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# Connecting and Empowering Library Publishers: An International Knowledge Exchange

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# Connecting and Empowering Library Publishers:
# An International Knowledge Exchange

## IFLA Special Interest Group on Library Publishing Mid-Term Conference, Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway, March 5th - 6th 2020

### Jane Buggle and Marie O'Neill

The Library Publishing Coalition defines library publishing as "the set of activities led by college and university libraries to support the creation, dissemination, and curation of scholarly, creative, and/or educational works." (https://librarypublishing.org/)

The IFLA Special Interest Group (SIG) on Library Publishing was formed to strengthen networks, to exchange knowledge and best practice, and to advocate for and drive further developments in the area. The IFLA SIG held its inaugural mid-term meeting at Dublin Business School at the end of February 2019 which included presentations from library publishing programmes and experts from around the world. Themes explored in the conference included standards, platforms, funding models and societal impact. Please see the conference review by  Suzanne Stapleton, University of Florida Libraries, (https://librarypublishing.org/reflections-on-ifla-midterm-2019/). Jane Buggle, Dublin Business School, and Marie O Neill, CCT College Dublin, chaired this conference with the support of Ann Okerson and the IFLA SIG Committee.

Following on from the success of this meeting, the 2020 mid-term meeting was held at Oslo Metropolitan University in Norway in March 2020, chaired by Lars Egeland. This event explored in greater depth themes discussed in Dublin whilst also introducing newer topics.  The full programme, including recording of all presentations, is available at https://blogg.hioa.no/ifla/program/. The event comprised four themes: Publishing Platforms, Case Studies, Library Publishing Services and Library Publishing Collaborations. The event also incorporated a valuable and thought-provoking panel session as well as parallel workshops.

In the Publishing Platforms Section, there were interesting discussions about a variety of powerful open source publishing platforms such as Drupal and Vega. A key benefit of the presentations and discussions in this section were the insights from PKP in relation to the importance of librarians engaging in the communities that develop these publishing infrastructures.  A fascinating presentation from the University of Amsterdam described a consortium in which fourteen university libraries from five countries have established a platform entitled UJ (University Journals) https://universityjournals.eu/index.php/for-universities/ based on their combined institutional repositories. The platform aims to reduce the barriers around publishing pertaining to access to expertise and experience and to leverage economies of scale to lower publishing costs. Costs are shared by the participating universities from their budgets; there are no APCs, there is no need for transfer of copyrights and UJ fully complies with open access mandates and supports DORA. The Royal

Danish Library provided interesting insights into using OJS as the Danish National Open Access platform (tidsskrift.dk) which showcases high-quality open access journals that may not have access, expertise or funding for such a sophisticated platform.

The Case Studies section was particularly informative about library publishing in the public library environment with a presentation from the City Library of Pančevo, Serbia, on its long publishing tradition. There were presentations on successful library publishing programmes at the University of Lublin Technology, Poland, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Nebraska-Lincoln, with a prodigious library publishing output, highlighted the potency of the Digital Commons Platform for publishing purposes. The choice of a robust publishing platform as well the development and retention of a small library publishing team with a broad skill set were positioned as being key determinants of the success of library publishing programs. The Vienna University Press (VUP) discussed a commercial publishing approach that also incorporates an element of open access.

In the Library Services section, library publishers highlighted approaches in relation to project evaluation, peer-review process, video abstracts for marketing, and accessibility of publications by a diverse range of institutions including our hosts, OsloMet, the Arctic University of Norway, the University of Queensland and Washington State University.

In the Collaboration and Networks section, OsloMet described a collaborative initiative (Activity-Based Libraries) in which the universities of Norway co-produce open educational resources for use in particular subject areas, eliminating duplications of funds and efforts in the compiling of the shared world-class resources. Talks by Virginia Commonwealth and Penn State University on behalf of the Library Publishing Coalition focused on the Library Publishing Directory and Library Publishing Coalition Mentorship Programme. The authors also attended an interesting parallel session on the Library

Publishing Directory. The session concluded with a presentation on the library publishing landscape in Ireland and developments in the Irish library publishing sphere which include the establishment of a national Library Publishing Group under the aegis of the Library Association of Ireland and the embedding of the Library Publishing Curriculum into the MSc in Information and Library Management at Dublin Business School.

The event concluded with a panel discussion on the role of library publishing in advancing open access which also focussed on the tensions between small publishing houses and library publishers. Diminishing academic library budgets places further pressure on libraries to publish scholarly output in-house. Speakers included Jesper Boserup Thestrup, The Royal Danish Library;  Marte Ericsson Ryste, Cappelen Damm Akademisk, Publisher, Norway; Jan Erik Frantsvåg, UiT The Arctic University of Norway; and Jane Buggle, Dublin Business School; with Lars Egeland as moderator.

The event highlighted the global community of practice that now exists in relation to library publishing as well as the importance of information sharing and education. Mikael Böök made a strong case for the expansion of the definition of library publishing to incorporate public libraries. He also highlighted the powerful role that public libraries must take in promoting social justice and peace. Lars reiterated the theme of social justice by also highlighting the role of library publishing in meeting the UN's sustainable development goals. He articulated the power of library publishing programmes to provide an outlet for scholarly output free from proprietary models.

Ann Okerson conducted an uplifting IFLA SIG on Library Publishing business meeting which captured exciting developments and future plans.  The authors would like to congratulate Lars Egeland, his team at OsloMet, Ann Okerson and the IFLA SIG Committee on this empowering and inspiring international knowledge exchange.

The authors would also like to invite interested parties to join the Library Publishing Group (LPG) of the LAI. Members of the LPG are currently undertaking the four modules of the Library Publishing Curriculum online over this period of lockdown.  All welcome.

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