

## **IAMS LIC History Through the Years: 1975-2020**

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The International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMS LIC) is an organization of librarians and information professionals involved in all aspects of aquatic and marine sciences and their allied disciplines. The association provides a forum to exchange and explore ideas and issues of mutual concern. As the organization moves forward, it builds upon a strong historical foundation. Once a small regional group, IAMS LIC has grown into an international organization that is alive, active, and accomplishing things. The current membership welcomes new members as we advance in this quickly developing information ecosystem. There are very few truly international groups in our field of study. Our organization and membership have and will continue to better the field of aquatic and marine science librarianship over the years and around the world. Our organization has plans for greater growth, building on a legacy of development, change, scholarship, and growth. The following history is adapted to a host of IAMS LIC documents and organized into short, five-year increments. This is a living document intended to evolve over time with our organization.

### **1975: *Mutual Cooperation*, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, United States of America**

IAMS LIC began in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, United States of America, in 1975 under the name East Coast Marine Science Librarians (ECMSL). Carol Winn, the newly-hired librarian at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), and Jane Fessenden, librarian at the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL), sponsored the first meeting of marine science librarians from the US east coast and Canada. Twenty-three librarians from the US, Canada, and Bermuda met in Woods Hole for two days to discuss mutual cooperation. Local attendees from MBL, WHOI, and the National Marine Fisheries Center increased the number to 49.

The program was set up as a series of workshops, tours of scientific libraries in Woods Hole, a boat trip around the Woods Hole area, and a demonstration of computer-based information retrieval (National Oceanographic Data Center - NOAA's NODC). Workshop topics included Sea Grant publications with the National Sea Grant Depository, interlibrary loans, collected reprints

and exchanges, archives (history of oceanography), maps and charts, and international publications. There were no conference fees or dues.

The first projects suggested by the organization included a directory of the ECSMLs with a description of the organizations' related programs and projects, a union list of oceanographic atlases and serial lists from participating members, and a duplicate exchange clearinghouse. International organization's cooperation was a regular topic in discussions. Participants decided that in the following year, they would solicit participation from the Gulf Coast and the Caribbean marine science libraries. From that first meeting, the Association has belonged to its members. Attendees agreed that meetings would be held annually, that membership should be expanded, and that they would work on projects to support the sharing of information and cooperation.

Subsequent conferences:

- 1976: 2nd Annual Conference: Woods Hole, Massachusetts, United States of America.
- 1977: *Ocean Issues-The Decade Ahead: Impact on Information Services*. 3rd Annual Conference: Washington DC, United States of America.
- 1978: 4th Annual Conference: Woods Hole, Massachusetts, United States of America.

**1979: *Cooperation and Information Exchange in the Marine Sciences*, Charleston, South Carolina, United States of America**

In 1978, the year prior, The East Coast Marine Science Librarians had changed its name to the International Association of Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers. They accepted a set of bylaws and elected officers. The fifth conference took place at the South Carolina Marine Resources Center and the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina, United States of America. This conference included tours of the South Carolina Marine Resources Center and the NOAA Southeast Fisheries Center.

Keeping with the conference's theme of *Cooperation and Information Exchange in the Marine Sciences*, presenters discussed topics such as the exchange of materials among marine science libraries, changes in subject approaches in marine science, and map acquisition and cataloging in marine research. Speakers from the NOAA Southeast Fisheries Center and the College of Charleston discussed local marine science research activities.

At the time of this conference, IAMSLIC had grown to 51 paid members, made up of 40 personal memberships and 11 institutional memberships. IAMSLIC also became an officially incorporated organization in the state of Oregon during that year, with an Executive Board beginning to discuss possible projects and a membership directory. The IAMSLIC Newsletter began as an important tool to keep members informed about the development of projects and the organization.

Subsequent conferences:

- 1980: *Marine Publishing in the 80's*. 6th Annual Conference: Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.
- 1981: *Accessing Marine Science Information*. 7th Annual Conference: La Jolla, California, United States of America.
- 1982: *The Geography of the Oceans*. 8th Annual Conference: Beaufort, North Carolina, United States of America.
- 1983: *Creative Information Handling in the Eighties*. 9th Annual Conference: Port Aransas, Texas, United States of America.

**1984: Year of the Oceans: Science Information Handling, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, United States of America**

Fifteen years after the first meeting, the annual conference returned to its roots in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, United States of America. During those years, the membership and scope of IAMSLIC had grown considerably, with 148 members from sixteen countries. Members reflected on the many transitions leading up to this point and learned more about new technological developments such as electronic mail systems, front-end software, gateway services, and telenet applications.

In 1984, IAMSLIC also completed several important projects. As IAMSLIC became larger, members took on projects which reflected the organization's growth and development. Janet Mitchell designed our logo, while Carol Winn updated the IAMSLIC directory. IAMSLIC members also worked on projects that advanced marine science librarianship, including the Union List of Serials (MUSSEL), the Directory of Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers, and the Selected Readings in Oceanography bibliography.

Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/531>

Subsequent conferences:

- 1985: *Marine Science Information: An International Commodity*. 11th Annual Conference: Gloucester Point, Virginia, United States of America. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/530>
- 1986: *Marine Science Library Networks: National and International*. 12th Annual Conference: Newport, Oregon, United States of America. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/529>
- 1987: *Oceans from a Global Perspective: International Cooperation in Marine Science Information Transfer*. 13th Annual Conference: Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/528>
- 1988: *Marine Science Information Throughout the World: Sharing the Resources*. 14th Annual Conference: Key Biscayne, Florida, United States of America. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/527>

### **1989: *IAMSLIC at a Crossroads, St. George's, Bermuda***

In 1989, IAMSLIC developed into a more international organization. In 1986, the International Cooperation Committee was formed to promote international cooperation amongst aquatic science libraries. This committee influenced IAMSLIC's interest in taking part in international cooperative ventures. Reflecting a more global approach, IAMSLIC printed brochures in French and Spanish for the first time and elected the first President from outside of North America, Cecile Thiery from Monaco.

Members shared ideas on how to develop their libraries and serve their patrons. Papers from the St. George conference discussed the personal and professional crossroads that members faced when trying to provide their patrons with necessary materials for the best value. A session on fundraising showed members how to look beyond their libraries and institutions for opportunities to raise money for programs and services.

Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/526>

Subsequent conferences:

- 1990: *Breaking the Barriers to the Free Flow of Information*. 16th Annual Conference: Seattle, Washington, United States of America. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/525>
- 1991: *The Aquatic Environment: Description, Management, Conservation*. 17th Annual Conference: Galveston, Texas, United States of America. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/524>
- 1992: *Aquatic Information Resources, Tools of Our Trade*. 18th Annual Conference: Bremerhaven, Germany. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/523>
- 1993: *Preserving the Past, Looking to the Future*. 19th Annual Conference: Bethesda, Maryland, United States of America. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/522>

### **1994: *Building Global Connections, Honolulu, Hawaii, United States of America***

A few years prior, in 1991, IAMSLIC had changed its name to the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers but kept the IAMSLIC acronym. This name change reflected the work of members who worked with freshwater information organizations. In the same year, IAMSLIC recognized five regional groups: EURASLIC (European Marine and Freshwater Sciences, Librarians, Information Scientists and Documentalists), CYAMUS (North American West Coast Group), SAIL (Southeast Affiliates of IAMSLIC Libraries), the West African Regional Group, and PIMRIS (South Pacific Regional Group).

IAMSLIC celebrated its 20th anniversary in Waikiki Beach, Hawaii and honored those who contributed to the organization's growth. Carol Winn was honored for her role in IAMSLIC's early stages and for her 20 years of leadership. Twenty years following IAMSLIC's initial meeting of 49 marine science librarians at Woods Hole, the organization now had 270 members from 65 countries. Although members were scattered throughout the globe, they maintained strong connections by sharing documents through the internet, contributing to online discussions, communicating through the newsletter, reading conference proceedings, and participating in annual meetings and conferences.

Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/521>

Subsequent conferences:

- 1995: *Information Across the Waves: The World as a Multimedia Experience*. 21st Annual Conference: Southampton, England. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/520>
- 1996: *Tradition and Innovation: Planning Our Future*. 22nd Annual Conference: Monterey Bay, California, United States of America. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/417>
- 1997: *Data or Information: The Fading Boundaries*. 23rd Annual Conference: Charleston, South Carolina, United States of America. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/418>
- 1998: *Electronic Information and Publications: Looking to the Electronic Future, Let's not Forget the Archival Past*. 24th Joint IAMSLIC/Polar Libraries Colloquy Conference: Reykjavik, Iceland. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/429>

**1999: *Recasting the Nets*, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, United States of America**

For the 25th meeting, IAMSLIC returned home to Woods Hole. This conference included discussions by local researchers and tours to Martha's Vineyard and the National Sea Shore, touching on the intersection between librarianship and new technology. Topics included millennial libraries, legalities of electronic information, electronic journal collections, metadata, coastal ecosystems, the history of cod fishing, and the use of marine organisms in biomedical research. Maintaining the focus on marine science, IAMSLIC members recognized the importance of using new technology to enhance their scholarship. At the time of this conference, membership had grown to 300 members. IAMSLIC members kept in touch through the internet, using a listserver to share resources and advice more efficiently than ever before.

Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/430>

Subsequent conferences:

- 2000: *Tides of Technology*. 26th Annual Conference: Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/2483>

- 2001: *Managing Resources in a Sea of Change*. 27th IAMSLIC and 9th EURASLIC Conference: Brest, France. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/432>
- 2002: *Bridging the Digital Divide*. 28th Annual Conference: Mazatlan, Mexico. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/269>
- 2003: *Navigating the Shoals: Evolving User Services in Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries*. 29th IAMSLIC Conference: Mystic, Connecticut, United States of America. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/433>

**2004: *Voyages of Discovery: Parting the Seas of Information*, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia**

The 30th conference was held at the Marine Research Headquarters of Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the largest marine science research organization in Australia. It was the first conference held in the Southern Hemisphere, with much of the discussion centered around topics such as the Great Barrier Reef, the development of Australia's marine science institutions, and the work of early explorers who studied local flora and fauna.

Eighty members from 21 countries attended. These attendees came from a variety of places: isolated one-person marine-station libraries, academic and institutional libraries in developing countries, and large libraries in academic and research institutions. With IAMSLIC's development into an international organization, the conference reflected members' interest in resource sharing and networking, particularly over the internet. IAMSLIC members discussed the changing role of librarians in the digital age, open archives initiatives, and serials preservation.

Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/434>

Subsequent conferences:

- 2005: *Information for Responsible Fisheries: Libraries as Mediators*. 31st IAMSLIC Conference: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Rome, Italy. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/435>
- 2006: *IAMSLIC: Every Continent, Every Ocean*. 32nd IAMSLIC Conference: Portland, Oregon, United States of America. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/1948>
- 2007: *IAMSLIC: Changes on the Horizon*. 33rd IAMSLIC Conference and 17th Annual SAIL Meeting: Sarasota, Florida, United States of America. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/2473>
- 2008: *IAMSLIC: Sustainability in a Changing Climate*. 34th IAMSLIC Conference: Suva, Fiji. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/2867>

**2009: *Confluence of Ideas: Evolving to Meet the Challenges of Global Change*, Brugge, Belgium**

The 35th conference focused on the changes in both marine science and modern librarianship. The conference had 4 themes: “Survival of the Fittest,” “Open Access,” “Evolving through Cooperation,” and “Rethinking Resources.” Overall, these themes explored the many ways libraries have adapted to modern demands, including data curation, involvement in cyberinfrastructure, and marketing.

IAMSLIC was also recognized for work in resource sharing and networking, which has always been a priority. During this year, the Aquatic Commons was ranked 259 out of the top 400 repositories by the Cybermetrics Lab in Spain, a ranking determined by size, visibility, rich files, and scholarly content. The Aquatic Commons had over 2500 resources and over 70,000 downloads. The Resource Sharing Committee also had a busy year, with 4333 requests from 125 libraries in 46 different countries. At the time of this conference, IAMSLIC had 352 members. New members came from Kenya, Cote d’Ivoire, and Lebanon.

Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/3755>

Subsequent conferences:

- 2010: *Netting Knowledge: Two Hemispheres – One World*. 36th IAMSLIC Conference: Mar del Plata, Argentina. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/4511>
- 2011: *Information Safari: Discovering and Sharing Resources*. 37th IAMSLIC Conference: Zanzibar, Tanzania. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/5301>
- 2012: *Exploring New Frontiers in Aquatic Sciences Information Management*. 38th IAMSLIC Conference and 24th Cyamus Meeting: Anchorage, Alaska, United States of America. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/5979>
- 2013: *Visualizing a Bright Future*. 39th IAMSLIC Conference: Dania Beach, Florida, United States of America. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/6633>

**2014: *Forty Years of Sailing: Connecting Islands in a Digital World*, Noumea, New Caledonia**

This conference marked the 40th anniversary of IAMSLIC’s founding, and members reflected on the past and future of the organization. It was held jointly with the 2nd Pacific Islands Regional Group Meeting. To mark the occasion, the conference featured a panel discussion about the past 40 years of IAMSLIC, activities, remembrances, and collections of photos and memorabilia. Members shared how IAMSLIC adds value to their libraries. Even as IAMSLIC was celebrating its past, members continued looking onward. Conference presenters discussed the challenges of librarianship in the Pacific, developments in data management and open access, and disaster

planning. Attendees discussed the best ways to use the Z39.50 Distributed Library, Interlibrary Loan, the Aquatic Commons, and ways that IAMSLIC can help overcome constraints to research. The presentations were enjoyed by almost 35 attendees from Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Fiji, New Zealand, Philippines and Vietnam, among other countries, with a total of 17 oral presentations, 7 posters and 2 panels. One very innovative project that was introduced and deployed shortly after the conference was an approach to making content available to IAMSLIC institutions where Internet access is problematic to download copies of digital publications through “LibraryBox” devices.<sup>1</sup>

Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/7367>

Subsequent conferences:

- 2015: *Blue Growth: Motivating Innovations in Aquatic Information Management*. 41st IAMSLIC Conference: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Rome, Italy. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/7849>
- 2016: *Traditional Knowledge and Modern Information Practice*. 42nd IAMSLIC Conference and the 3rd Latin American Regional Group Meeting: Mérida, Mexico. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/9114>
- 2017: *Blurring the Edges: The Osmosis of Ideas*. 43rd IAMSLIC Conference: Honolulu, Hawaii, United States of America. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/9611>
- 2018: *Transforming the Global Information Landscape*. 44th IAMSLIC Conference: Entebbe, Uganda. Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/23781>

### **2019: *Living on the Edge*, Port Aransas, Texas, United States of America**

The 45th conference, held in conjunction with the 29th Annual SAIL Meeting, served as a venue for discussion on how members are adopting, negotiating, repelling, embracing, and developing strategies to provide the best information services within complex contexts. In addition to constantly changing information formats, library and information center leaders are confronted with the adversities of misinformation, fake news, trolls, historical revisionism, negativity, issues on increasing subscription costs, mergers or closures, succession planning, devaluing of libraries, bleak funding prospects or reduced budgets, and existing in conflict or disaster areas, among other examples. At the time of this conference, IAMSLIC saw an influx of new and seasoned members from Africa, Asia, and Europe as well as an increase in sponsored membership types and many regional groups provided partial financial support to their members so they could attend. Members shared mechanisms including strategies, innovations,

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<sup>1</sup> Watkins, S.G. & Parker, J.M. (2015). *Thinking Outside the Box: Making Digital Content Available Where the Internet is Not*. Proceedings of the 40th Annual IAMSLIC Conference. Available at <https://hdl.handle.net/1912/7411>



and best practices for coping while also expanding information to a global and diverse consumer base. They walked away from the conference with insights on sharing and managing aquatic and marine science data, information, and knowledge. There were 40 attendees from 6 countries and all 6 regional groups, 10 speakers, and 6 guests present.

At the 2019 conference, a workshop was held to elicit information from individuals and small roundtables of attendees about the state of IAMSLIC. Respondents brainstormed over several questions revolving around organizational mission and individual vision, the value placed on members' involvement with IAMSLIC, and prospective opportunities and collaborations. The overarching themes that came out of this workshop year's meeting focused on collaboration, conference, public outreach, regional group activity, learning and development, membership, reorganization, and financials. The overall conference results mirrored many of results of a similar workshop regarding EURASLIC/IAMSLIC Activities held at the 18th Biennial Conference of the European Association of Aquatic Sciences Libraries and Information Centres (EURASLIC) in May 2019 in Zagreb, Croatia.

Responses indicated a shared mentality among many individual members, but they also consisted of surprises. In one group participants crafted a new mission statement to encompass key concepts, including but not limited to international, collaboration, resource sharing, and advocating for broad distribution and open access to information and data. In support of membership and outreach, another group expressed a desire to see the website updated and translated, and IAMSLIC now uses the Wild Apricot membership management platform. As a reorganizing tool, an additional group suggested having an openly available handbook for defining clear roles within the organization and their respective time commitments to encourage formal transitions within committees. AFRIAMSLIC compiled a list of 15 reasons to join IAMSLIC around themes including passion for aquatic information centers and their allied disciplines; networking, mentorship, and professional development opportunities; resource exchange; and impact.

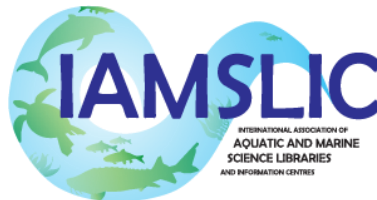
Proceedings available at: <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/25139>

## 2020: IAMSLIC Logo and Seal

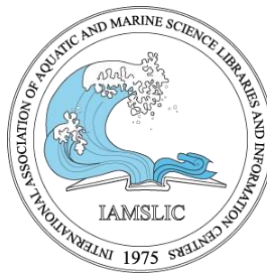
The original IAMSLIC logo was updated to meet current needs of the organization and in Fall 2020 was adopted by the IAMSLIC membership. The new logo will be used for all purposes including but not limited to websites, promotional materials, presentations, etc. A formal seal was also adopted for use by the IAMSLIC Executive Board for official correspondence and documents.



Original Logo



Current Logo



Formal Seal

## Bibliography

Early historical content adapted from:

Ashmore, J. & Winn, C. (1999). *The Continuing Story*. Available online at <https://iamslic.wildapricot.org/Our-Story>.

Butler, B. (2008). *IAMSLIC: The Next Decade*. Available online at <https://iamslic.wildapricot.org/Our-Story>.

Winn, C. (1989). *IAMSLIC: The Beginning*. Proceedings of the 15th Annual IAMSLIC Conference, ix.

Additional bibliographic resources included by were not limited to:

IAMSLIC Conference Committee Reports from IAMSLIC and Regional Groups. Available online at <https://www.iamslic.org> and <https://iamslic.wildapricot.org/>.

IAMSLIC Conference Committee. (2014). *Forty Years of Sailing: Connecting Islands in a Digital World*, Noumea, New Caledonia. IAMSLIC Conference Website. Available online at <https://www.iamslic.org/conf2014>.

IAMSLIC Conference Committee. (2019). *Living on the Edge*, Port Aransas, Texas, United States of America. IAMSLIC Conference Website. Available online at <https://www.iamslic.org/conf2019>.

IAMSLIC Conference Presentations and Proceedings. (1984-present). Available online at <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/164>.

IAMSLIC Newsletter. (1981-2008). Available online at <https://darchive.mblwhoilibrary.org/handle/1912/165>.