STRATEGY REPORT

A Year in Review

2021

LIBER
LIBER
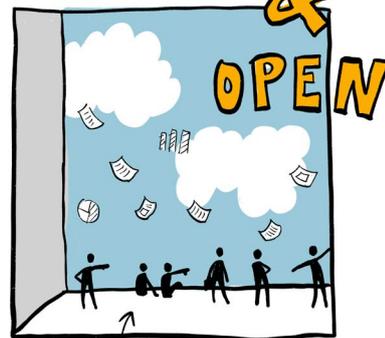
PART 1: INTRODUCTION

2021, the second year of the Covid-19 pandemic, has once again been a challenging year for research libraries as they attempted to keep up their services for students and researchers. Coupled to this is a re-fashioning of libraries' identities and the re-examining of their missions as service providers to the research community. We believe that now more than ever, research libraries are required to innovate and ensure patrons have even greater access to digital resources.

With this in mind and with 2022 just around the corner, we want to reflect on the challenges and achievements of the past year and highlight what we will deliver in the months to come.

Firstly, our 50th LIBER Annual Conference (online) was a great success, attracting 1,858 attendees (including 857 LIBER Participants).

In March this year we published a Draft Law and launched a corresponding campaign calling for #ZeroEmbargo on Publicly Funded Scientific Publications. The campaign garnered over 24,725 impressions on social media and thousands of webpage views within a month of publication, and has been enthusiastically endorsed by cOAlition S and COAR.

Throughout the year, we also disseminated knowledge in a variety of formats. We released a steady stream of reports and case studies, workshops, and webinars — many created by our Working Groups. Additionally, 5 articles and 3 case studies were published within LIBER Quarterly, our own Open Access Journal.

2021 also saw the launch of three new Working Groups – Educational Resources, Data Science in Libraries, and Innovative Peer Review as well as three new projects, ELE, MES-CoBraD, and Knowledge Rights 21. Additionally, we continued to share our expertise within the range of existing international projects – reCreating Europe, ORE, INOS, and SSHOC.

We hope you enjoy reading our update – spanning from October 2020 to October 2021. It highlights LIBER's many efforts during the year, all of which were made possible with your support.

To our 440 participants, fellow library organisations, global partners, and sponsors: thank you for your collaborative spirit, your commitment to the network, and your belief in our work to represent and strengthen research libraries across Europe. We look forward to continuing to serve you in 2022!

Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche
Association of European Research Libraries

2021 in NUMBERS

1,853 Attendees at all online sessions during our 2021 Annual Conference (co-organised by the University of Belgrade Library).

1,233 Librarians, researchers, politicians, and other stakeholders attended our 21 training events.

440 LIBER participants from 40 countries, including 6 new members who joined in 2021.

175 Valued volunteers, driving the LIBER network forward.

20 LIBER Participants invited to join proposals as project partners.

3 LIBER Participants invited to join project proposals with an advisory role.

PART 2: NETWORK GROWTH

We are pleased to welcome six new institutions to LIBER in 2021. We now have 440 Participants from 40 countries.

University of Ruse, Bulgaria / University of Paris Nanterre, France / University of Pau and Pays de l'Adour, France / SCD de l'Université Gustave Eiffel, France / National Széchényi Library Budapest, Hungary / ZHAW University Library, Switzerland

New Working Groups & Projects

The Educational Resources Working Group is in setup phase and aims to support European librarians in their role to provide educational resources, both open and online. A call for new members for this new Working Group was published in April and the first meeting took place in October this year.

The Data Science In Libraries Working Group (DSLib) also launched at the start of 2021. The group seeks to explore and promote library engagement in applying data science and analytical methods in libraries. It does this by taking into account all kinds of processes and workflows around library collections and metadata, as well as digital infrastructures and service areas.

The Innovative Peer Review Working Group was also launched in 2021 and is in setup phase. The group has two key aims: to explore a wide spectrum of challenges within the peer review field and to understand how research libraries can further facilitate the progressive elements of the scholarly communication system.

During 2021, we also kicked-off three new projects:

The Multidisciplinary Expert System for the Assessment & Management of Complex Brain Disorders (MES-CoBraD) sets out to improve early, accurate, and comprehensive diagnosis of CoBraD through the multisource-multidisciplinary MES-CoBraD Assessment Protocol.

The **European Language Equality** (ELE) project's goal is to prepare the European Language Equality Programme, in the form of a strategic research, innovation and implementation agenda as well as a roadmap for achieving full digital language equality in Europe by 2030.

The **Knowledge Rights 21** (KR21) project advocates for a 21st-century copyright environment across Europe that is friendly to the modern delivery and use of education and research materials as well as the spread of culture and heritage in the digital age.

Dedicated Volunteers

175 people made LIBER stronger in 2021 by serving on the Steering Committees, Working Groups, Executive Board, Conference Programme Committee (CPC), and the Editorial Board of the LIBER Quarterly Journal.

Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche
Association of European Research Libraries

#ZEROEMBARGO

LET US HELP YOU!

PART 3: ACHIEVEMENTS

Voluntary efforts are guided by the pillars of the LIBER 2018-2022 Strategy: Innovative Scholarly Communications, Digital Skills & Services, and Research Infrastructures.

Strengthening Our Foundation

Together with our Working Groups and project partners, we held 21 training events during 2021 as well as various other other online events for research librarians.

LIBER commenced work on the Projects Database in 2021. This is a database to which our libraries have been invited to add their skills and project ambitions. In 2020, we ran the first Projects Database survey among our Participants to identify interest, needs, and potential roles and we continue to share project information with our Participants on the topic.

We are also importantly in full swing of creating a new LIBER strategy for 2023 - 2027. You can read our blog post about the key strategic themes which have been identified by our Participants during the Knowledge Cafe event at the LIBER 2021 Annual Conference. Moreover, during our upcoming Winter Event in December Participants will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the new strategy.

Statements and Lobbying

We issued various statements, often in collaboration with organisations in our network, to lobby for the better footing of libraries and their patrons:

- Letter to the European Commission, co-signed with Science Europe and the European University Association: 'Impact of Digital Services Act on scientific institutional repositories' (February 2021)

- LIBER Draft Law and #ZeroEmbargo Campaign (March 2021)

- LIBER co-signed the statement of COAR about the Data Repository Selection-Criteria That Matter' (March 2021)

- LIBER co-signed the 'Various Publisher Tactics against the Rights Retention Strategy' from cOAlition S (April 2021)

- We launched a campaign calling for Zero Embargo on Publicly Funded Scientific Publications and a corresponding Draft Law (March 2021).

HOW WE COLLABORATED

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS. We shared the expertise and needs of research libraries in the reCreating Europe, ORE, INOS, SSHOC, MES-CoBraD, ELE and KR21 projects, as well as in our co-creation workshops. Furthermore, we frequently brought our libraries, Working Groups, and projects together for joint webinars, workshops, and presentations on a range of topics.

REPRESENTATION. LIBER represented Europe's research libraries on the boards of SCOSS and SPARC Europe. We collaborate with various library organisations such as RLUK, ADBU, HEAL-LINK, IARLA etc. Additionally, we are members of the EOSC Association, Think, Check, Submit, and the RDA.

WORKSHOP SERIES. During March and April 2021 we co-organised a Workshop Series together with the BnF and AI4LAM titled, 'Applying and deploying Artificial Intelligence (AI) in GLAMs'. In May, we collaborated with OCLC on a Workshop Series on Social Interoperability.

TRAINING COMMUNITY. LIBER participated in OpenAire's Community of Practice for Training Coordinators and Managers, the EOSC skills and training workshop group, and the EOSC enhance workshops on EOSC portal requirements validation. We also fostered the SSH training community within the context of the SSHOC Work Package on Engagement, which we lead.

#ZEROEMBARGO CAMPAIGN. In March 2021 we launched a campaign calling for #ZeroEmbargo on Publicly Funded Scientific Publications. The campaign and Draft Law, garnered over 24,725 impressions on social media and thousands of webpage views within a month of publication, and has been enthusiastically endorsed by cOAlition S and COAR. We hope to further involve research libraries in this campaign going forward.

Providing Training

TRAINING EVENTS. Our 21 training events (held together with our Working Groups) attracted over 1,233 participants including librarians, researchers, politicians, and other stakeholders.

LEADERSHIP. The Emerging Leaders Programme is a high-level seminar aimed at the next generation of senior leaders at European research libraries and takes place annually. Cohort 5 of this programme recently had its second seminar online in October. An additional event for Cohort 5 is to be held in Denmark on the 5th July 2022 shortly before the LIBER Annual Conference at the University of Southern Denmark. Additionally, Cohort 6's first seminar will also take place at the LIBER Annual Conference in 2022. The second seminar of Cohort 6 will coincide with LIBER's 2023 LIBER Annual Conference in Budapest (dates TBC).

SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES OPEN CLOUD (SSHOC). As part of our work to foster communities, empower users, and build expertise, we launched (together with our project partners), the SSHOC Trainer Directory in September this year. The directory makes it easier for training professionals to connect with each other on the delivery of training activities in various formats, topics, and European languages. The directory is the third of three main training outputs of the SSHOC project, and coincides with the SSH Training Community which bring together anyone interested in SSH training and the Training Discovery Toolkit, an inventory of learning and training materials. Additionally, and within the framework of the SSHOC project, we co-organised 2 bootcamps and 3 workshops/webinars for the SSHOC training community, researchers, and library professionals.

INTEGRATING OPEN AND CITIZEN SCIENCE INTO ACTIVE LEARNING APPROACHES IN HIGHER EDUCATION (INOS). We held 3 multi-day workshops on Citizen Science that brought together over 130 students, researchers, faculty, and library staff from a number of LIBER institutions. We also organised 2 discussion-based workshops for our community, partners, and other stakeholders on open science implementation in Higher Education Institutions and Research Libraries. As a result of these workshops, a Roadmap for the Implementation of Open and Citizen Science in Research Libraries has been created and will soon be published.

RECREATING EUROPE. To kickstart the dissemination of project resesrch results through training, we organised a workshop 'State of Exceptions and Limitations: Copyright Flexibilities in the EU and its Member States' in June. The workshop was attended by over 120 people, streamed on YouTube, and included speakers on topics related to EU Copyright flexibilities. It has paved the way for future training events within the project.

Cooperating Through Working Groups

During 2021 our Working Groups carried out many activities with our projects and partners.

INNOVATIVE SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS

CITIZEN SCIENCE. The Citizen Science Working Group launched a call for new members early in 2021. The group made progress on the *Citizen Science for Research Libraries – A Guide* with the intention of publishing the first out of four sections of the guide by autumn 2021. A new landing page for the guide has also been setup. Moreover, the Working Group organised two workshops at the LIBER 2021 Annual Conference: *Onboarding Citizen Science and the role of research libraries: barriers and accelerators* (hosted in collaboration with the SSHOC project) and *Citizen Science: Defining a role for my library.* Overall, the group utilised its strong connection to the INOS Project and regularly hosts webinars geared towards research libraries together with INOS project partners.

COPYRIGHT & LEGAL MATTERS. The Copyright & Legal Matters Working Group held an online event, *eBook Licensing in Europe and the Vanishing Library?* which took place in July 2021 and in response to the unaffordable ebook prices affecting public libraries. They continued to monitor issues affecting eBooks, the implementation of the Digital Single Market, and the #ZeroEmbargo Campaign (which they supported earlier in 2021). Additionally, the group continued work with the European Universities Association (EUA), COAR, and Science Europe to advocate for the exemption of university institutional repositories from the Digital Services Act. The group also plays a fundamental role in the recently-launched Knowledge Rights 21 project that focuses on eBooks, open access (the #ZeroEmbargo Campaign and rights retention), the undermining of copyright exceptions by licenses and technologies, and an open flexible norm in Europe.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES. The Educational Resources Working Group launched in 2021 and is in the setup phase. The group aims to support European librarians in their role to provide educational resources, both open and online.

OPEN ACCESS. The Open Access Working Group arranged a workshop at the LIBER 2021 Annual Conference in collaboration with OASPA. The title of this workshop was *A shared future for open access books – exploring partnerships between libraries and publishers*. Additionally, the group continued to investigate new publishing models and closely monitored the open access field. At the start of the year, the group also contributed to LIBER's Draft Law and #ZeroEmbargo Campaign.

INNOVATIVE PEER REVIEW. This Working Group launched in 2021 and is in setup phase. It has two key aims: to explore a wide spectrum of challenges in the peer review field and to understand how research libraries can further facilitate the progressive elements of the scholarly communication system.

DIGITAL SKILLS AND SERVICES

DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP AND DIGITAL CULTURAL HERITAGE COLLECTIONS. This group, initially called the *Digital Humanities Working Group*, has recently undergone a name change and published new key themes for 2021 - 2022. In early 2021, the group created a poster on *Forming Relationships in Digital Humanities: Building Blocks for Libraries*. This year, group members Lotte Wilms, Caleb Derven, and Merisa Martinez published a case study on the inception of the group in 2017 and its work through to 2020.

Forming relationships in Digital Humanities
Building blocks for libraries

Digital Humanities (DH) is a collaborative discipline. Libraries engaging in this field must build connections with DH research communities to be successful. Our below illustration demonstrates 10 ways in which libraries can build such relationships and points to various useful readings on this topic.

1. **MIND YOUR LANGUAGE**
Language is key in articulating the library's role. Expertise such as metadata can and should be reframed for a DH context. Job titles and strategy documents also help position library offerings.
Read: Cox

2. **FIND YOUR LEVEL**
Tailor your approach to the stage of DH development your library is at. There is no one-size-fits-all approach. Look for incremental steps to progress in a sustainable way.
Read: RLUK , LSE

3. **5. BE LOUD, BE BOLD**
Overcome "library timidity" and broadcast the library's expertise as an enabler of digital scholarship and a go-to for digital research projects. Be specific about offerings and expertise.
Read: Vandegrift & Varner

4. **KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE**
An environmental scan helps identify your local DH landscape and its focus areas. Knowing strengths and gaps can inform library strategy. It also can act as a useful ice-breaker with faculty.
Read: ECAR

5. **BE A TRANSLATOR**
Librarians' work with digital collections requires understanding both intellectual and technical aspects. This in turn equips them to act as DH 'translators' between research and technical partners.
Read: Star & Griesemer

6. **WIN FRIENDS & INFLUENCE FACULTY**
Use any existing links with DH researchers as demonstrator projects or partnerships. This helps momentum and advocacy particularly if broader engagement is an early stumbling block.
Read: Gerber et. al

7. **HELP FROM ABOVE**
Strategic commitment is vital for long term sustainability. Adequate resourcing for aspects of advocacy, research, skills development along with acknowledgement of new measures of success.
Read: Posner, Miriam

8. **PLAY WITH STRUCTURES**
Different models of structured collaboration - such as DH fellows in the library or 'embedded' librarians working on faculty projects – can enable a more formalised approach.
Read: Wilson & Berg, Locke & Mapes (8)

9. **PARTNERSHIP VS SERVICE**
How is this DH collaboration framed? Is the library a partner or service? Local context can inform here. In some cases library collaboration itself is listed as a 'service' offered for digital projects.
Read: Munoz, Dinsman

10. **STRENGTH IN NUMBERS**
Find external library colleagues. Working or technical groups (e.g. LIBER WGs, Carpentries) can offer shared expertise and augment teaching. RSE offers an 'alt-ac' parallel here.
Read: RSE

Forming Relationships in Digital Humanities: Building Blocks for Libraries (Created by the Digital Humanities Working Group)

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMES. Cohort 5 of the Emerging Leaders Programme programme recently had its second seminar online in October. An additional event for Cohort 5 is to be held in Denmark on the 5th July 2022 shortly before the LIBER Annual Conference (which will take place at the University of Southern Denmark). Additionally, Cohort 6's first seminar will also take place at the LIBER Annual Conference in 2022. Thereafter, the second seminar of Cohort 6 will coincide with LIBER's 2023 LIBER Annual Conference in Budapest (dates TBC).

The LIBER Journées annual event for library directors was due to take place in Hungary this year but has been rescheduled to 2022 in light of Covid-19 and travel restrictions. As such, LIBER organised an interim event f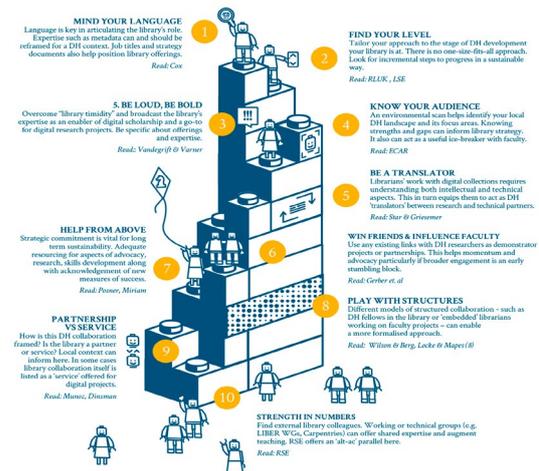or library directors which took place online in May 2021: *Library Directors Workshop: Embracing Uncertainty – What is the Impact of COVID-19 on Libraries' Strategies?* Also, the Working Group's Job Description Repository was expanded and a webinar, *Leadership in the time of Covid,* was presented at the LIBER 2021 Annual Conference (this workshop built on the initial Leadership in Times of Crisis Webinar Series organised by the current Emerging Leaders cohort).

LIBER JOURNÉES
BUDAPEST
2022

RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

Cregan University Library, Dublin

ARCHITECTURE. The LIBER Architecture Group (LAG) continued work on its *Library Buildings in Europe website* by means of regular library additions.

DATA SCIENCE IN LIBRARIES. The Data Science In Libraries Working Group (DSLib) launched at the start of 2021 and held the first kickoff meeting in February and a second meeting in April. This group seeks to explore and promote library engagement in applying data science and analytical methods in libraries. It does this by taking into account all kinds of processes and workflows around library collections and metadata, as well as digital infrastructures and service areas. During the recent meetings, the group identified three main areas of interest: 1) creating a landscape analysis/overview, 2) team/service building, and 3) funding opportunities.

FEDERATED IDENTITY MANAGEMENT FOR LIBRARIES (FIM4L). The FIM4L Working Group continued promotion of its recommendations to libraries, publishers, and other stakeholders. In 2021, the group held an online workshop titled *Access Control to Research Data in the Frame of FAIR Principles and Open Access* (March 2021) and conducted a presentation on *Federated Identity Management for Libraries (FIM4L)* (March 2021). They presented a lightning talk at the LIBER 2021 Annual Conference, a presentation at a UKSG event in July, and a session at the IFLA WLIC in August.

LINKED OPEN DATA (LOD). The working group on Linked Open Data completed its work on a best practices document for library linked open data publishing (March 2021). The group ceased operation in June 2021.

RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT. This year, Research Data Management activities have centred around research libraries enabling FAIR data practices. The group presented a workshop at the LIBER 2021 Annual Conference highlighting research libraries that are enabling FAIR data practices.

COMING UP IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS

1. WINTER EVENT — The LIBER Winter Event (formerly the LIBER Mid-Term Event) for library professionals will take place at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam on the 9th and 10th of December 2021. The programme will offer LIBER Working Groups and projects an interactive platform to share their work.

2. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT — Library directors are invited to the LIBER Journées leadership seminar taking place from the 18th - 22nd of May 2022 in Hungary. Additionally, applications for the seventh Emerging Leaders Programme will open in early 2022.

3. ANNUAL CONFERENCE — Our 51st Annual Conference will take place in Odense, Denmark from the 6th to the 8th of July 2022. The call for papers opens in November. Read more about this special event in our press release.

4. PROJECT & CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS — 2022 will feature LIBER workshops, hackathons, bootcamps, and training events from the INOS, SSHOC, reCreating Europe, ORE, MES-CoBraD, and Knowledge Rights 21 projects.

5. WEBINARS — Our online events including webinars for 2022 will feature insights from Working Groups, projects, and guest speakers. Keep tabs on our upcoming events by signing up for our monthly mailer, the LIBER Insider.