

CENL NETWORK GROUP APPLICATION FORM

1. Applicant Personal Details

Title: Mrs

Forename: Vanessa

Surname (family name): Braekeveld

2. Applicant Current work

Job Title: Exhibitions Coordinator

Department / Library: KBR

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Country: Belgium

3. Applicant Contact Information

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Work address: Keizerslaan 4 – 1000 Brussels, Belgium

4. Network Group Topic

4.1) Please describe your proposed group topic in less than 300 words.

Books and Audiences Network Group

As national libraries and other institutions dealing with books as objects for exhibitions we find it important to have a platform to exchange ideas and experiences of presenting our collections in ways that are appropriate to our audiences as well as the collections. Exhibition as a medium is very potent and presents a vast field of opportunities for audience engagement and learning situations.

Exhibitions where hand-written and printed materials are the dominant object are not amongst the most popular exhibition genre – they often lack frequency, criteria for quality and contemporary contexts, that would lead to a healthy competition. Institutions and professionals working with book exhibitions are far apart from one another, thus hindering the exchange of ideas as well as mistakes and successes. Over the first three years this network has created a platform that overcomes this distance and brings together both practitioners and researchers working in the field.

During the first three years of the network group it has provided a platform for exchange of experiences and best practices focusing on open, inclusive, accessible, visitor-oriented cultural programmes and book exhibitions for diverse audiences from children to grandparents, people in wheelchairs, experts and culture-lovers alike. We care about what is stated in the CENL mission: to increase the visibility of heritage collections and open them up to new generations of users through exciting services. In order to achieve these goals, the book exhibitions need to have access to the latest findings from the most diverse sectors, so we need to network not only

amongst ourselves, but also with neighbouring sectors. This network group can, by organizing webinars for example, open up the reflexion, discussion and inspiration for having books and text documents displayed in exhibitions or museums for the best interest of various visitors.

4.2) Please describe the main aims of this group. Describe how this topic will align with the priorities and objectives under the CENL Strategy 2018-2023, and what its impact will be.

Main aims of the Books and Audiences Network Group

- Building a network of experts in the domain 'book exhibitions and their audiences'
- Sharing knowledge, experiences and creating the opportunity to learn
- Exchange the expertise and best practices with colleagues by organizing seminars and creating a shared online platform for exchanging news, ideas and experiences

The *Books and Audiences Network Group* aligns with several priorities and objectives under the 18-23 strategy of CENL. First of all, this network group is a place where *skill development and knowledge exchange* between CENL members can take place. Furthermore, we want to *share this knowledge* not only with CENL members, but also with colleagues from neighbouring sectors (museums, design etc.). In its first three years the network has provided the opportunity to explore *innovative use and design* of exhibition spaces and ways to showcase our precious documents in order to *engage with the audience*, while emphasising libraries as safe spaces during and after the C-19 pandemic. The network wishes to continue to *explore the evolving needs of the wide range of audiences* and how our exhibitions and the way we use our collections can contribute to their needs through annual webinars, short video series, regular discussions and in-person meetings.

Through these activities we want to remind ourselves, that exhibitions are a powerful tool for reaching our audiences. The national libraries, as well as independent book museums and researchers have accumulated remarkable experience and knowledge of visitor-oriented work strategies, that can be shared and amplified through mutual exchange. Through collaboration between CENL members, through *cross sector collaboration* with European cultural organisations we can *share best practices* and *improve* user services of national libraries in the fastest and most effective way.

5. Membership

5.1) Please list CENL member libraries which have expressed an interest in joining this group:

National Library of Latvia
KBR – Royal Library of Belgium
British Library
KB – Royal Library of the Netherlands
German National Library, German Museum of Books and Writing

University of Leicester
University of Manchester
Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge
The independent publisher *Lodret Vandret*
Eduard Veidenbaum Memorial Museum *Kalāči*

5.2) Please confirm names and affiliation for the following roles:

A Group Chair: Vanessa Braekeveld, KBR

B Group Treasurer: Ineta Vaivode, National Library of Latvia

C Group Secretary: Ineta Vaivode, National Library of Latvia

5.3) Please describe in less than 300 words interest and expertise of CENL libraries which have expressed an interest in joining this group.

In 2018, with support of the CENL E.K.Nielsen grant, an international seminar *Book Exhibitions and Their Audiences* was held at the National Library of Latvia, bringing together representatives from national libraries and book museums, as well as designers, educators and researchers from 13 countries. Participants of this seminar found this a fruitful ground for professional exchange on common challenges and best practices. In continuity the 'Books and audiences Network group' started work in 2020, with aim to develop potential of mutual learning.

The initiative is run by **KBR, Belgium** and **National Library of Latvia**. Three more CENL members have joined the network.

For decades, **the British Library**, with its permanent exhibition *Treasures of the British Library* and with temporary exhibitions, has been serving as a role model for the book exhibitions community. They create their exhibitions with a clear understanding of the chosen target audiences and align them with educational and cultural programs for a wide range of visitors.

The Royal Library of the Netherlands has its Highlights Exhibition. Four times a year, the subject specialists select different highlights to create a unique exhibition offering a broad picture of Dutch history and culture.

The German Museum of Books and Writing offers a varied exhibition program that links book and media history with current social issues—not only on the premises in Leipzig but also online and in the form of touring exhibitions.

5.4) Please describe in less than 300 words the interest and expertise of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

The Royal Library of Belgium is now known as KBR, an inspiring place where visitors have access to a wealth of outstanding knowledge. For centuries, we have been treasuring time by preserving traces of the past. Today, we ensure that the visitors' time is treasured. KBR offers a global experience, with sources for scientific and historical research, a rich range of cultural activities, inspiring spaces for study and reflection, and services for professional gatherings and events. KBR is evolving. We are opening up our collection in different ways, making it accessible for a broader audience. We do this by focussing on digitising our collection, organising temporary exhibitions and our KBR Museum on the library of the Dukes of Burgundy where our beautiful manuscript collection from the 15th century is finally shown to the public.

For the **National Library of Latvia**, opening up its collections by means of exhibitions is an important tool for communicating with its visitors and mediating historic artefacts in contemporary contexts. NLL exhibitions have been consistently successful in obtaining Latvian culture, design and architecture awards, often judged by international jurors. Not only the quality of design, but also the contemporary approach of NLL curators and educators work has been appreciated by experts.

Since the opening of NLL permanent exhibition *Book in Latvia* in 2016 various educational programmes, social projects and creative workshops have taken place using the permanent exhibition as a platform. Currently NLL exhibition staff is contemplating a new permanent exhibition exploring relationships between books and audiences even further.

NLL strives to learn from the best practices in the field of book exhibitions and to give its contribution to the development of the sector in diverse perspectives.

5.4) Please describe the group's early thoughts on a proposed way of working.

The network will continue with organizing annual webinars as the main task – regular and active working meetings for book exhibition professionals from various sectors (libraries, museums, independent researchers, designers, educators etc.). Aimed to foster change and development, each webinar will have a prudent topic, that covers a range of field-specific problems.

Webinars are scheduled in an efficient one-day schedule:

- 5-6 presentations or case studies that explore the webinar topic from various angles and showcase best practice examples regarding visitor-centred book exhibitions.
- A panel discussion on questions and themes that surface during the presentations.

The previous three years have indicated that online webinars are an accessible way of communicating and bringing people together, drawing more than 100 professionals for each webinar. Nevertheless on-site seminars are also an option to explore in the next three year term. Video recording from all webinar sessions are available on networks [Youtube](#) channel as well as on the soon to be published online platform along with research materials, where it serves as an archive available for Group members as well as other professionals who could potentially express interest in the activities of the Group.

Additionally, short series 'Talking heads' will be continued, showcasing Group members reflections on book exhibition making related topics. In the short, informative yet informal framework members share their thoughts on three topical questions each, allowing for a broad perspective on the overarching topic.

The core group members will also organise in-person meetings, allowing for more personal exchange and in-depth discussions on network related topics and significant projects in the field.

Signature:

Date:

Please email this form to the CENL Secretariat at cenl@dnb.de

CENL NETWORK GROUP OFFICERS' APPLICATION FORM

1. Applicant Personal Details

Title: Mrs
Forename: Vanessa
Surname (family name): Braekeveld

2. Applicant Current work

Job Title: Exhibitions Coordinator
Department / Library: KBR
Address: Keizerslaan 4 – 1000 Brussels
Country: Belgium

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Work address: Keizerslaan 4 – 1000 Brussels

4. Network Group Name

4.1) Please indicate the Network Group for which you want to take over an official role:

Books and Audiences Network Group (BANG!)

4.2) Please indicate which role you are willing to take over:

Group Chair

4.3) Please describe in less than 300 words your interest and expertise for the role chosen.

I had the opportunity to be one of the founders of BANG in 2020 together with Inga Surgunte. After an inspiring conference in the Latvian National Library about book exhibitions, we found that the need was there for a network group where people could share their experiences and struggles and get the chance to learn from each other and other extern experts.

In the following three years I took up the role as treasurer and worked together closely with Inga as the Group Chair. We developed the mission and vision for BANG, got in touch with inspiring colleagues and experts and managed to organise several webinars on topical issues. In the meantime, I became exhibition coordinator in KBR, Royal Library of Belgium, and I broadened my expertise in the exhibition field and museum sector. Not only in Belgium but also abroad.

With this experience, knowing the BANG network group with its mission and vision and my knowledge and network, I would like to take the role as Group Chair and giving BANG three more years of experience sharing, interesting discussions and bringing people together.

Signature:

Date:

Please email this form to the CENL Secretariat at cenl@dnb.de.

CENL NETWORK GROUP OFFICERS' APPLICATION FORM

1. Applicant Personal Details a

Title: Ms
Forename: Ineta
Surname (family name): Vaivode

2. Applicant Current work

Job Title: Exhibition projects manager
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3. Applicant Contact Information

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4. Network Group Name

4.1) Please indicate the Network Group for which you want to take over an official role:

Books and Audiences Network Group (BANG!)

4.2) Please indicate which role you are willing to take over:

Group Treasurer
Group Secretary

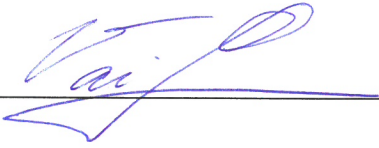
4.3) Please describe in less than 300 words your interest and expertise for the role chosen.

Ineta has studied Intercultural Communication at the Latvian Academy of Culture, for which she holds a Bachelor's Degree of Arts. Later on she continued at the University of Latvia, where completed a Professional Development program of Practical Project management. Currently Ineta is working on her master thesis, being part of the Cultural Heritage Governance and Communication program at the Latvian Academy of Culture, where she is also a guest lecturer. Before joining NLL, Ineta had been working in the field of intercultural learning, running global competence and intercultural awareness programs, mediating communication and education in multicultural environment. Her main academic interests are: heritage interpretation and emotional, intellectual accessibility of exhibitions.

Ineta has joined the NLL Research and Interpretation Centre at a crucial time – a new permanent exhibition is in early concept development stage. Ineta strives to share and learn from the best practices related to book exhibitions and 'Books and Audiences

Network group' provides a rare opportunity to bring together best practitioners and researchers in the field.

Signature:



Date:

30.11.2022.

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