

Minutes of the General Assembly of Bibliotheca Baltica 2024

Venue: Main Building of the National Library of Poland, aleja Niepodległości 231,
Warsaw, Poland

Date: 17th October 2024, 16.30 to 17.30 hrs

Attendees (X = members accorded the right to vote on behalf of their libraries):

- 1) Annika Bostelmann (X),
- 2) Christian Winterhalter (X),
- 3) Christophe Didier (X),
- 4) Dominika Czyżak (X),
- 5) Ingrida Veliutė (X),
- 6) Jolanta Budriūnienė,
- 7) Julia Konopka-Żołnierczuk (X),
- 8) Jürgen Warmbrunn (X),
- 9) Jussi-Pekka Hakkarainen (X),
- 10) Karin Grönvall (X),
- 11) Liisa Savolainen,
- 12) Maarit Koivisto,
- 13) Maria Berggren (X),
- 14) Mechthild Burkhard (X),
- 15) Olaf Hamann (X),
- 16) Robert Zepf (X)
- 17) Toni Palin,
- 18) Ulriikka Puura (X),
- 19) Viktorija Piščikova.

1. Opening and Welcome

BB President Liisa Savolainen welcomes all attendees of the General Assembly and thanks the National Library of Poland for its hospitality. Each participant shortly introduces her- or himself.

2. Establishment of the number of delegates authorized to vote on behalf of their libraries (and number of guests)

It is pointed out that each member library has only one vote. If several persons from one library attend the General Assembly they must agree among themselves who has the voting right for their library. Altogether 14 member libraries are represented.

3. Acceptance of the Agenda

The agenda was published according to the statutes and in good time on the BB website. It is accepted unanimously.

4. Confirmation of the Minutes of the last General Assembly on 15th September 2022 in Lübeck City Library

The minutes are confirmed unanimously.

5. Report by the President and Board members on Bibliotheca Baltica's activities

BB President Liisa Savolainen states that Bibliotheca Baltica's 15th symposium – also celebrating its 30th anniversary at its “birth place” – took place at Lübeck City Library in Germany from 15th to 16th September 2022. The symposium's topic was “Libraries and Democratic Societies in the Digital Age”, there were altogether 19 participants and 3 key note speakers.

During 2023 and 2024 the Board had seven meetings, two in person (in Riga) and five virtual meetings. The meetings concentrated on BB's finances, membership issues and the planning of the 2024 symposium in Warsaw.

During the General Assembly on 15th of September 2022 Liisa Savolainen was elected as President (term: 2022-2026) and Jussi-Pekka Hakkarainen as Treasurer (term 2022-2026). Jürgen Warmbrunn's term as Secretary has lasted from 2020 to 2024. At the General Assembly 2024 there will be five vacancies on the Board since the term of four Board members will still last until 2026.

Bibliotheca Baltica has 36 member libraries. The Board is constantly looking for new library members and invites all its members to help in these efforts. At the present General Assembly two new member libraries can be welcomed: the Finnish Literature Society in Helsinki and the Landesbibliothek Eutin (Germany).

6. Report by the Treasurer on the financial situation of Bibliotheca Baltica

BB Treasurer Jussi-Pekka Hakkarainen states that the financial reports for the years 2022 and 2023 have been published on the BB website in good time. At the end of the financial year 2023 BB had a positive balance amounting to 9465,32 Euro.

7. Report by the Auditors

The reports by the auditors Viktorija Piščikova (National Library of Latvia) and Kristina Pai (Tartu Public Library) have been published on the BB website in good time. Both confirm the balance of 9465,32 Euro at the end of the financial year 2023 and state that the Treasurer's statements provide a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of Bibliotheca Baltica.

8. Vote by the General Assembly on discharging all Board members from all financial liabilities for the years 2022 and 2023

Based on the auditors' positive reports the General Assembly votes unanimously to discharge all Board members from all financial liabilities for the years 2022 and 2023.

9. Elections (Secretary, Board members, Auditors)

The terms of Christophe Didier (Bibliothèque nationale et universitaire de Strasbourg) and Jürgen Warmbrunn (Herder Institute Research Library) as Board members will expire with the General Assembly 2024. Both are willing to stand for re-election.

There are three more open positions on the BB Board for which there are three candidates:

- Dagnija Baltiņa (National Library of Latvia)
- Jolanta Budriūnienė (Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania)
- Julia Konopka-Żołnierczuk (National Library of Poland)

In an open vote all candidates are elected unanimously and all accept their election.

Jürgen Warmbrunn is willing to stand as candidate for Secretary. In an open vote he is elected unanimously and accepts his election.

Viktorija Piščikova (National Library of Latvia) and Maria Berggren (University Library Uppsala) are willing to stand for election or re-election as auditors for the financial years 2024 and 2025. In an open vote both are elected unanimously and accept their election.

10. Bibliotheca Baltica Symposium 2026

The place and date for the next symposium have not yet been fixed. At the last Board meeting both Visby and Helsinki have been discussed as possible venues. In the case of Visby the difficulties of travelling there outside the summer season must be considered, however. As far as Helsinki is concerned Jussi-Pekka Hakkarainen explains that the Finnish Literature Society and the National Library of Finland could act as joint hosts. The Finnish Literature Society has already expressed its willingness to act as venue for a possible symposium. In Jussi-Pekka Hakkarainen's view the high costs of travelling and staying in Helsinki would make it necessary to decide on a suitable and favourable time for the symposium at an early date.

Karin Grönvall and Maria Berggren also suggest Sweden as another possible venue for the next symposium with either Stockholm (National Library of Sweden) or Uppsala (University Library) as possible venues.

It is agreed that the BB Board will decide on the time and place for the next BB symposium at its next meeting.

11. Further activities of the Bibliotheca Baltica Working Group

There is general consensus that it would be good to have BB activities also in the years when no symposia take place. Therefore the Board has discussed organizing virtual meetings or webinars in the years between symposia. A possible topic for such an event that was discussed at the last Board meeting is open source library systems (with three webinars for different audiences).

During the following discussion web archiving and copyright issues are identified as further possible topics. The Board will take this into consideration.

12. Any other business

None.

In Warsaw, on the 18th of October 2024

Liisa Savolainen
BB President

Jürgen Warmbrunn
BB Secretary
(for the Minutes)

Maarit Koivisto
Inspector of the minutes

Toni Palin
Inspector of the minutes

Attachments:

- [BB Financial reports for the years 2022 and 2023](#)
- BB Auditors' reports for the years 2022 and 2023 by [Kristina Pai](#) and [Viktorija Piščikova](#)