Notes from the Research4Life General Partners Meeting 2019
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

18 July 2019

Alejandro Roca Campana (WIPO), Alex Riechel (WIPO), Alma Mila Prosperoso (WHO), Anahita New (Wolters Kluwer), Andrea Powell (STM) Angela Hoyte (WHO), Angeline Djampou (UNEP), Athanansius Lubogo Mutaawe (WHO), Brahim Jrah (CABI), Caroline Kerbyson (CUP), Chandani Thapa (WHO), Chandra Bhusban Yadav (Nepal Health Research Council), Christine Fresnel (WHO), Daniel Dollar (Yale University), Deepti Munjal (WHO), Domiziana Francescon (Elsevier), Edda Tandi Lwoga (College of Business Education), Edit Horvàth (ILO), Edith Sanon (WHO), Elangi Ituku Botoy (WIPO), Eliane Pereira dos Santos (PAHO), Elisa Nelissen (R4L Comms), Elisabeth Leonard (AAAS), Eric Merkel-Sobotta (DeGruyter), Gavin Lythe (SAGE), Gracian Chimwaza (ITOCA), Graham Grant (OUP), Hatem Nour El-Din H. Mohamed (WHO), Holly Mistlebauer (Cornell University), Ian Roberts (WHO), Imma Subirats (FAO), Iquo Edim (AAAS), Jane Wright (Taylor & Francis), Janet Remington (Taylor & Francis), Jenna Sharpe (WHO), Jens Bammel (Independent), Karna Wegner (FAO), Keruma Gavera Gamu (WHO), Kimberly Parker (WHO), Lega Martin Yoyo Mogga (WHO), Lenny Rhine (Librarians Without Borders), Liesbeth Kanis (Brill), Lourdes Ramírez (WHO), Marcin Kwiatkowski (SAGE), Maria Folch (WHO), Michael Mabe (STM), Michael Oldham (Portsys), Mussadiq Hussain (WIPO), Nasir Abdi Hirsi (WHO), Nathalie Montillot (WIPO), Olivia Emilia Dennis (WHO), Pascal Mouhouelo (WHO), Renato Murasaki (BIREME), Richelle Van Snellenberg (ILO), Ryan Dos Santos (WHO), Soumya Swaminathan (WHO), Stephen Gilewski (ProQuest), Tamara Lucas (The Lancet), Tanja Kuchenmüller (WHO), Teresa Yun Hee Lee (WHO), Tomas Allen (WHO), Vipin Saroha (WIPO), Wim van der Stelt (Springer Nature), Ylann Schemm (Elsevier)

Remote participants: Andrew Wible (Wolters Kluwer), Emily Gillingham (Oxfam), Flatiel Vilanculos (WHO), Gehane Omar Al Garraya (WHO), Ilkay Holt (FAO), Justine Cresswell (Clarivate), Kathy Kwan (Librarians Without Borders), Kristin Kolshus (FAO), Roxolana Horbowyj (JUMANA)

Note: Presentation slides, the recording from the meeting and group photograph can be found here,
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/a272i6f5tbytdwa/AAAQFs_TmJCnCMeyCRAO7rGJa?dl=0

Welcome Kimberly Parker (World Health Organization and Chair of the Research4Life Executive Council) called the meeting to order and proceeded with the roll call

Celebrating Ten Years of ARDI
The 10th anniversary of the launching of ARDI was celebrated with an historical review by Alejandro Roca Campana, a current endorsement of how ARDI has facilitated work and development in Uganda by Dr John Okuonzi of Kyambogo University, congratulations by Dr Soumya Swaminathan, WHO's Chief Scientist, and a review of why the work of ARDI and Research4Life is important from Dr. Francis Gurry, Director General of WIPO who noted that collaboration is essential to tackle complex problems.

Research4Life Overarching Updates

Update from the Executive Council
After a review of the year's work of the Executive Council, including the stepping down of the current Vice-Chair (Liesbeth Kanis-Brill) and the designation of a new Vice-Chair (Ylann Schemm-Elsevier), the Governance Recommendations were considered and adopted unanimously. This was the first year Research4Life made use of a poll to gather partner

opinions in advance of the General Partners Meeting, and it was clearly appreciated judging by the comments received in advance of the meeting, all of which were positive about the proposals.

Programme Updates (WHO, FAO, UNEP, WIPO, ILO)
The Programme Managers focused on five topics this year:

- **Reporting Numbers** highlighted the potential to change the numbers reported annually to the partnership and requested participants to consider what is truly needed to measure the impact on users or the work required to deliver the programmes.
- **User Input** highlighted a survey done for GOALI's first anniversary that has relevance for all Research4Life, particularly the users' desire for more local content to be included.
- **Content Expansion** reviewed how much additional content has been added over the years and how the programme agnostic approach allows for content to enhance each programme no matter which programme was originally of interest to the publisher.
- **Outreach** reviewed the benefits accruing to Research4Life from the availability of the programmes to FAO, UNEP and WHO.
- **Multi-programme Training** highlighted the ongoing work to ensure cross-programme or multi-programme training avoiding duplication of effort.

This agenda item concluded with a report on the planned closure of the TEEAL programme (offline programme in agriculture), and the provisions being made for an orderly shift for user communities to AGORA.

Research4Life Code of Conduct
The mechanisms are now all in place for the Code of Conduct approved at last year's GPM and a number of volunteers have signed the Code. R4L was reminded that those individuals conducting R4L activities when their organization is a partner are not required to sign the R4L Code of Conduct as long as their own organization has a conduct policy.

Updates and Reports

Feedback from the field
The incoming User Representative to the Executive Council, Prof Edda Tandi Lwoga, from United Republic of Tanzania reported on a survey targeting the Sub-Saharan African users community. The survey explored what R4L is used for, what kind of training is most valuable, and what are the issues still facing users.

DAR: Digital Access for Research – First Year
This provided a snapshot of the inaugural year of the DAR activity of the Technology Bank when Research4Life was tasked to implement the programme of work on behalf of the Acting Technology Bank. The main takeaway from the review of the activities (number of workshops), and impact indicators (number of new registration, count of usage) is that having someone on the ground in the country, following-up, offering guidance and support, encouraging usage, etc. does make a significant difference to the uptake of Research4Life, even in some of the most challenging environments.

Working Group Team Updates I: Technology
Reviewed the work accomplished in 2018 which was primarily preparatory. Unfortunately, the expected funding for proceeding to implementation was not forthcoming after a change in plans from the Technology Bank. The R4L Technology co-Chairs have developed a plan to proceeding with the top critical needs, including the Content Portal revision, and have shared this with Finance Oversight, providing justification for tapping the funds in reserve. Approval for the scaled-down investment on the most essential projects will be sought following GPM.

Working Group Team Updates II:
Eligibility : After a review of the options considered by the team in 2018, the proposed set of countries for 2020 was approved. The consideration of local country offices of international NGOs will be brought for final vote at or before the next GPM.

Capacity Development : A review of the major efforts of the past year, and the plan of work which has been guiding and focusing efforts. It is clear that focusing on MOOCs and other distance efforts will reach more people. The pilot of using volunteer Champions is just beginning, with hopes that it will extend our reach in countries.

Communications and Marketing : A review of the major efforts of the past year, and the plan of work which has been guiding and focusing efforts. It is clear that there are potentially useful counts and numbers that can be extracted from the website and our social media. CapDev and Comms have collaborated on a number of activities (notably an Advocacy Toolkit), which is a good example of cross-team work.

Working Group Team Updates III:

Fundraising : After a review of the work done by the team in 2018, the primary focus of the team's work is on reviving the consideration of a Friends of Resarch4Life organization to facilitate fundraising efforts and opportunities.

Budget & Finance : The review of the team's work included a change in the report form for clarity of the financial status. The planned expenses for the upcoming reviews were highlighted, as were the additional exceptional funds needed to carry out some of the critical technology improvements. The reserves are currently very healthy, so we are in a position to dig into them for both these needs. After discussion, the planned budget for 2020 with a revised budget envelope to permit higher technology improvements expenditures in 2019 and 2020 was approved.

Review and Summary

Preparing for Reviews process for 2020

After reviewing the traditional approach to our Reviews, both in terms of timing and coverage, the GPM discussed how to approach the next Reviews process, including ensuring that a landscape survey would be part of the planned reviews. In order to ensure enough time to accomplish the important interview leg-work of the User Experience review and potentially give enough time for a new user portal to be live for the user community, that review will be deferred by one year. The Infrastructure Review (and the landscape survey) are expected to be reported at GPM 2020, so should be launched now.

Summary, Conclusions and Questions

After a review of the days discussions and decisions, the Chair noted that a decision regarding date and venue of GPM 2020 will be taken before 1 November. Proposals to host are welcome. Presentations will be shared with participants via a shared file mechanism.

Meeting closed on time.