

## DIVISION B / WORKING GROUP FOR INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS

### COCHAIRS BOARD

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### Triennial Report 2015-2018

#### 1. Description

The IAU Commission B Working Group for information professionals exists to foster communication and understanding between research astronomers and the librarians and other information professionals who support them. Librarians have long been an essential resource to astronomers, helping to track down hard-to-find resources, maintaining access to bibliographic databases, and managing the complex finances associated with journal and book collections. The roles of the library and librarian are changing as information becomes increasingly digital in format and increasingly available on the Internet, but the librarian is no less essential than before. We aim to foster a strong partnership between astronomers and librarians so that together common goals can be attained.

#### 2. Work this period

The working group had a successful meeting at the General Assembly in Hawaii in 2015. We held a 2 1/2 day Focus Group meeting with talks focusing on astronomy, education and other topics of interest to librarians, scientists and publishers. Discussions were held about the future of the library profession. Presentations were given by various professionals from around the world. During the closing session of the meeting it was suggested that the working group develop a white paper describing the future of the astronomy information professional. Several members of the committee and meeting attendees agreed to work on this.

The Library and Information Services in Astronomy (LISA) VII meeting was held in Strasbourg, France in June 2017. This three day meeting focused on topics of interest to this IAU Working Group. Several members of the working group attended and gave presentations. Thompson gave a presentation on the demographics of the astronomy library community. Attendees of the LISA meeting were asked to participate in the development of the white paper on astronomy information professionals.

A focus group meeting entitled "Engaging and renewing partnerships in scholarly publication" was proposed for the upcoming General Assembly but was not selected.

### 3. Future work

We plan to have a meeting later in 2018 to discuss the development of the white paper. Working group members who are attending the General Assembly this year will meet in person while other members will continue to meet online. We plan to submit a proposal for a focus group meeting for the 2021 IAU General Assembly.

Donna Thompson and Jill Lagerstrom  
*Cochairs of Working Group*