IATUL Strategic Directions Action Plan 2024-2028

The IATUL Strategic Directions have been developed in consultation with the IATUL member community at conferences and seminars during 2022-2023.

The Action Plan was developed with ideas and feedback from the IATUL Board and Special Interest Groups during 2024. This action plan is subject to change as new requirements and opportunities arise.

Please send comments or additional items to iatul@cpo-hanser.de.

In addition to the IATUL Board and IATUL Office, there are five IATUL Special Interest Groups (SIGs) referenced in the Action Plan:

- SIG for Library Services related to Research Data Management (SIG DATA)
- SIG Information Literacy (SIG IL)
- SIG for Library Services related to Metrics and Research Impact (SIG MaRI)
- SIG for Library Space (SIG Space)
- SIG Leadership (SIG Leadership)

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

1 SHARING PRACTICE	2 STRENGTHEN OUR NETWORK	3 EMPOWER OUR MEMBERS
IATUL continues to build a vibrant international community of practice for university, research, and academic librarians by providing international opportunities for professionals at all stages of their careers to connect and share. Active participation in a variety of forums and initiatives by our members enables exploration of current practices and trends.	As a leading global University library association, IATUL fosters professional ties that are respectful and mutually beneficial at all levels. IATUL provides a wide network of expertise for members to create connections towards shared goals. We are a global network that attracts new members representing a diversity of experience.	Through development and learning opportunities, IATUL supports its members and colleagues to be well-prepared to deliver high quality services that meet university research and education needs. We support inclusivity and diversity of the profession with opportunities for a broad audience to engage with the library and information science community.

Strategic Direction 1: SHARING PRACTICE

IATUL continues to build a vibrant international community of practice for university, research, and academic librarians by providing international opportunities for professionals at all stages of their careers to connect and share. Active participation in a variety of forums and initiatives by our members enables exploration of current practices and trends.

Goals	Actions (projects)	Responsible lead	Timeframe	Expected results
1.1 Librarians learn from techniques or practices at other libraries through a two-week to one-month work exchange program.	IATUL International Research and Study Programme. Annual call for proposals, up to €4,000 to staff from member libraries to investigate and provide outcomes on current issues of importance to IATUL members.	IATUL Board	Annual call for proposals Applications for the following year are accepted from 1 June until 30 September.	2024 Grant Awarded: The proposal is to establish a podcast and to complement a SIG-IL *Liberating Information Literacy* project exploring themes of creativity, connection, participation, and inclusion as part of the broad movement to liberate and decolonise academic libraries.
1.2 Launch pre/post-conference workshops to offer hands-on practical training programs and embed practical sessions and a variety of perspectives within the conference programs.	Collaborate with SIGs and/or other organisations to provide relevant, timely workshops	IATUL Board in collaboration with SIG-Leadership	To coincide with annual conference	Workshop following the IATUL 2024 meeting in Auckland led by CLIR Leading Change Institute deans Elliott Shore and Fenella France focussed on library leadership skills development.
1.3 Offer in-person events that provide the opportunities to focus without competing commitments, to get to know each other and make connections	The IATUL annual conference is the flagship event with around 200 delegates each year. The IATUL Seminar is held between annual conferences, often with a regional or thematic focus. Director summits and leadership academies may also be organised as a need is identified.	IATUL Board in collaboration with local organising committee	Two-year lead time	Events held annual in a variety of locations to enable members to join. 2024 conference = Auckland, New Zealand 2025 conference = Shanghai, China 2026 conference = (unconfirmed)
1.4 Develop a mentoring scheme to match colleagues globally to learn from each other.	Establish a mentoring programme for new SIG Chairs	IATUL Board	Initiate at 2024 annual conference	On-boarding new SIG Chairs, buddy with experienced Chairs, creating relationships and consistency across SIGS.
1.5 Establish an online mentoring program to foster the development of current and emerging library leaders through sharing of expertise and best practice.	Establish a mentoring program for current and emerging library leaders	SIG-Leadership	Initiate at 2024 annual conference	Matching IATUL Library members with experienced IATUL Library managers/ leaders.

Strategic Direction 2: STRENGTHEN OUR NETWORK

As a leading global University library association, IATUL fosters professional ties that are respectful and mutually beneficial at all levels. IATUL provides a wide network of expertise for members to create connections towards shared goals. We are a global network that attracts new members representing a diversity of experience.

Goals	Actions (projects)	Responsible lead	Timeframe	Expected results
2.1 Identify and foster strategic partnerships and collaborations with global and regional professional bodies (Scoping principles for what IATUL expects or needs for partnerships?)	Develop principles to outline IATUL partnership opportunities and expectations.	IATUL Board	June 2025	Clear principles for partnership to be developed. 2024 partnerships announced: Joint IATUL support for EATEL Summer School and joint IATUL support for CNKI WAL Forum
2.2 Develop and manage the marketing and communication strategy of IATUL, including communication and media channels to be used, types and levels of activities, measures of success and budget	Implement tools to help facilitate or support communications within IATUL, including within and across SIGs and externally.	IATUL Office to investigate	Dec 2024	Introduce a globally accessible communication channel such as MS teams. Investigate archive capacity of Hi-Drive. Consider use of LinkedIn for SIGs. SIG Data to advise on platform structure and facilitation.
2.3 Promote the IATUL website as a portal for academic library best practice, benchmark and measures for success, career enhancement, and continuing professional development.	Create a visible resources page on IATUL website for easy access to resources e.g. Research Impact Things	IATUL Office	June 2025	IATUL-created resources are visible and accessible to members and non-members. Raising awareness and interest in the work of IATUL
2.4 Expand the number of Interest Groups based on current practice and emerging trends for greater participation and relevance	Receive applications for new and revised SIGs, using the IATUL SIG Guidelines as a procedural framework.	IATUL Board	Review as needed	Suggested SIGs include: • SIG AI/emerging IT trends • SIG for Research Culture as well as maintaining the current SIG-MaRI. • SIG-Leadership group
2.5 Explore opportunities to establish regional networking groups or events within IATUL	IATUL seminars and IATUL Director's Summit	IATUL Board regional representatives	Ongoing	Applications are open for IATUL event hosts.

Strategic Direction 3: EMPOWER OUR MEMBERS

Through development and learning opportunities, IATUL supports its members and colleagues to be well-prepared to deliver high quality services that meet university research and education needs. We support inclusivity and diversity of the profession with opportunities for a broad audience to engage with the library and information science community.

Goals	Actions (projects)	Responsible lead	Timeframe	Expected outcome
3.1 Support inclusivity and diversity of the profession with opportunities for a broad audience to engage with the library and information science community	Sharing good practice on liberating (diversifying) information literacy	SIG-IL	November 2024	Open Education Resource sharing theory and practice of innovations in information literacy
3.2 Use the expertise from Special Interest Groups to exchange the latest ideas, build well-connected networks and help solve problems	Establish an IATUL Community of Practice for Information Literacy	SIG-IL		The sub-group of the SIG-IL will enable us to be more inclusive of early career professionals and those who wish to build their expertise in information literacy.
	Establish a regular schedule of meetings of the SIG Chairs (1-2 online meetings per year)	IATUL Board & IATUL Office	September 2024	To update other SIGs on activities and projects and share good practice (such as podcasting tips) from recent work.
	Run an annual mid-year forum for SIG exchange of ideas (or at annual conference?)	SIG-MARI	Mid 2025	Knowledge exchange, connections, relationship building, hive mind
	Develop a suite of presentations featuring different perspectives on the theme of library identity in the current time	SIG-Space	June 2025	Online presentations with different perspectives on the theme of library identity in the current time. These presentations will precede the conference and be recorded for sharing on the IATUL Library Space webpage.
3.3 Enable development opportunities to present practical and future-oriented training content that improves knowledge, strengthens qualifications, and improves career paths.	Partner with professional development providers to provide training opportunities	IATUL Board	December 2025	Value to IATUL members, return on membership investment