



IFLA CPDWL Mid-Year Meeting 2026

in conjunction with the **4th SILA Conference**

Theme: Everything is Connected

Dates: April 27–30, 2026

Location: Rome, Italy

The [IFLA CPDWL Mid-Year Meeting 2026](#) is held in conjunction with the **4th SILA Conference** ([Société Internationale des Archivistes Lasalliens](#)) and in collaboration with partner organizations including the “Istituto Superiore di Sanità”, i.e. [Italian National Institute of Health](#), [AIB \(Italian Library Association\)](#) and [AIB Lazio \(Italian Library Association – Regional Section: Lazio\)](#), and co-sponsored by IFLA School Libraries Section.

The event features a joint thematic and programmatic approach with the SILA Conference ([Société Internationale des Archivistes Lasalliens](#)), offering participants opportunities to engage in shared keynote sessions, professional site visits, and collaborative activities across both sectors.

The IFLA CPDWL Mid-Year Meeting is dedicated to reimagining professional development in a convergent, AI-driven, and human-centred library environment.

Special exhibitions and enrichment activities (all days)

There are several unique exhibitions and creative interventions throughout the week, many open to all participants:

- “Supercharged by AI”: Interactive Exhibition (Tactical Tech & Politecnico di Milano, in collaboration with IFLA)
- International Artists’ Books Exhibition (Prof. Anna Cochetti)
- Documentary Exhibition: 90th Anniversary of the Generalate
- Renovated Lasallian Museum
- Book/Library Treasure Hunt

Throughout the week, participants can visit several special exhibitions open to both [IFLA CPDWL](#) and SILA 2026 guests, including: the “Supercharged by AI” creative intervention, International Artists’ Books (curated by Prof. Anna Cochetti), a documentary exhibition marking the 90th anniversary of the Generalate, the renovated Lasallian Museum, a special book exhibition, and a Book/Library Treasure Hunt.

DAY 1 – 27 April 2026

Welcome, Orientation, and CPDWL Business

Venue: Generalate [Motherhouse] of the Brothers of the Christian Schools | Casa Generalizia dei Fratelli delle Scuole Cristiane - Via Aurelia 472 – Rome - <https://www.lasalle.org/en/generalate/>
Metro A (direction “Battistini”) - Stop: “Cornelia” (exit: “circonvallazione Aurelia” – “not ‘Boccea’!”)

Morning

09:00 | Welcome & Opening Remarks of SILA 2026 (Room: John Paul 2nd – Ground floor)

A welcome address by the Chair of the IFLA CPDWL Section and Chair of SILA 2026

11:00 | Coffee break (Floor: -1)

13:00 | Optional lunch at Casa La Salle Restaurant (<https://www.casalasalle.it/en/restaurant/>) available on site (Lunch tickets may be purchased on site).

14:00 | Welcome & Opening Remarks of the IFLA Session (open to SILA 2026)

– Helen Chan (Chair, IFLA CPDWL Section)

– Anna Cascone (Lasallian MLA and Chair of SILA 2026)

– Representative of the Italian Library Association (AIB)

14:30 | Guided tour of the venue’s library, museum, and archives

The theme “Everything is connected” through the Lasallian MLA lenses: the intertwined Lasallian heritage, documentary traditions, and educational missions.

Presentations and visits, curated by Anna Cascone (SILA 2026 Convenor), will introduce meeting participants to the Lasallian heritage, documentary traditions, and educational missions, relevant to both library and archival professionals.

Library: <https://www.lasalle.org/en/generalate/library/>

Museum: <https://www.lasalle.org/en/generalate/museo-la-salle/>

Archives: <https://www.lasalle.org/en/generalate/archives/>

16:00 | Coffee break

16:30 | IFLA CPDWL Section Business Meeting (Room: Arrambide – Floor: -1)

19:00 Free time

19:30 Optional dinner at Casa La Salle Restaurant (<https://www.casalasalle.it/en/restaurant/>) available on site (Lunch tickets may be purchased on site).

10:00 | LUMSA Academic Library, via di Porta Castello, 44, Rome (<https://lumsa.it/en/library-system>), followed by a walk in the surroundings (St. Peter's, St. Angel's etc.) - Optional lunch.

The new Central University Library "Card. Attilio Nicora" opened on the 16th December 2016. It incorporates the paper and digital resources previously held in two venues: the law library in Via Pompeo Magno and the educational psychology library in Piazza delle Vaschette.

The 6-storey library offers two underground spaces for library storage; three reading rooms - one on the ground floor, designed as a space where you can sit and read, work on your laptop or obtain information on library services and the other two on the upper floors with 190 work stations for consulting books, journals and databases. The top floor of the library houses the University administrative offices. The library services are also available to external users, including local residents and people with disabilities, in addition to university personnel.

There are over 162,000 volumes, 485 current journals relating to social sciences, law, economics and politics, communication and education sciences, and 24 multidisciplinary databases. There's also a collection of psychological tests and a dedicated bioethics section.

The library provides an invaluable resource for students and tutors with its catalogue of publications, reference section and online services.

15:00-17:30 | Parliamentary Library Hub (No. of allowed delegates: 25/30 max)

Professional Visit: Parliamentary Library Hub – Interconnected Knowledge for Democracy

Meeting point:

– For Casa La Salle guests: Metro A, "Cornelia", direction Anagnina, metro stop: *Barberini*; walk along via del Tritone onto Piazza Montecitorio, and then (further on) to Piazza della Minerva 38.

– Otherwise meeting point and hour: at 15:00 o' clock in Piazza della Minerva 38.

Visit to the interconnected libraries of the Italian Parliament:

- **Biblioteca "Nilde Iotti"** - Chamber of Deputies Library (1.4 million books)
- **Biblioteca "Giovanni Spadolini"** - Senate Library (over 2 million books)

These two major research libraries operate through a fully integrated service model, exemplifying institutional connectivity in democratic contexts.

Topics include:

- The integrated online catalogue
- Shared reference services
- Citizen-accessible information pathways
- Joint cultural and educational services

This visit illustrates large-scale interconnection: two institutions, multiple knowledge domains, one service for the public good.

After the visit, participants may explore the surrounding area (Pantheon, Piazza Navona, etc.).

Optional dinner (downtown or Casa La Salle Restaurant – tickets purchasable on site)

A full CPD training day on the theme (shared with SILA 2026 and the IFLA School Libraries Section):
“Libraries, Health Humanities, and Well-being in the Time of AI”

Venue: Motherhouse of the Brothers of the Christian Schools | Casa Generalizia dei Fratelli delle Scuole Cristiane (Via Aurelia 472, Rome) - Rooms: Morning in John Paul 2nd / Afternoon in Arrambide

Amid rapid change, librarian well-being is increasingly vital. Whether in academic, public, school, or special libraries, librarians face ongoing challenges and professional stress while playing a key role in supporting diverse patron needs. This training day introduces an innovative professional development initiative, equipping participants with practical knowledge, strategies, and tools to adapt and thrive. The aim is to empower librarians to better meet the evolving expectations of their communities and to promote sustained well-being within the profession.

This training day is conceived not only as a professional development activity, but also as a co-design process aimed at generating shared knowledge and informing future international capacity-building initiatives. It represents a participatory and exploratory step in the development of a joint collaboration between the IFLA CPDWL Section and the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS - Italian National Institute of Health) on Health Humanities and libraries. Rather than presenting a predefined training programme, the event is intentionally designed to recognise, value, and activate the professional knowledge, experiences, and competencies of the participants, positioning them as co-producers of knowledge and key contributors to the learning process.

Health Humanities bring together arts and humanities with sciences to promote health, well-being, empathy, and social inclusion. Libraries of different types — academic, public, school, and special libraries — already play an important role in this field through reading, cultural participation, community engagement, and educational activities, often without a shared conceptual or methodological framework.

In line with IFLA Guidelines for Continuing Professional Development: Principles & Best Practices and the ISS Health Humanities Lab methodology approach, the training day adopts an extended World Café methodology structured across the morning and afternoon sessions.

This approach supports learner-centred, interactive, and reflective professional development, enabling participants to share practices, reflect on competencies and challenges, and collectively identify priorities for future collaboration. Each phase will be guided by specific prompts and will produce documented outputs (e.g., key themes, priority areas) to support synthesis and future development.

Organised by the IFLA CPDWL Section with experts from the Istituto Superiore di Sanità, this event is conceived as a shared space for dialogue and professional exchange.

Its primary objective is to understand and value the perspectives, experiences, and professional insights of librarians, information professionals, and health professionals, fostering mutual learning and a shared understanding that can inform future joint learning and capacity-building initiatives.

09:00 a.m. | Opening and framing (Plenary in Hall John Paul 2nd / Giovanni Paolo II – GP2)

Introduction and moderation: Anna Cascone (SILA)

Keynote 1 (SILA): Roana Maria Flores (Lasallian Manila University) - *Designing Library Initiatives to Address Social Issues*

09:45 | Break

10:00 | Workshop chaired by Roana Maria Flores (Lasallian Manila University)

10:45 | Coffee break (Floor: -1)

11:15 *This session frames the following part of the day as a participatory and exploratory process, introducing Health Humanities as a lens to interpret and connect existing library practices.*

Introduction and moderation: Luisa Marquardt, IFLA CDPWL SC Member, Co-lead of CPDWL MYM

Keynote 2 (IFLA): Helen Chan (Hong Kong University, China and IFLA CPDWL Section Chair) - *Libraries, Learning and Well-being: An International Perspective*

Keynote 3 (ISS): Vittorio Ponzani (Library, Scientific Communication Unit, Istituto Superiore di Sanità - Italy) - *Libraries, culture and health promotion: a new paradigm*

Keynote 4 (ISS): Amalia Egle Gentile (Laboratory of Health Humanities, National Centre for Rare Diseases, Istituto Superiore di Sanità - Italy) - *Health Humanities for Public Health: Culture, Narratives, and Equity for Building a Learning Ecosystem*

12:15 p.m. | IFLA CPDWL & School Libraries Standing Committees Presentations Session

Opening

Opening Remarks:

Helen Chan, IFLA CPDWL Section Chair, Lead of CPDWL MYM

Elizabeth Burns, IFLA School Libraries Section Chair

Moderator:

Luisa Marquardt, IFLA CDPWL Standing Committee Member, Co-lead of CPDWL MYM

Presentations

Keynote 5: Elizabeth Burns (Old Dominion University, USA; Chair, IFLA School Libraries Section) - *Building Connections in Community Spaces*

Keynote 6: Camilla Notarbartolo (Head of Training and Quality, Library Area, Milan Municipality, Italy, and IFLA CPDWL Section Member) - *Strategies, partnerships and competences for inclusive libraries welcoming people with migration experiences. Guidelines, tools and good practices from the "Libri - Library Bridges" project*

Keynote 7: Jorun Systad (Library Director, Sunnfjord Municipality, Norway, and IFLA CPDWL Section Secretary) - *Libraries Close to People: Well-being, AI, and Community Collaboration in Sunnfjord Public library*

01:00 p.m. | Lunch (La Salle Restaurant – tickets can be purchased onsite)

01:45 p.m. | World Café Introduction by Eleonora Desogus, Amalia Egle Gentile and Lucrezia Micheli (Istituto Superiore di Sanità - Italy) – (Room: Arrambide - Floor: -1)

02:00 p.m. | World Café (Exploratory phase) led by Eleonora Desogus, Amalia Egle Gentile and Lucrezia Micheli (Istituto Superiore di Sanità - Italy)

MAPPING PRACTICES, EXPERIENCES AND NEEDS. This first phase of the World Café focuses on exploration and listening. Through facilitated small-group discussions, participants share experiences on how libraries currently contribute to health, well-being, and inclusion through cultural, educational, and community-based activities.

03:30 p.m. | World Café (Deepening phase) led by Eleonora Desogus, Amalia Egle Gentile and Lucrezia Micheli (Istituto Superiore di Sanità - Italy)

COMPETENCIES, PARTNERSHIPS AND ENABLING CONDITIONS. Building on the World Café Exploratory Phase and morning discussions, the second phase of the World Café allows participants to deepen and connect ideas, focusing on competencies and skills, partnerships and organisational and cultural conditions.

05:30 p.m. | Break

05:45 p.m. | World Café (Sense-making and synthesis) led by Eleonora Desogus, Amalia Egle Gentile and Lucrezia Micheli (Istituto Superiore di Sanità - Italy)

SHARED INSIGHTS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS. The final phase of the World Café brings participants together in plenary to focus on collective sense-making.

06:30 p.m. | Discussion and Wrap-up led by Eleonora Desogus, Lucrezia Micheli and Amalia Egle Gentile (Istituto Superiore di Sanità - Italy)

Presentation of key outcomes from the World Café identification of priority areas, and closing reflections.

07:00 p.m. | Free time

07:30 p.m. | Social Dinner

Professional Visits: Financial Knowledge, Heritage, and National Identity

Theme of the day: *Interconnected cultural, economic, and civic knowledge systems.*

Meeting point:

For Casa La Salle guests: 08:30 Casa La Salle lobby, then Metro A “Cornelia”, direction Anagnina, stop “Repubblica” (exit: via Nazionale); walk along via Nazionale to “Banca d’Italia” (via Nazionale 91).
Otherwise: meeting time 09:15 a.m. - meeting point - the main entrance at Via Nazionale 91.

09:30 | Banca d’Italia (Bank of Italy, via Nazionale 91 - Roma)

Banca d’Italia is the Italian Republic’s central bank and pursues aims of general interest in the monetary and financial sector. It is part of the Eurosystem, which is made up of the national central banks of the euro area and the European Central Bank.

Visit to:

- **Palazzo Koch, headquarters of the Bank of Italy** (<https://www.bancaditalia.it/servizi-cittadino/musei-e-visite/index.html>)
- **“Biblioteca Paolo Baffi”**: Founded in 1894, the library comprises two major interconnected sections:
 - **Economics (Paolo Baffi)** – banking, finance, macroeconomics
 - **Law (Pietro De Vecchis)** – banking and financial law

The Bank of Italy also develops financial literacy programmes, highlighting libraries’ educational mission in supporting citizens’ economic wellbeing.

12:00 | Quirinale Palace and Library (check in: 11:45 a.m. at the main gate ‘Porta Quirinale’)

Venue: Palazzo del Quirinale - Porta Quirinale - Via del Quirinale (“angolo”, i.e., corner, via della Consulta) - 00187 Roma - https://www.quirinale.it/page/bib_home

Virtual visit of the Library: https://exhibit.quirinale.it/tour_biblioteca/biblioteca.html

A visit to the library and selected heritage spaces of the **Presidency of the Italian Republic**, emphasising connectivity across **history, identity, public service, and democratic memory**. Inclusive and educational programmes for all will also be presented and discussed.

After the visit, participants may consider visit the Trevi Fountain (5’ walk) and downtown.

Optional free time in Rome or return to Casa La Salle (Metro A, Barberini → Cornelia).

USEFUL INFORMATION

- **Dress code:** Business casual recommended for meetings and professional visits.
- **Accommodation** (Recommended): Casa La Salle - Via Aurelia 472 – 00165 Rome <https://www.casalasalle.it/en/> - Email: info@casalasalle.it

A quiet accommodation (including breakfast) within a natural park, with 130 rooms, 10 meeting rooms, restaurant, and large parking area. Bedroom types (all with private bathroom, hairdryer etc.): single, double, triple. Free Wi-Fi. Daily cleaning. Single occupancy (including breakfast): € 85,00 per person per night plus local tax (tourist fee) € 6,00 circa (per person per night). Any questions about Casa La Salle, contact Anna Cascone (acascone@lasalle.org)

For other accommodation options nearby, check: www.booking.com

- **May 1:** An optional programme (e.g., Subiaco Library) can be organised upon request.

Please contact Luisa Marquardt (luisa.marquardt@uniroma3.it)

- **Questions or assistance:** Please contact Helen Chan (helenc98_1998@yahoo.com) and Luisa Marquardt (luisa.marquardt@uniroma3.it)

- **For details about Rome**, local travel, or accommodation, please refer to:

- [Turismo Roma](#)
- [Rome in a nutshell](#)

We look forward to welcoming you to Rome for the IFLA CPDWL MYM, featuring enriching sessions, cultural discoveries, and professional networking!

IFLA CPDWL Mid-Year Meeting 2026 Working Group

Helen Chan (Lead) and Luisa Marquardt (Co- lead)

Members:

Philomena Mwirigi, Mingyan Li, Camilla Notarbartolo, Joan Weeks, Florian Forestier, Susan Cherono

Plus: Anna Cascone (SILA convenor and IFLA Member)