# 34th CENL Annual General Meeting
## 19 October 2020 – Online

## Minutes

**Executive Committee Present:**

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|---|---|---|
| 1) | Roly Keating | Chair (UK) |
| 2) | Katarína Krištofová | Vice-Chair (Slovakia) |
| 3) | Sara Lammens | Treasurer (Belgium) |
| 4) | Sandra Collins | Executive Committee Member (Ireland) |
| 5) | Hans Petschar | Executive Committee Member (Austria) |
| 6) | Marcie Hopkins | Executive Committee Member (UK) |

**Members Present:**

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| 7) | Anna Chulyan | Armenia |
| 8) | Karim Tahirov | Azerbaijan |
| 9) | Ismet Ovcina | Bosnia and Herzegovina |
| 10) | Desislava Popova | Bulgaria |
| 11) | Ivanka Stričević | Croatia |
| 12) | Janne Andresoo | Estonia |
| 13) | Laurence Engel | France |
| 14) | Frank Scholze | Germany |
| 15) | Filippos Tsimpoglou | Greece |
| 16) | Judit Gerencser | Hungary |
| 17) | Ingibjörg Steinunn Sverrisdóttir | Iceland |
| 18) | Andris Vilks | Latvia |
| 19) | Wilfried Oehry | Liechtenstein |
| 20) | Renaldas Gudauskas | Lithuania |
| 21) | Claude D. Conter | Luxembourg |
| 22) | Elena Pintelei | Moldova |
| 23) | Lily Knibbeler | Netherlands |
| 24) | Tomasz Makowski | Poland |
| 25) | Frymzim Dauti | Macedonia |
| 26) | Carmen Mihaiu | Romania |
| 27) | Alexander Vershinin | Russia |
| 28) | Vadim Duda | Russia |
| 29) | Viljem Leban | Slovenia |
| 30) | Karin Gronvall | Sweden |
| 31) | Ana Santos | Spain |
| 32) | Ali Odabas | Turkey |
| 33) | John Scally | Scotland - UK |

**In attendance:**

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| Emil Ordukhanyan | Armenia |
| Frédéric Lemmers | Belgium |
| Krassimira Aleksandrova | Bulgaria |
| Maria Stefanova | Bulgaria |

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| Rumyana Petrova | Bulgaria |
| Vanya Avramova | Bulgaria |
| Adolph Knoll | Czech Republic |
| Jasenka Zajec | Croatia |
| Mari Kannusaar | Estonia |
| Elisabeth Freyre | France |
| Jean-Philippe Moreux | France |
| Lola Sanaia | Georgia |
| Ute Schwens | Germany |
| Inga Surgunte | Latvia |
| Mathias Nepfer | Switzerland |
| Viktorija Moskina | Latvia |
| Elsbeth Kwant | Netherlands |
| Iaroslava Borozdina | Russia |
| Elena Zhabko | Russia |
| Irina Gayshun | Russia |
| Pavel Tereshchenko | Russia |
| Valeria Eresova | Russia |
| Mar Pérez Morillo | Spain |
| Suha Bacanakgil | Turkey |
| Ebru Tokay Unsal | Turkey |
| Asuma Akdemir | Turkey |
| Liz Jolly | UK |
| Lucy Rowland | UK |
| Mercedes Aguirre | UK |

**Apologies:**

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| Johanna Rachinger | Austria (Proxy Hans Petschar) |
| Svend Larsen | Denmark |
| Giorgi Kekelidze | Georgia (Proxy Lola Sanaia) |
| Cesare Pasini | Holy See (Proxy) |
| Ilya Bykovnikov | Russia (Boris Yeltsin Presidential Library) – (Proxy Iaroslava Borozdina) |
| Marie-Christine Doffey | Switzerland (Proxy Mathias Nepfer) |
| Vit Richter | Czech Republic (Proxy Adolf Knoll) |
| Cecilia af Forselles | Finland |
| Aslak Sira Myhre | Norway |

**CENL Secretariat in attendance:**

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| Marcie Hopkins | CENL Secretary (minutes) |
| Cecile Communal | CENL Secretariat (minutes) |
| Eleanor Cooper | CENL Secretariat (minutes) |
| Shezza Rashwan | CENL Secretariat (minutes) |
| Giuliano Levato | CENL Secretariat (minutes) |
| George Ofori | CENL Secretariat (website and social media) |

**Invited external speakers:**

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| Elisabeth Niggemann | Europeana Foundation |

**1. Arrival and registration**

This year's Annual General Meeting was held online using a zoom platform. Members and attendees registered their attendance in advance and members were able to join the meeting between 0845 and 0900 BST.

**2. Welcome from CENL Chair - Roly Keating**

Roly Keating (RK) welcomed all the delegates to the 34th CENL conference which, for the first time, is being held as a virtual conference online due to the persisting coronavirus pandemic.

RK acknowledged that across the whole of Europe and the world, everyone is experiencing challenges due to the pandemic, but commented that it is truly wonderful that the CENL community was able to get together using available technologies. He expressed his hope that the conference today would provide a forum in which to exchange ideas and experiences, and even though participants are not in the same physical room, a chance to celebrate the friendship across the international library community.

The conference hosted 70 attendees altogether, with 33 national library directors present.

RK asked participants to observe online meeting etiquette, and explained how to use the closed captions which would be displayed along the bottom of the screen.

RK recorded that there were apologies from a number of CENL members who were unable to attend the online AGM on this occasion.

RK presented the agenda for the day (Paper 01 in programme details) and reminded delegates that the annual gathering of directors is the centre-piece of CENL.

RK reminded delegates that they could tweet about the AGM tagging @CENL_Europe and using the hashtag #cenl2020.

**3. Approval of Minutes 2019**

RK referred members to the minutes of the 2019 AGM in Mo I Rana which had been circulated both as Paper 2 in advance of this AGM and prior to this via email and on the CENL website. A couple of small corrections had been noted and have been amended.

RK called for a vote for approval of the minutes by using the online polling function. He reminded all members that only CENL members or colleagues holding a proxy on behalf of a member were entitled to cast a vote, and that only one vote per country could be cast.

29 members voted in favour of the approval of the minutes, with no corrections or comments, and these were formally adopted as an accurate record of proceedings. 1 abstention.

RK formally welcomed the new directors and members of CENL: Anna Chulyan (National Library of Armenia); Carmen Mihaiu (National Library of Romania); Frank Scholze (German National Library); Vit Richter (National Library of the Czech Republic); Claude D. Conter (National Library of Luxembourg); Ivanka Stričević (National and University Library in Zagreb, Croatia); Pavel Tereshchenko (Boris Yeltsin Presidential Library, Russia); Karin Grönwall (National Library of

Sweden); Viljem Leban (National and University Library of Slovenia); Piro Misha (National Library of Albania); Lyubov Dubrovina (Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine); Ali Odabaş (National Library of Turkey), and Dávid Rózsa (National Széchényi Library, Hungary). RK also welcomed John Scally, the Chief Executive of the National Library of Scotland, who has joined CENL as a member library this year.

**4. Matters arising from Minutes**

The actions and decisions taken at the 2019 AGM in London were summarised by RK as follows:

1)  The CENL Secretariat was asked to promote the Sustainable Development Goals values on the new CENL website. These were promoted on a special page on the CENL website on 24 January 2020. The CENL Secretariat tweeted about the SDGs again in October 2020.
2)  CENL members were asked to fill in the new training and development survey. This survey was completed successfully in 2019 with a number of findings summarised in a report. This information is useful when assessing grant applications and upcoming webinars on areas of the highest interest to CENL members.
3)  The new @CENL_EUROPE Twitter account was launched in summer 2019 and CENL members were asked to promote this as much as they could. The CENL Secretariat updates the twitter account regularly and RK reminded CENL members to keep an eye out for tweets and news and to send anything they would wish to share to the CENL Secretariat for further promotion.
4)  CENL members were asked to fill in the survey of Library spaces if they hadn't done so already. After the 2019 AGM more responses were received and Hans Petschar (National Library of Austria) collated responses together. All 33 submitted responses were edited and uploaded onto the member pages on the CENL website. RK thanked Mr Petschar for his effort in compiling such a useful resource.

**5. CENL Annual Report**

The National Library of Slovakia's Katarína Krištofová (KK) presented highlights from the CENL Annual Report (see Paper 3) and stated that the EC and Secretariat have continued working with all members on a number of strategic priorities since the 2019 AGM.

KK explained that it has been another busy year for the CENL Secretariat based at the British Library and led by Marcie Hopkins (CENL Secretary). The team has changed slightly and now comprises of six people who share different responsibilities in the day-to-day running of the Secretariat. They can all be reached via the same email address cenl@bl.uk.

The Executive Committee met on five occasions over the course of the year: August 2019 in Athens; November 2019 in Dublin; January 2020 in Bratislava; April 2020 via Zoom (because of travel restrictions due to Covid-19) and August 2020 again via Zoom. The meetings covered a number of topics to further the strategic priorities of CENL, including CENL's focus on developing our people with the promotion of the grant and bursary schemes, the new website and the introduction of the new network groups.

Erland Kolding Nielsen Grant: as this AGM includes a session about the EKN grants in the afternoon, KK chose not to discuss them in detail as part of the Annual Report. However, she reminded the group that CENL introduced the EKN grant in January 2017 to celebrate the enormous contribution Erland Kolding Nielsen made to the development of European libraries throughout his long and distinguished career as Director General of the Royal Library in Denmark from 1986-2017. Three grants were awarded by the EC in 2019 to the National Libraries of Russia, Lithuania and Austria. One project was completed and the other two were either postponed or changed to go online. One grant was awarded to the British Library in 2020. The next call for EKN grants applications will be in January 2021.

Skills and Knowledge Exchange Bursaries: KK reminded members that CENL's skills and knowledge exchange bursary programme was launched in 2017 with each individual bursary available for up to 1000 Euros. The bursaries can be used for: visiting a national library for face-to-face mentoring and shadowing to learn new skills and share experiences; attending a training event run by other members; running a workshop for members to attend and share best practice or preparing a webinar or online event for members.

In 2019, CENL awarded 6 bursaries. The average bursary was for an amount of €959. Unfortunately, due to travel restrictions caused by Covid-19, the activities of two bursaries have been postponed. The CENL Secretariat is regularly in touch with the grantees to support them. The bursary budget currently has an underspend, so KK encouraged all CENL members and their staff to apply for these bursaries and to read full reports by previous grantees on the CENL website.

KK highlighted the following CENL surveys:

- Library Spaces Survey: following a recommendation arising at the 2017 AGM in London, the CENL Secretariat worked with Hans Petschar to conduct a survey of library spaces in 2018/2019. All over the world, there were creation of new libraries during recent years, including new national library buildings that have been inaugurated or redesigned in Europe. To understand and to meet future needs of national libraries, the survey aimed to collect information on national library spaces in European National libraries. The survey collected information on Scope and Core Functions of National Libraries, Physical Spaces, Location and Urban Spaces Reading Rooms and Staffing. The National Library Spaces surveys completed are available to read on the CENL website https://www.cenl.org/members/surveys/
- Training and Development Survey: in 2016, CENL conducted a survey to collect the training and development needs of CENL member libraries, with the aim that skills and knowledge exchange opportunities across our community could be coordinated better. The CENL Executive decided to refresh the survey in 2019 and a new questionnaire was sent to all CENL members. 30 members completed the survey and key findings are:
  - The main activities where skills and expertise were strongest across the board. That included cataloguing, conservation/preservation and digitisation projects.
  - Paired with other responses from the survey, the following areas were identified as those with the greatest need for training: Linked Data, Digital Scholarship, Risk Management, Web Archiving and Digital Library Management Systems.
  - High priority areas for training have been identified along with those member libraries with the greatest need and those with the greatest ability to share skills. The CENL website will promote training opportunities for CENL members in those areas.

KK gave updates from the three CENL working groups.

The CENL Copyright and Information Law Working Group last met at the British Library on 12 September 2019. The main activity of the group has been working as part of the European

coordination group with EBLIDA, LIBER, Sparc Europe, IFLA, European Universities Association, Science Europe, Public Libraries 2020 and Europeana on policy matters relating to a revision to EU copyright law.

The CENL-Federation of European Publishers Working Group met twice over the period June 2019 to January 2020: on 6 September in Brussels, and on 17 January in Frankfurt. The main discussions focused on the following issues: CENL Working group review and National developments in text and data mining (TDM). Following the end of the working groups, the CENL-FEP working group will be turned into a contact group between publishers' representatives and national libraries. It will continue to keep both groups updated about its activities, in particular by sharing a link to its annual report in their newsletters. Participants agreed to focus on issues of common interest such as legal deposit of e-books and the 2019 Copyright directive on out-of-commerce (OOC) works and 'text and data mining/ TDM'. On National developments in text and data mining (TDM) - FEP referred to its reflection about a tool for right-holders to reserve their rights in the framework of the TDM exception of article 4 as far as content freely accessible online is concerned. National libraries shared their activities aiming at helping researchers to do TDM, such as the BnF Corpus project, as well as challenges met.

The CENL Representation on ISNI International agency Working Groups activity highlights included this year: The ISNI-IA Board has begun reviewing the ISNI business model and will introduce changes to subscriptions and pricing incrementally. A Music Industry Advisory group has been established to support the interests of the many music industry Member and Registration Agencies that have joined ISNI in the last 18 months. The BnF and the British Library hosted a second ISNI Summit, this time in Paris, to discuss and determine the future representation of libraries in the governance of ISNI, as well as sharing experiences among the library member network. The Summit endorsed the establishment of a Library Consultation Group of all ISNI Library members and a Steering group was formed to take forward initial planning for how this will work and be structured. The BnF and the BL also held subsequent discussions on the future representation of CENL on the ISNI Board following the formation of the Library Consultation Group. It was agreed with the ISNI IA that the formal role of CENL on the Board will end and formal letters have been exchanged recognising the major contribution that CENL has made to the success of ISNI by giving its name and endorsement to the project from its beginning in 2010. The BL and the BnF will continue their current role on the Board for the time being but directly representing their own institutions and their ongoing work supporting the ISNI IA through their quality assurance service to the database.

Following the review of CENL working groups undertaken by the CENL Secretariat and CENL Chair in 2019, KK mentioned that a call for applications for new CENL network groups was sent to all CENL members. Three were selected by the Executive Committee at their meeting on 25 January in Bratislava: Books and Audiences Network Group; Artificial Intelligence Application Network Group and Copyright Network Group. As this AGM includes a further session about the new CENL Network Groups plans, KK chose not to discuss them in detail as part of the Annual Report presentation.

KK touched on the CENL communication plan. Throughout the year the CENL Secretariat continued on the delivery of the CENL Communications and Strategy Plan for 2019-20. This included major projects including the launch of the new CENL website, the launch of a promotional video and the launch of a Twitter account.

KK concluded her presentation of the Annual Report by giving a welcome again to new members joining CENL this year.

**6. Treasurer's Report 2019-2020**

The National Library of Belgium's Sara Lammens (SL) presented the Treasurer's Report. Explaining that her presentation would cover highlights of the financial year, SL referred all members to full details in the written report (Paper 4).

SL explained that her presentation would cover the details of the cash balances and final budget for 2019; the audit and preparation of financial statements for 2019; an update of the budget up until mid-September; and the proposed budget for 2021, which would be submitted by vote later in this session.

SL started with the 2019 budget and showed:

*Cash Balance – Account 1*

| CENL Account 1 | Bank Balance |
|---|---|
| Opening bank balance as at 01.01.19 | 640 438.01 € |
| ADD Income | 158 465.00 € |
| LESS Expenses | 124 190.41 € |
| Bank balance as at 31.12.19 | 674 712.60 € |

SL explained that the account started with a balance of €640,438 and closed with a balance of €674,712.

*Income – Account 1*

| CENL Budget 2019 | Budget | Actual Income | Balance remaining as of end of Dec 19 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Membership fees | 116 500 € | 115 500 € | 1 000 € |
| Transfer from CENL account 2 | | 42 965 € | |
| Total Income | | 158 465 € | |

SL stated that the income in this CENL account 1 comes from the CENL membership fees received and a transfer of €42,965 from the CENL account 2. Two members settled their 2018 fee in early 2019, one member settled their 2019 fee in early 2020, so only one member has not paid their 2019 fee.

In 2019 again, the year ended with significantly more income than expenses on this CENL 1 account.

Regarding expenses, SL showed:

*Expenses – Account 1*

| CENL Budget 2019 | Budget | Actual Expenses | Balance |
|---|---|---|---|
| Financial support AGM | 9 000 € | 9000 € | 0 € |
| Travel costs speakers | 1 000 € | 0 € | 1 000 € |
| Skills & knowledge exchange | 20 000 € | 3 984 € | 16 015 € |
| Erland Kolding Nielsen grant | 15 000 € | 4 821 € | 10 179 € |
| CENL website costs | 40 000 € | 37 930 € | 2 070 € |
| CENL website content | 10 000 € | 7 458 € | 2 542 € |
| Banking costs | 1 000 € | 416 € | 584 € |
| Audit and legal costs | 6 000 € | 6 854 € | - 854 € |
| CENL Secretariat | 52 000 € | 52 000 € | 0 € |
| Other office costs | 1 500 € | 1 728 € | - 228 € |
| **Total Expenses** | **155 500 €** | **124 191 €** | **31 309 €** |

SL focussed on some of the expenses for the CENL 1 Account:

1. David R Lankes delivered his keynote via skype at last year's AGM so did not incur travel costs.
2. The bursary programme was underspent.
3. Two EKN grants were postponed to 2020, with no payments being made to these libraries and the funds were carried over to the 2020 budget.
4. A major investment last year was the new CENL website. These costs include building the website, as well as support for the Secretariat. The other main investment was content for the website, which consisted mainly of the promotional video.
5. Audit and legal costs were higher than expected mostly due to a legal invoice from 2018, which was paid in 2019. The audit was much less expensive than previously as it was done remotely rather than on site.

The total planned budget for 2019 was €155,500 and final expenses came to €124,191, so there was a final positive balance of €31,309.

SL moved on to the CENL 2 Account and showed:

*Cash Balance – Account 2*

| CENL Account 2 | Bank Balance |
|---|---|
| Opening bank balance as at 01.01.2019 | 139 959 € |
| Total Income | 0 € |
| Less Expenses | 43 035 € |
| Bank balance as at 31.12.2019 | 96 924 € |

SL explained that the CENL 2 account holds reserve funds related to unemployment costs (which reduce over time). As the risk reduces over time, the amount held is revised every year. SL explained that €42,965 were therefore transferred to the CENL 1 account. Other expenses on the CENL 2 account consist of bank charges of €70.

SL explained that the audit was prepared by the CENL auditors, RSM, including the financial statements for 2019. The audit was finalised on the 24 April 2020 and signed off by the EC on the 19th August 2020.

SL then gave an update on the 2020 budget up to mid-September and showed:

*Cash Balance – Account 1*

| CENL Account 1 | Bank Balance |
|---|---|
| Opening bank balance as at 01.01.2020 | 674 712 € |
| Total Income | 130 890 € |
| Less Expenses | 69 076 € |
| Bank balance as at 15.09.2020 | 736 526 € |

SL showed that the balance at the beginning of the year was € 674,712 and explained that income is higher than expenditure at this stage of the year.

*Income – Account 1*

| CENL budget 2020 | Budget | Actual Income | Balance remaining as of mid-Sept 2020 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Membership fees | 116 500 € | 107 500 € | 9 000 € |
| Transfer from CENL account 2 | | 23 390 € | |
| Total Income | | 130 890 € | |

SL stated that the income in this CENL account 1 comes from the CENL membership fees received and a transfer from CENL account 2 of €23,390. 42 members had paid their fee by mid-September.

SL presented the expenses and the revised 2020 budget:

*Expenses - Account 1*

| CENL budget 2019 | Budget agreed at 2019 AGM | Revised 2020 budget | Actual Expenses at 15.09.20 | Balance |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Financial support AGM | 9 000 € | 9 000 € | 0 € | 9 000 € |
| Travel costs speakers | 4 000 € | 4 000 € | 0 € | 4 000 € |
| Skills & knowledge exchange<br>• Bursary Programme<br>• Covid-19 Support Fund<br>• CENL  Network Groups | 20 000 €<br><br><br>15 000 € | <br>10 000 €<br>10 000 €<br>15 000 € | <br>801 €<br>0 €<br>0 € | <br>9 199 €<br>10 000 €<br>15 000 € |
| Erland Kolding Nielsen grant<br>Hidden Stories Fund | 25 000 € | 15 000 €<br>10 000 € | 0 €<br>0 € | 15 000 €<br>10 000 € |
| CENL website<br>• Maintenance costs<br>• Content | <br>5 000 €<br>9 500 € | <br>5 000 €<br>9 500 € | <br>3 195 €<br>3 311 € | <br>1 805 €<br>6 189 € |
| Banking costs | 1 290 € | 1 290 € | 280 € | 1 010 € |
| Audit and legal costs | 6 600 € | 6 600 € | 9 489 € | - 2 889 € |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| CENL Secretariat | 52 000 € | 52 000 € | 52 000 € | 0 € |
| Other office costs | 2 500 € | 2 500 € | 0 € | 2 500 € |
| **Total Expenses** | **149 890 €** | **149 890 €** | **69 076 €** | **80 814 €** |

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the EC agreed to review the 2020 budget at its July meeting. SL detailed some of the expenses:

1. Financial Support & Travel costs for Speakers: with the AGM going online there were no financial assistance nor speakers costs.
2. Skills & Knowledge Exchange: with a substantial underspend on the bursary programme due to travel restriction the EC agreed in July 2020 to re-purpose some of these budget lines for a new Covid-19 Support Fund. 10,000€ were allocated to the new fund.
   Unfortunately, the CENL Network groups were not able to spend most of their budget due to travel restrictions; as a result, SL explained that in the 2021 budget proposal she is recommending to carry over their budgets to 2021.
3. EKN grants: only one EKN grant was awarded by the EC in 2020 to the British Library. Therefore, there was an underspend of €10,000 on that budget line. The EC agreed in July 2020 to re-allocate these €10,000 to create a new 'Hidden Stories Fund'.
4. Website: the CENL Secretariat still receives monthly support to administer the website and employs an agency worker to update the website and the social media account, demonstrated under that budget line.
5. Audit & Legal costs: this budget line was overspend due to a need to seek legal advice related to membership. The audit was undertaken remotely at a cost of €6,284.

For CENL account 2, SL showed:

*Cash Balance – Account 2*

| CENL account 2 | Bank Balance |
|---|---|
| Opening bank balance as at 01.01.2020 | **96 924 €** |
| Total Income | 0 € |
| Less Expenses | 23 425 € |
| Bank balance as at 15.09.2020 | **73 499 €** |

SL explained that 2020 expenses for the CENL 2 account include a transfer of €23,390 to the CENL 1 account, with bank charges of €34.

SL presented her proposal for the 2021 budget and showed:

*Proposed 2021 Budget*

| Income | Amount | Expenses | Amount |
|---|---|---|---|
| CENL membership | 119 500 € | Financial support AGM | 9 000 € |
| Transfer from CENL 2 account | 23 390 € | Travel costs speakers | 4 000 € |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| EKN Funds 2019 carried over | 5 000 € | Skills & knowledge Exchanges<br>• Bursary Programme (€10k)<br>• Hidden Stories grants (€10k)<br>• CENL network groups 2020 carried over budget (€5k x 3 groups - €15k)<br>• CENL network groups 2021 budget (€5k x 3 groups - €15k) | 50 000 € |
| CENL network groups 2020 budget carried over | 15 000 € | Erland Kolding Nielsen Grant<br>• 3 x €5k grants<br>• 1 x €5k 2019 grant carried over | 20 000 € |
| | | CENL website<br>• Maintenance costs (€6k)<br>• Content (€9.5k) | 15 500 € |
| | | Banking costs | 1 190 € |
| | | Audit and legal costs | 8 000 € |
| | | CENL Secretariat | 52 000 € |
| | | Other office costs | 3 200 € |
| **TOTAL INCOME** | **162 890 €** | **TOTAL EXPENSES** | **162 890€** |

SL highlighted the changes to income first and explained that the CENL Membership fee amount will change with the addition of the National Library of Scotland's membership fee of €3,000, so the total of the membership fee income will be €119,500.

Regarding the CENL 2 account, as the risk reduces over time, SL suggested to transfer €23,390 from the CENL 2 to CENL 1 account.

The National Library of Russia was awarded an EKN grant in 2019 but has had to postpone its project to 2021, so SL suggested carrying over their €5,000 grant to the 2021 budget. This is reflected in additional expenses.

Due to Covid-19, the CENL network groups have been unable to spend most of their 2020 budget. SL agreed to carry over their 2020 budget to 2021 exceptionally. As a result, the total amount of the 2021 budget is €162,890.

SL went on to detail the changes to the expenses. As travel restrictions are still likely to be in place in 2021 due to Covid-19, SL suggested reducing the bursary budget to €10,000 and offer another round of 'Hidden Stories' grants for an amount of €10,000. There are no other major changes suggested for the expenses.

SL reminded that the Finance paper (Paper 4, page 15-16) provides the details of the proposed 2021 budget aligned with the strategy 2018-2022.

SL called for a vote to approve the proposed 2021 budget. 32 members voted in favour of approving the budget 2021 proposal.

SL thanked the CENL Secretariat for their work on the CENL finances.

**7. CENL Action Plan and Communications**

The British Library's Marcie Hopkins (MH) introduced the 2020/21 CENL Action and Communication plan and explained that this derived from the CENL 2018-2022 strategy. MH gave an overview of the four priorities under the strategy and outlined what CENL would be focussing on until the 2021 AGM.

MH detailed the main activities undertaken this year. The first priority was to support national libraries to increase their impact and to become strong organisations. Within that, CENL continues to run the EKN grant – the next call going out in January 2021; CENL will continue with the bursary scheme; two new funds have been introduced - the Covid-19 and the Hidden Stories Fund; CENL will run the 2020 and organise the 2021 AGM next year in Brussels (October 2021). The Secretariat is looking into webinar options, in particular looking at the diversification of funding sources. CENL will continue to identify partnerships with other relevant organisations.

The second priority was to develop national library services. Under that CENL will continue to run surveys and webinars on the topics of innovating services, service strategies and cultural programmes.

Under priority 3, develop as memory institutions, MH explained that the Secretariat will look into options for a webinar on best practice in collection management and stewardship; and continue to support knowledge sharing and collaboration through our network groups, the bursary scheme and the web forum.

The fourth priority was to strengthen CENL as a community. This year, the Secretariat will revise the fee banding model for all CENL members and to do that itwill be in touch with each organisation before the end of the year to ask about their operational budgets and then recalculate banding for all members. CENL will continue to liaise with the 3 CENL network groups, implement the Communications Plan, run the CENL Website and look after CENL social media. Having already updated the contact list this year, CENL will continue to strengthen peer-to-peer networks, the bursary scheme and web forum. Importantly, preparations will begin for the transition of the Secretariat to a new organisation. The call will go out early next year.

MH then moved on to discuss the communication strategy for CENL. The main idea is to promote the importance of member libraries contributing towards the intellectual, educational, cultural, social and economic development of the communities they serve; and also to promote the wide range of activities that happen across the 49 member libraries of CENL.

MH showed a slide of the front page of the CENL website ad urged new directors to explore the site. The website is aimed primarily at the public but there is also a CENL members' only area. It is there to promote all activities of CENL and the CENL member libraries, as well as giving a better

understanding of the role that CENL libraries play in collecting and preserving the written, published, and recorded outputs of their nations.

MH gave an overview of the different aspects of the website, including what the public can see when they visit the website – information about the organisation, its history, mission and strategic plan and also an interactive map of its members; a directory of all member libraries with information and contact details; a news and events page, updated weekly, which lists conferences, exhibitions and other news for member libraries. There is also a section on reports and publications which provides access to over 500 annual reports dating back to 1993 for all the CENL member libraries, and more than 30 surveys that have been run by the CENL secretariat over that period. Previous working groups have their documentation free to download also. Similarly, the new network groups all have dedicated sections on this page with information on the work and membership of each group.

The members' area requires members to sign in, and it contains information about, for example, the bursary and the EKN scheme with links to application forms. There are forums where members can link up with other libraries.

MH explained that traffic to the website has steadily increased since its launch just under one year ago, that there are noticeable improvements in numbers of CENL members using the site, and indications that users are spending longer on the site. There have been in excess of 61,000 page views and more than 14,000 hits on the website. 147 users from CENL member libraries are now signed up to the members' area.

MH drew attention to the monthly newsletter which is sent out to 145 members and has an average 30-40% open rate, which is positive. MH also mentioned that the website has a promotional 3-minute video. It features footage of CENL libraries and interviews with CENL directors, filmed at the national libraries of Greece and Luxemburg in 2019. 12 CENL members in total were interviewed. The video was also shared on Twitter and has had over 14000 impressions and 2000 media views. MH encouraged attendees to continue sharing this promotional material.

MH talked about the Twitter account, launched to promote CENL as an inclusive body that embraces innovative technologies. Since its launch, CENL has tweeted 239 times, had 85,000 tweet impressions and now has 201 followers. MH urged attendees to follow CENL on twitter to further promote the organisation and to share knowledge, and tweet about today's AGM.

MH talked about the issues that national libraries have been facing this year and how they have been adapting to a changing world. COVID-19 and local lockdowns have had a great impact on the financial stability of libraries, how they are able to welcome readers and ensure the accessibility of their collections. In addition, after the killing of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement has also been a historical challenge to the ways our institutions have been collecting, researching and telling stories. The CENL Secretariat worked closely with the EC to find ways to adapt to this changing world. Three new initiatives: (1) more webinars - the first will be with Bonnie Greer (who was scheduled to be our keynote speaker today), chaired by Sandra Collins and other CENL directors, and will be on inclusion in national libraries; (2) the COVID-19 support fund, introduced to help CENL members respond to the immediate crisis, reimagine ways of working together in the longer term; (3) the Hidden Stories Fund, in response to the BLM movement, to support CENL members who have new projects relating to underrepresented communities in their national collections – grantees for both new funds will be announced later.

MH concluded by showing the COVID-19 monitoring map, which is regularly updated by the Secretariat and has proved useful for CENL members for sharing useful information. It displays the status of CENL member libraries during the pandemic – open, partially open, or closed.

RK said that it was fortuitous that CENL invested in their website last year as it has become extremely useful during the pandemic, and encouraged members to use it.

**8. Welcome to the National Library of Scotland**

The National Library of Scotland joined CENL as a full member in September 2020 after a successful vote with the CENL Board of Directors. The open vote was conducted via email. Roly Keating warmly welcomed John Scally (JS), National Librarian and Chief Executive of the National Library of Scotland, who will jointly represent the United Kingdom with Roly Keating from the British Library, sharing one vote. RK asked JS to give a short introduction to the NLS.

JS thanked RK and the group for voting for the NLS to become a member of CENL, something they had wanted for a long time and which comes as very good news at the end of a difficult year when the UK has had to deal with Coronavirus and Brexit. The NLS already work closely with the British Library and others in these islands (on Legal Deposit for example) and is keen to continue collaborating and working together. JS encouraged European colleagues to get in touch with him and his library, which aspires to be a full, active and open member of the network, contributing across the various groups and participation areas.

By way of a short introduction, JS described that the origins of the library go back to the 1680s but in 1925 an act created the NLS, and a subsequent act in 2012 modernised the governance structure, which is when JS joined as National Librarian. The NLS have over 50 million items - about 50% physical, 50% digital. In addition to their main premises in Edinburgh, they have opened up a new centre in Glasgow as part of a ten-year strategic period, "The Way Forward", starting in 2015 and culminating in 2025 with the NLS's 100 year anniversary. By then, the NLS hopes to be using technology to develop its services and to engage with their audiences which are physically dispersed across Scotland, its islands, and beyond.

The NLS's other strategy, "Reaching People", launched 2 weeks ago, is all about connecting with audiences in Scotland and beyond - personalising content and working collaboratively with those audiences to modify and to change it. As well as a grant for buildings, the NLS has received a government grant for digital infrastructure and the library has been working a lot with data. JS urged members to visit the website and look at their "Data Foundry" (data collections from the National Library of Scotland).

JS mentioned that, like many, the NLS are all concerned about the effect the pandemic is having on young people but reported that, by giving them the opportunity to use the national libraries as a platform to employment and through lots of internships, they had been seeing employment successes as a result of young people using the NLS.

In 2025 will be the NLS's centenary year, by which time they would like to be working with UK and European collaborators to ensure they reach audiences right across Scotland no matter if they are in

the Islands, in Glasgow, or close to the NLS in Edinburgh's old town. JS reiterated the importance of using technology and other means to connect with everyone and to offer the services and get them to help develop the services better.

### 9. Presentation and breakout discussions: Covid-19 pandemic - impact, opportunities and challenges for inclusive national libraries

SC introduced the breakout sessions which looked into the challenges, opportunities and impact of COVID-19. In her intro speech SC explained how the pandemic has impacted many aspects of the work of national libraries across the world and particularly in the CENL family of national libraries across Europe. It has been and remains a very uncertain and disruptive time. It is a testing time but, according to SC, we have also learned a lot about ourselves over this year and some of it has been good. SC highlighted some of the things that may have been learned during the pandemic such as: adapting our buildings, our behaviours, our human protocols, our physical protocols and our services across all of the aspects of the services that we deliver. SC reckoned that it is important to acknowledge and to recognise that we have demonstrated great resilience and innovation and commitment across this really challenging time. She then introduced the questions to examine during the breakout sessions:

1. What are the short-term and the long-term impacts on national libraries?
2. Is it a short-term phenomenon that we are going through and we will go back to business as usual when we have a vaccine? Or will it really fundamentally change the way we deliver some of our services for the good or for the bad?
3. Did we learn anything this year in the way that we have adapted our services that will give us new ways to work in the future?
4. What are the advantages that we can gain from this over the years ahead?
5. And a particular question, as was talked about at the last CENL AGM, which changes are national libraries making to be more inclusive, to recognise the need for diversity and inclusion, and has COVID-19 and the impact to so many of our buildings, our physical experiences has that impacted how inclusive we are and the move to digital or engaging with people online, is that a good thing for inclusion, has it allowed us to be more inclusive?

SC thanked the five volunteer leaders who will summarise a really stimulating and interesting discussion.

5 questions will be asked to each of the groups:

1. *What has the main impacts of COVID-19 been?*
2. *What are the main challenges?*
3. *And have you identified any opportunities that you had not thought about before?*
4. *Have there been any advantages? So, a lot has been difficult but maybe some things have changed for the better. We would like to hear about that so that we can learn from each other.*
5. *Are there any areas where the CENL community can specifically help each other, help you, is there something that we can exchange information on or some support that we can put in place?*

SC offered an example from her own experience. At the National Library of Ireland there are five public-facing sites where the library engages the public with its buildings and different services. Over the last five years they have made a strategic push towards exhibitions as public engagement and engaging people with the national collections. Two of those five sites are dedicated exhibition spaces without reading services. COVID-19 has decreased their visitors to the exhibitions, and has had a substantial impact as the NLI had invested a lot of their time and money and resources into public engagement through exhibitions. This is a challenge. On the other hand the Library has discovered an unexpected positive outcome as the closure period gave the organisation the opportunity to develop online tours for all of their exhibitions. It has moved a lot of its public engagement online and visitors from across the world in much larger numbers are visiting the exhibitions, taking guided tours with NLI staff through the internet. SC anticipates that that is something to continue when COVID-19 is over, as it allows the Library to welcome visitors from America, Asia and Africa who might not fly to Ireland.

Delegates were sent into a number of virtual breakout rooms to discuss a variety of topics. After the discussion time they were brought back together to give feedback.

## 10. Report on breakout discussion: The physical library after Covid-19

*Chair: Janne Andresoo*

The group emphasised that the new situation requires new rules and instructions, for instance, for remote working as well as guidance for crisis management. This is a common challenge for all libraries and cultural institutions. The group pointed out the fear to lose readers in physical libraries as well as visitors attending exhibitions, as a result of the lack of tourists and readers. As for the opportunities, the group highlighted that more remote work can be used in the future and online services developed further. The group reckoned that CENL could help libraries be more visible, share experiences on how they can help society in the crisis, advise how libraries can contribute to the communities, as remote libraries, physical spaces and also promote physical events on the CENL website. Ms Andresoo invited members to make more use of the website and share their experiences. She concluded by saying that a new survey about the physical libraries changing after Covid-19 might be useful.

## 11. Report on breakout discussion: Inclusive access – digital literacy

*Chair: Karin Grönvall*

Several countries are considering new lockdowns, which puts pressure on our services. Challenges which were brought up regarding inclusive access include dealing with copyright holders – *how can we get better contracts?* – as well as how to reach all of our user groups - *how can we reach our users, who usually come into the building and need a lot of help?*
The opportunities discussed included an increase in digital engagement, with users finding out about more of the available resources (e.g. digital newspapers). The marketing in connection to these resources has been an advantage, and it has been an opportunity to get to know our user groups better online.

What CENL can help with is lobbying for more funds to get more online content, and providing a space for members to share experiences about reaching user groups online.

## 12. Report on breakout discussion: Online services after the pandemic

*Chair: Mar Perez Morillo*

Many libraries have been closed during the pandemic, some are still closed. The group discussed how libraries have to adapt services and collections, provide new ways of bringing services to users, and digitise as much as possible. The group agreed that the main impact of this pandemic situation was to make available a data catalogue and collections online and to improve digital services. They also underlined the need of fostering collaboration networks between libraries to share experiences and resources. The online use has dramatically grown with the use of library collections and resources. The collections protected by copyright are one of the concerns and also one of the challenges. Some libraries are reviewing how to extend the access for research purposes and at the same time safeguarding the production of the copyright. Libraries need to re-think the issues of legal deposit and copyright restrictions and the right to have access to information, evaluate priorities for the digitisation of collections, and even consider digital on-demand and listening to users' demands to serve them better. The lower attendance of users on site should allow everyone to reflect on how to improve the services we provide and to listen carefully to the demands of our users.

## 13. Report on breakout discussion: Collecting – changes and opportunities

*Chair: Ivanka Stricevic*

Not easy from the very complex National Libraries' missions to focus on collections only. The discussion also touched on services and users. It concluded that reshaping of models of work and the daily routines was needed. Flexibility is crucial in order to be able to reshape something under the principles that are well-known for all National Libraries. There is a danger of digital divide when talking about collections, print collections and digital collections. The digital part of the story has a big advantage but consequences that could cause digital divide should be considered. The group also discussed the necessity of sharing and this is what it is expected from CENL and the CENL community: sharing of experiences and information.

## 14. Report on breakout discussion: The workforce – a national library from home?

*Chair: Tomasz Makowski*

The crucial issue discussed in this group was how to switch to a working model with 100% or even 50% remote working. The group came to several conclusions. Nothing will be the same as before in the post-pandemic era, and we need a new balance between working on site and working in our homes. We must speed up the changes we planned or that we were thinking about. This is the opportunity to be more digital, more open to new skills and new activities. And we have to encourage our staff to find new activities and to be a partner in the work that we have. The crucial question is what happens with our buildings? We are not all a digital service, and we have historical collections and we are responsible for permanent keeping of our stocks. *Are will still a community*

*when we are working from home? Can we be a community in one or two years or longer? What will happen with new employees?* We, as leaders in our libraries, must determine how to lead our teams virtually and how to build this social capital that we have when we meet, when we have everyday meetings, and how to do this when we are working from home.

**SC's session wrap-up**

SC concluded the session thanking the groups and their leaders. She summarised that there were common themes across the groups, such as digital collections and resources with a focus on the speed, the pace, the financial model or the disruptions experienced. SC mentioned the important role of national libraries in bibliography as only this will enable people to find what they are looking for in a digital space. Another important theme was the wish to provide access to as much information as possible to the widest possible audience.

Rights and copyright were further areas of consideration during the discussions. All groups had talked about the role libraries can play collaboratively, and CENL's role to help its members as a community to address issues of advocacy.

Libraries need to understand that the community of readers are engaging in new ways. They have lost some of the physical visitors but because of the large engagement online they will have reached people that they had not before. The task for library leaders was to coach and mentor new users to the amazing array of resources that exist. More staff are now working online than before. This is a co-work or a collaborative model for many. More conversations can be had about the CENL website and how the CENL community can use this as a tool to exchange information. The Covid map featured on the website can help libraries understand everyone's situation and experience while we continue to travel through this pandemic.

SC opened the Q&A; no questions or comments followed.

**15 Presentation and Q&A:** Europeana and CENL – presentation by Elisabeth Niggemann

Elisabeth Niggemann, Chair of the Europeana Foundation Board, joined the CENL AGM to give a presentation highlighting Europeana's current strategic aims and objectives. Europeana and CENL were linked closely in the past through major projects such as The European Library, a project which came to an end in 2017.

EN started her presentation by thanking RK and all the members for her farewell video to celebrate her retirement. EN then explained the beginnings of Europeana. The former President of the Bibliothèque nationale de France got his President to write to five other Heads of State: Italy, Spain, Poland, Spain, Hungary and Germany asking them to write to the European Commission saying there must be a digital European library as a counterpart to the geography book project. This letter to the European Commission called on the Minister for Culture and Media to ask CENL to use on of their existing projects as a model for creating the then called TEL.net, which was the acronym for the European digital library. This was meant to not only serve libraries but archives, museums and other kinds of cultural heritage institutions, to use the TEL project as a prototype for what is today Europeana. The Europeana Foundation was modelled exactly according to the CENL model and still today is a foundation according to Dutch law. At the time, as the Chair of CENL, EN was asked to be

the Chair of Europeana and was joined by the BnF colleague as Co-Chair. Europeana is a child of CENL.

After more than ten years of living with grants from the European Commission, in 2018, Europeana was able to access more sustainable funding. The European Commission went to tender and Europeana won the tender and will be in its third year of continuous funding next year. As European grants require matching funds, Europeana were required to seek this matched funding from member states directly, which has been problematic in the past. The Commission then thought that this would be a good solution to make this procurement work. The good news is that for the multi annual financial framework, that goes from 2021 to 2027, the Commission has said that they want to fund Europeana again under the Digital Europe Programme. EN said that she hopes that it will go on as this procurement.

This initiative is the core sustainable service but Europeana is seeking to work on other innovative areas, to react to COVID-19, and to continue projects which require matching funds for grants.

What is needed is budget and people who support and who are creative, who can carry the whole organisation. EN called it the 'Europeana Ecosystem'. In addition to the foundation there are two important partnerships which have their own statutes and bodies and which are very important for this ecosystem. The first one is the Europeana Aggregators Forum and the second one is the Europeana Network Association. They are important because they bring the experts together, they are delivering pro bono work for Europeana and without them staff would not be able to do what Europeana does.

The Europeana Network Association has more than 3,000 members, inviting new members from cultural heritage institutions or from organisations that are close to cultural heritage institutions. It is a strong and democratic community of experts. The association has its own governance and elect among themselves 36 representatives into a members council. Out of this council it has a management board and 5 representatives sit on the board of the foundation. Its annual meeting took place last year at the National Library of Portugal: many experts attended and EN encouraged CENL members to encourage their experts to attend these meetings.

The Aggregators' forum is made up of 35 accredited aggregators and these work with about 4,000 institutions. Without these mid-level of aggregators, Europeana would not be able to ingest all of the metadata. Europeana also works with about 120 direct suppliers of metadata and content data but the most important thing is the relation to the aggregators. There are various kinds of aggregators, regional, national, domain or topic aggregators, and all have a continuous relationship to Europeana. Nothing could be done without the very engaged, very knowledgeable and creative staff that is hosted by the KB in The Hague. Their diverse team consists of 60 people from 20 nationalities.

The two most active types of organisations are libraries and universities, and Europeana is dependent on these partners to have projects in place to get going.

A major topic is still copyright and Europeana has always been an advocate for open access practices. The central belief is that what is in the public domain in the physical world should remain in the public domain in the digital world. Another important point is the Europeana licensing

framework, encompassing 14 standardised rights statements for all contents. Another conviction is the re-use of metadata . All digital content on Europeana specifies whether it is freely available. Europeana currently hosts 50 million cultural heritage items. Of these, 72% are available for re-use to some extent and 47% are available for free re-use with no additional conditions applying.

Quality is important and has improved in the last months and years. Out of the available items, 42% are of high-quality and re-useable content, 63% are high-quality content, and 55% have high-quality metadata. The more metadata is shared and the better the quality of the digital object, the better the engagement overall with the content and on social media outreach or in press coverage.

One of the successful campaigns is the collecting campaign, such as *Europeana 1914-1918* (World War One). There is also *Europeana Migration* and *Europe at Work* which asked the public to tell stories, to give digital objects and they were combined with archive material that is on the Europeana website.

Events are another really successful activity. Since Covid-19, between April to June this year, more than 2,500 people watched recorded events. Europeana had 14 events and 22 videos.

EN also mentioned the six APIs that are ready to re-use free of charge and much used by partners of Europeana. This year, especially the March release of a number of solutions led to a 30% increase in task.

There is part of the website which is called 'Europeana Pro'. In these times with Covid-19, everybody needs support especially in the first months and there were dedicated sections on capacity building and there were project calls. Europeana tried to engage with the professionals in the partners' network to understand what help they required and to support everybody as fast and as well as was possible.

EN then described the new governance of Europeana. It was clear a couple of years ago when this procurement started that Europeana's governance was inadequate. A big governing board prevented a more agile governance. On the other hand, partners didn't want to lose the democratic connection. It was decided to introduce a blended model of a small, agile supervisory board, plus a larger advisory board, which is currently being set up. At the end of September this yea, the big Europeana Foundation governing board met for the last time and voted on new statutes (Board of Directors, Supervisory Board, Advisory Board), on the members of the new Supervisory Board and on the next steps towards a new Advisory Board of minimum 10 members.

The new Board of directors is plural because if the organisation would grow and needed to have a second or even a third director, it is now possible without changing the statutes. There is also a small supervisory board of seven people. This board has two reserved seats for people who are not elected by the supervisory board itself but elected as representatives from the Europeana network association on the one side and from the Europeana aggregators forum on the other side. The supervisory board seeks continuity and when all the members step down next year, EN said that she would like to see a CENL director replace her.

Europeana is in the process of forming an advisory board with a minimum membership of 10 with the option to go up to 20. There is a reserved seat for the network association, a reserved seat for the aggregators forum, a reserved seat for funding members for which Elsbeth Quant is the nominated member, and there are reserved seats for the Member States in the current presidency and the upcoming presidency that sits on the advisory board. Interviews for these seats are currently underway. EN encouraged CENL members to run for these roles and to encourage their colleagues and experts to run for the advisory board seats.

RK thanked and congratulated EN on the progress made by Europeana. RK asked EN what she though success looks like: whether this was contribution to scholarship or public engagement. EN said Europeana served a variety of audiences, first and foremost researchers, tourists and educators, but also reaching out the public, journalists and politicians.

**16. EKN Grant holder reports / new EKN grant**

In this session, HP gave an overview of progress with Erland Kolding Nielsen grants. Three grants were awarded in 2019 to the National Libraries of Lithuania, Austria and Russia. One grant was awarded in 2020 to the British Library. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, the project of the National Library of Russia had to be postponed to 2021 and the National Library of Austria had to adapt its project.

HP started by giving an update on the Danube project of the National Library of Austria. The Austrian grant was a project dedicated to the Danube collection in the European National Libraries. The project is in collaboration with the Europeana Foundation. The Austrian National Library will be holding a physical exhibition next spring and together with Europeana and they are organising two webinars dedicated to the Danube collection in the CENL libraries. Originally they had planned to have two physical meetings but have switched to online webinars due to Covid-19. The National Library of Austria is working with all the national libraries of the countries the Danube flows through and will create a virtual exhibition to be presented on the Europeana portal in the spring of 2021.

The first webinar will be dedicated to sharing knowledge on the Danube Collections in the CENL libraries and to define topics and themes for the Europeana exhibition. The second webinar will be dedicated to innovative practices in presenting historical maps and images in virtual spaces, including animated maps and georeferences of historical resources and the National Library of Austria will invite the CENL members to send experts to the webinars.

The Danube flows for some 1,770 miles passing the National Libraries of Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova and Ukraine. All these countries have been invited to take part in the webinars.

HP gave more details on the physical exhibition, which will be in the State Hall of the National Library of Austria. It will be a 44-metre long historical map on the Danube. The digital map will be made of segments of the original map. On the digital map, the Danube will coloured with additional lines indicating the depth of the Danube and the flooding lines. Along the map, the team will add places and additional information to give location markings in different languages with information on the animals, history and local details.

HP concluded by thanking Europeana for their support, which will enable them to showcase this digital map and to add content from all of the CENL countries that the Danube flows through. HP explained that he believes that in the world that we are living in now, it becomes more important to invest more in digital environments and therefore reinforce our collaboration with Europeana as this is the perfect example of a small exhibition and how we can collaborate in the future.

Renaldas Gudauskas, Director General of the National Library of Lithuania introduced the report on its EKN grant for the Conference on '21st Century Libraries: Traditions and Innovations'.

The conference took place on the 15th Nov 2019. The executive of national libraries from numerous European countries attended, as well as many professionals from the publishing sector, public libraries and historians. Prof. Dr. Andrius Vaisnys, Chair of the National Library's Scientific Council welcomed all the delegates and this was followed by a presentation by Prof. Dr. Luiz Oosterbeek, UNESCO Chair holder in Humanities and Cultural Integrated Landscape Management who explained that society should focus on underlying units of knowledge, and in this context, the role of libraries has never been so vital, not only access to information and to culture but for use of the possibilities offered by digital technology. Liz Jolly, Chief Librarian at the British Library, spoke about collaborating to advance knowledge and crucial understanding among librarians and leaders. The next presentation was done by Dr. Janis Kreslins, Senior Academic Librarian for Research Affairs at the National Library of Sweden, who presented a report from his library on reassessing the various meanings of intellectual history and transgressing borders between the various disciplines. Following these presentations, there was a panel with leaders from the National Libraries of Estonia, Poland, Lithuania and the Vice Minister of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania. There was a great atmosphere of collaboration and discussion at the conference.

The majority of the EKN grant was spent on travel and accommodation costs for the speakers. A report, including a detailed budget, was sent to the CENL Secretariat and approved.

HP thanked RG for his presentation and introduced Mercedes Aguirre, Lead Curator American Collections, and Lucy Rowland, Curator Oceania & Western Languages Asia Collections, from the British Library to present on their EKN grant for their international online conference on 'National Libraries Now'.

MA explained that they are organising a national conference for national libraries curators to take place online in September 2021. The team want the conference to provide a space to discuss new ideas on developing collections and interpreting them for different audiences. MA explained that they are aware that national libraries are facing unprecedented change, not only because of the Covid-19 pandemic but also because of conversations about National Heritage and what constitutes a national collection with a growing sense of social responsibility. MA and LR would like to hear more from other national libraries around the world about how institutions are addressing this question. And in practical terms, they would like to hear more about projects that worked and projects that didn't go according to plan and why, to create opportunities for international collaboration.

LR gave some background on how the team came up with the conferenced idea, which was the result of a discussion about the lack of opportunities for the national libraries curators to come together in one place. There are many collection-based projects going on around the world in national libraries and they wanted to create a space where the projects could be shared and provide learning opportunities at the same time for others. With that in mind, the overall aim of the

conference is to promote and to enable international networking and labour collaborations among curators, librarians and anyone with collection responsibility in a national library worldwide.

The conference was planned in 2019 as a physical conference but the future of physical events is unpredictable, so they are moving the conference online. This format is more inclusive and will allow for wider participation with colleagues from around the world. To facilitate this inclusivity, they have planned for many ways to participate in the conference. So the format will include short talks, longer presentations, blog entries, discussion panels, roundtables, and communication channels running throughout the conference to enable networking. MA and LR hope that the variety may encourage those usually intimidated by the standard physical conference format. The presenters will have the opportunity to discuss the innovative work that they are doing, or want to do with the national collections.

The main legacy of the conference is enabling future collaborations and networking. It will be the creation of an international network of curators and librarians in national libraries. The form that it will take is being researched at the moment but they are thinking of an email list or a dedicated website forum and would welcome ideas from CENL members.

The British Library will release a call for participants in the New Year with information on the themes of the conference. MA and LR are also planning to have a CENL panel discussing new work with the collections and the European libraries and would welcome suggestions from CENL members for practical case studies. MA shared her email address, [Mercedes.Aguirre@bl.uk](mailto:Mercedes.Aguirre@bl.uk), for CENL members to send their ideas.

HP thanked all the presenters and encouraged all CENL members to apply for EKN grants when there is a new call in early 2021.


**17**. **Presentations by the new CENL network groups**

RK introduced the three newly formed Network Groups, which are designed to work for around 3 years to examine continuing and important themes: Artificial Intelligence, Books and Audiences, and Copyright (- a theme examined in the past and which continues to be important).

RK invited the chairs from the networks to present about their groups – Books and Audiences, then AI in Libraries, then Copyright.

**Books and Audiences Network Group**
Group Chair, Inga Surgunte (IS), gave a presentation about the aims and objectives of the Books and Audiences Group, one of three new network groups established at the beginning of 2020. Treasurer and Secretary of the group, Vanessa Braekeveld (VB), co presented.

IS talked about the origins of the network group, which started its activities thanks to the CENL Erland Kolding Nielsen grant, used in May 2018 for an international seminar (Book Exhibitions and Their Audiences) held at the National Library of Latvia. It brought together representatives of national libraries and also book museums, from 13 countries. IS explained that the primary reason for coming together as a group is to overcome the physical distance between exhibitions dedicated to books or other kinds of text, handwritten or printed - such exhibitions are usually scattered across different

countries presenting challenges for the professionals involved in this sector to exchange experience and share newest findings.

IS relayed the main questions that arose and were addressed in Riga in 2018:

(1) What are the common challenges and achievements? IS explained that the main challenge that we all agreed on was that the book in itself is a very challenging exhibition object because it is not primarily meant to be looked at locked in a showcase. Therefore a lot of creativity and expertise is needed to make it attractive and interesting for visitors, so that in bigger exhibitions, they don't feel that they're looking at the same object over and over again.

(2) Another question was what are the best examples setting the bar for quality? During the seminar, the group looked at eight case studies from eight different countries and asked if they are keeping pace with the latest trends in exhibition design and in museum-related thinking? This sector is professionally very much related to the museums world.

(3) Finally, we talked about audiences and how well we know them, and how close we are to our audiences with what we do.

At the end of this seminar in Riga, all of the participants agreed that such seminars should be held on a regular basis. A working party was organised to work on the next steps. In 2019, an application to become a new CENL network group was prepared and on receipt of the grant they were able to start planning a programme of activities for the next three years.

Vanessa Braekveld continued the presentation, explaining that in January of this year they began work. Their members come from six national libraries: the British Library, the Royal Library of Netherlands, the Estonian National Library, the Royal Library of Belgium, the National Library of Latvia and the German National Library. In addition, they have other members: two researchers from the University of Leicester and one from the University of Manchester (both in the UK), as well as Marsh's Library (Ireland) and Lodret Vandret (an independent book publishing and exhibitions platform based between Copenhagen and Berlin).

These members reflect the group's mission: they want to bring together a community of book exhibition practice, with librarians, archivists, researchers, designers, book artists, educators, heritage professionals -- a broad spectrum of people who are engaged with book exhibitions. The group also wishes to share and exchange experiences, learn from each other and create exhibitions that are attractive to their audiences.

IS continued the presentation, explaining that in order to fulfil its mission, the network has two basic directions for its work:

(1) Organising annual seminars reflecting on topical challenges and findings in the sector, and learning from case studies of the best book exhibitions of the past year. Unfortunately this year, faced with the new challenges brought on by the pandemic, the network has had to learn new skills and meet online. Two webinars are scheduled for October, one of which will be dedicated to the COVID-19 experiences at book exhibitions.

(2) Developing a concept for the network's online activities. IS expressed her gratitude for having been given a space on the CENL website and explained that the group is planning to publish video recordings of the upcoming webinars and to share research materials that could support book exhibition creators.

The group hopes to look at the latest research exploring the book as a museological object, further explore the needs of audiences, and discover and develop innovative methodologies for curating exhibitions.

IS stressed that they want the online content generated by the network group to be accessible to wider audiences (e.g. those who are not yet CENL members), and have an agreement that interested parties may contact the network and be given access to the members' space online.

VB then talked about the two upcoming webinars – this Thursday and next Thursday, (both fully booked already). In the first, (100 participants) they will discuss 'what to tell and how to tell it' using four recent case studies. The aim is to look at interesting case studies that are challenging either because of how the exhibitions were made, or because of the topic. A curator for the British Library's 'History of magic', the Harry Potter exhibition, will deliver the keynote; the National Library of Scotland will talk about their exhibition, 'Her Story', on female experiences; there will be a talk by the Netherlands KB about their upcoming 'Underexposed slavery colonialism and resistance' exhibition and one about the 'Invisible Libraries' exhibition at the National Library of Latvia.

VB went on to talk about the second webinar which will be more practical, with only 40 participants. They will discuss the findings of the survey launched in June 2020, then show two case studies on COVID-19. Of particular interest is how book exhibitions are reacting during the COVID period, and if and how they are changing their exhibitions. Case studies will be about the British Library and the Royal Danish Library (Copenhagen). They will then split the participants into breakout rooms for facilitated discussions, then return to the main room for their final talk.

IS reminded the audience that recordings of the webinars will be published online soon after broadcast, and made accessible for those unable to attend live. The group will use feedback to gather suggestions, and discover how participants would like to join or contribute to the activities of the network group. An online follow-up meeting with the network members will also take place. The group will continue working on the website content, publish the research bibliography along with other multimedia content currently being developed. Finally, by the end of this year, the group plans to release a programme for a seminar that should (finally) take place in Brussels when they visit the new museum of the KBR.

VB, from the KBR, talked briefly about their wonderful museum – newly opened, and invited people to visit and discover this case-study - an exhibition on books and manuscripts.

RK then handed over to the Chair of the AI in Libraries network group, Jean-Philippe Moreux, for his update.

**AI In Libraries Network Group**
Jean-Philippe Moreux (JM), scientific advisor for Gallica at the BnF and chair of the AI in Libraries Network Group, gave a presentation about the network's aims and objectives.

JM began by sketching the landscape of AI in libraries. He said that it is clear that libraries have expertise on data, and data is central to AI; libraries have experimented a lot and have some great achievements, but that even large institutions can't experiment in all areas of AI. Also, barriers exist, for example in access to technical skills, and transition from legacy systems to AI-driven processes. They deduce that there is a strong need for collaboration and sharing.

JM reminded the audience of the objectives of this group: to leverage the use of AI through better understanding and use; to promote sharing, collaboration and standardisation on AI between institutions; and to identify areas of AI with particular significance for libraries.

The group started with 7 institutions (the BnF, the BL, and the national libraries of Norway, Austria, Estonia, Sweden and the Czech Republic), and now has grown to eight after welcoming the National Library of Luxembourg.

JM went on to talk about what the group has achieved so far. They have published an 'AI Cookbook for Libraries', based on real use cases, designed in a way that allows a deep understanding of the core technologies and the test and reproducibility of the technical implementation (2020-2021). They plan to launch an AI survey (January 2021), to be sent to the CENL Network, about AI projects, initiatives, and roadmaps that are already active; it is hoped that this survey will also contribute to enlarging the membership of the Network Group with new member libraries. They have begun work on a 'Strategy and Roadmaps' report, to help practitioners and managers to think about and build their own AI strategy (due to be published in 2021). And they have held e-meetings at 6 week intervals for sharing information and planning. The group has a strong coordination with another international initiative, the AI4LAM.

JM then talked about their communications. The network has set up a Github Organisation – this came online in May 2020. It will disseminate the group's resources, such as the AI Cookbook, the Strategy and Roadmaps report, and the CENL Survey results.

They are also planning workshops, panels, and hands-on events in the coming months. These, it is hoped, will leverage the Cookbook and the Strategy resources. They are planning to attend some international events (already been listed as opportunities) such as Fantastic Futures 2021, which will take place in Paris in December 2021 and the NewsEye European project final conference, in March 2021.

By way of conclusion, JM showed some screen shots from their AI Cookbook, and thanked CENL for supporting the network group.

**Copyright Network Group**

As Chair of the group, Maja Bogataj Jančič (MBJ) gave a presentation for the Copyright Network Group, established at the beginning of 2020.

MBJ explained that while their group is already quite large, with 19 members of the group from different national libraries, one of their aims is to enlarge their membership even further in the future. MJB showed a slide listing the current members (from the national libraries of Serbia, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Finland, Germany, Slovakia, Romania, Estonia, Sweden, Austria, Denmark, Norway and Bulgaria).

MBJ pointed out that the members are themselves legal experts from national libraries and the group's mandate is to provide professional support among peers, namely the facilitation of knowledge and information exchange, network-building and professional support in relation to legal matters of relevance to national libraries. She also noted that the members are unique as there are not many copyright experts who deal with problems specifically in national libraries – such as legal deposit.

MBJ explained that the network group monitors changes in the law, e.g. legislation and case law, foremost copyright, data protection, privacy and legal deposit law but also other areas of the law relevant for national libraries. The group also cooperates on establishing best practices to (1) support and strengthen the national libraries and to increase their impact in these matters and in general; (2) develop national services, and enable development of new and innovative services for their users; and (3) develop as memory institutions and enhance access to collections and knowledge that they treasure. The group actively publishes on the web the information that they gather, as well as in the future, outputs of seminars and conferences.

MBJ said that they were happy to continue to undertake the work of the previous CENL Copyright group, this network group only being re-established in February 2020. Their aim to meet twice per year in person was severely hindered by the Covid-19 situation, so they have completely abandoned this and all funds have been reallocated to 2021.

In spring, before Covid-19 set in, they were able to agree on the new standardised form for the country reports and started to collect them; the group agreed on the structure of the webpage; and collected initial information about the Covid-19 measures.

Activities in autumn 2020 - so far, the group met online in October where they discussed the Digital Single Market (DSM) implementation, Covid-19 measures, and agenda ideas for the meeting in November.

MBJ then outlined the network group's plans for the rest of 2020. At the November meeting, they plan to discuss the presentation of national reports with a focus on the implementation of the Digital Single Market Directive. They will also discuss whether to draft the common statement on the implementation of the Orphan work directive. MBJ will give a short report about the CENL AGM to the group, and they will have a discussion about the content of the website (hosted on CENL) – what will be openly accessible (e.g. links to legislation) and what will be in the closed (members only) part of the website (e.g. national reports). The group will discuss Covid-19 activities with associated measures and needs of national libraries but only in relation to copyright and privacy. Finally, they will plan for meetings in 2021 (online, in spring), and dedicate some time to working out how to attract and invite new members to join. MBJ invited everyone at the meeting to check if their library already had a member in this network group and invited them to join and share their knowledge and expertise.

RK thanked Maja, and all the network chairs, for their presentations and encouraged everyone to join.


**18. Presentation by CENL AGM 2021 and 2022 host**

RK explained that as we had to cancel the physical AGM in Brussels this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the CENL Executive Committee and all host libraries agreed to postpone the order of hosting by one year, resulting in Belgium hosting in 2021, Turkey in 2022 and the library securing the vote for 2022 would move to 2023.

Sara Lammens, Director General of the National Library of Belgium, renewed her invitation to CENL members to join her in Brussels for the 2021 AGM, which is planned to be held physically at the national library buildings in October 2021. She presented some highlights of the programme they are planning for the AGM 2021, including a visit to the newly renovated Africa Museum, and the new KBR museum.

Ali Odabaş, the new Director General of the National Library of Turkey, thanked CENL members for the opportunity to host the following Annual General Meeting in Ankara in spring/summer 2022. Ebru Tokay Ünsal, Public Relation Officer, provided an overview of services and activities offered by the National Library, both physical and digital, and said that they will be honoured to see the CENL delegates in Ankara in 2022.

## 19. Announcement of the 2023 host

RK announced The Bibliotheque nationale de France as the host of the 2023 CENL AGM, following the result of the membership's online vote. RK read a message from Laurence Engel who said that, despite the postponement by one year, she was delighted to be able to welcome CENL members in 2023 when the restored Richelieu site will be open again.

RK announced four grantees of the Covid-19 Fund – National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina, National Library of Croatia, National Library of Latvia, and the National Library of the Republic of Moldova – and the National Library of Croatia as the grantee of the Hidden Stories Fund.

## 20. AOB

RK reminded CENL members that The British Library is coming to the end of its second 3-year term as CENL Chair and Secretariat. A call will be going out early next year for nominations for the Executive Committee as well as to take over the CENL Secretariat.

RK thanked the Secretariat, thanked the speakers, and thanked everyone for attending.

RK closed the meeting.