Miami and Florida International University (FIU) will jointly host the IATUL 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference and the General Assembly during **June 12-16, 2022**, in Miami, USA. More details will be announced at the Porto conference and please follow our Twitter and news sections on the website.

## Members News Blog



It is a new feature on the IATUL website, where selected stories of innovative projects and services from member libraries will be posted. Please submit your stories (500 words maximum) to [iatul@ub.tum.de](mailto:iatul@ub.tum.de)

**Ask Stefan:** *Stefan is a chatbot at the Research Library of Tomsk State University. The name is given after the first librarian - Stefan Kirovich Kuznetsov. Read more about how TSU Library was quickly responding during the remote working period with an enhancement of their chatbot service.*

<https://www.iatul.org/members/members-news-blog>

## IATUL SIG News



Research Impact Things initiative <https://iatulimpactthings.info/> has continued to be a key focus for **SIG MaRI** over the past year with the development of the tool and launch in October 2020.

IATUL board and SIG acknowledge the excellent work and commitment of all the people, and their institutions, that have been involved in making this initiative possible, and successful so far. The following data is from Google Analytics and shows that there has been high engagement with the tool with over 5000 sessions and nearly 3000 users since its launch in October 2020.

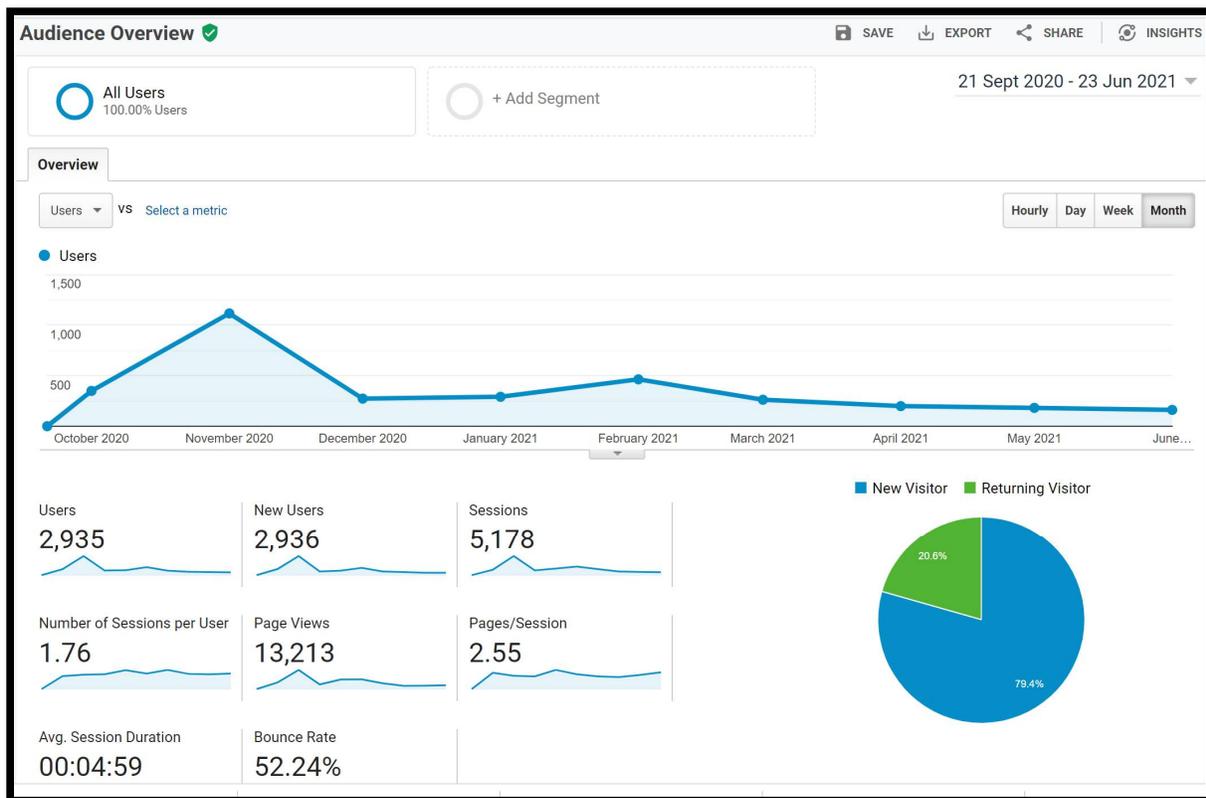


Figure 1: Users visiting the Research Impact Things website Sept 2020 – June 2021

A number of IATUL member institutions reported that they have used the program in their libraries for staff professional development including the University of Otago; University of Western Australia; University of New South Wales; and the University of Auckland which is great to see. In addition, the Kaunas University of Technology and the American University of Sharjah have also recently started using the tool for staff development and training purposes, so a good community of users is being established (<https://iatulimpactthings.info/iatul-impact-things-community>). We encourage all IATUL members to join and contribute to the community.