The EBLIDA Newsletter is published monthly on European library & information society issues, programmes, news and events of interest to the library, archive and cultural heritage community.

President's Editorial

The EBLIDA Annual Conference (Luxembourg, 18-19 April) is not only the arena for in-depth discussion on the role and functions of public libraries in Europe. It is also the time when the EBLIDA Secretariat traditionally delivers the result of its one-year work, carried out in collaboration with the EBLIDA...
This year, too, the European library community will reap the benefits of the hard professional work undertaken by the EBLIDA Expert Groups.

The Council of Europe Recommendation on Library Legislation and Policy in Europe is the result of a demanding task that was assigned to EGIL by the EBLIDA Executive Committee. In 2021, the mandate was to update the 2000 Council of Europe/EBLIDA Guidelines. EGIL Experts have done much more – they totally re-worked the Guidelines, almost from scratch, and were able to enhance the Guidelines’ status – now turned into a Recommendation. Thank you, LIBLEG Experts!

The mandate assigned to EGIL was to explore legal issues linked to e-lending. EGIL Members surpassed themselves and also explored the economic dimension of e-lending. Their reflection as well as in-depth country-based profiles are now included into a "Handbook of comparative e-lending policies in Europe" - a milestone in e-lending with long-lasting practical implications. A set of Recommendations is included - to be addressed to the European Commission, national and local authorities as well as professional actors. Thank you, EGIL Experts, you are certainly going to shape e-lending policies in forthcoming years!

This year, ELSIA updated the 2nd EBLIDA report on Sustainable Development and European Libraries. As usual, the impact of the ELSIA work goes well beyond written text. In fact, projects listed in the report are the basis of the EBLIDA Matrix and, from April onwards, of a newly created EBLIDA tool: E-PANEMA. E-PANEMA will be including SDG-oriented initiatives, EU-funded projects and EU programmes and opportunities in a database. It will also be a powerful instrument for EBLIDA members who are seeking partners in European projects. Thank you, ELSIA Experts, we need you for E-PANEMA implementation!

In the next Newsletter issue, links to tools, studies and reports will be made available. These EBLIDA instruments are going to have a long-lasting effect on European library policies, even more so that a Library Priority action is now included in the European Commission Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026.

So, dear Readers, keep following us and I will be happy to meet you at the National Library in Luxembourg, on 18-19 April!

Yours sincerely,

Ton van Vlimmeren
EBLIDA President
Culture 2023-2026.

The first initiative, the Recommendation of Library Legislation and Policy in Europe, is updating and enhancing the Council of Europe/EBLIDA Guidelines on Library Legislation and Policy in Europe, published in 2000. Its positive impact further emphasised the need for a legal instrument that would provide libraries with a legal framework supporting their work at European level. The Recommendation is taking into account the cultural, social, and technological developments that have shaped libraries in the past twenty years. To address these needs, the Secretariat of the Council of Europe and EBLIDA's Expert Group on Library Legislation and Policy in Europe (LiBLEG) took on the challenge of drafting the Recommendation of Library Legislation and Policy in Europe in 2022.

The second initiative, the European Union Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026 aims to establish clear measures to empower libraries. It is the first time in 21 years that a European programme specifically refers to libraries.

After explicitly acknowledging the role of libraries in democracy, the Work Plan establishes the objectives to:

- start a debate on how to promote and strengthen libraries,
- identify areas with potential and explore funding under EU programmes,
- bring together policy makers and library professionals, and
- explore training and further activities for professionals.

Together, the Recommendations and the Work Plan are symptomatic of the growing awareness of the – long-established, but less recognised – positive role of libraries in society and the investment in them by European authorities. Therefore, it is crucial that library professionals are introduced to these initiatives.

Both documents will be presented at the 31st EBLIDA Council and Conference, taking place in Luxembourg from 17 to 19 April 2023. You can read more about the Conference and register here. We will see you there!

3. The Handbook on E-Lending Policy in Europe

The Handbook on E-Lending Policy in Europe - to be delivered by EBLIDA on the occasion of the EBLIDA Annual Conference and Council - overhauls current stereotypes about e-lending.

Publishers often maintain that e-lending in libraries is detrimental to the development of a healthy e-book trade. The studies and investigations quoted in the background document to the Handbook clearly demonstrate the opposite: not only are e-lending and the e-book trade channels separate, but lending and e-lending in libraries is a formidable instrument for promoting books and e-books. The monitoring of a few titles showed results that are nothing short of sensational: when promoted by libraries, an individual title may see an 818% increase in the growth of e-book sales and a 201% increase in the growth of print sales.

The argument that libraries cannibalise the e-book trade – another stereotype – proves to be what
it is: perceptions and fears deprived of any foundation. The number of e-lending transactions, measured against the number of inhabitants, shows that the market for e-lending transactions is now dramatically low and has to make great strides for the benefit of all actors in the e-book value chain. It is now from 10 to 100 times lower than the number of book loans and in some cases, like in France, 400 times less.

There is a desperate need for e-lending in European libraries. Eurostat statistics show that digital literates - “those people who are able to carry out online transactions, pay a bill or use the digital services offered by the public administration” and read e-books – only account for less than half the European population. If e-lending transactions remain so low, how can the general rate of digital literacy increase? Through which resources can a Europe that is smarter, more connected, more social and closer to its citizens enhance its penetration among an alerted citizenship?

The Handbook on E-Lending Policy in Europe is divided into three parts:

- The first part includes Recommendations for the European Commission, national and local authorities and e-book professionals.
- The second part collects the background documents to the Recommendations.
- The third part includes 13 country profiles.

Continue following this Newsletter. The Handbook will be published soon!

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4. A New Tool for Partnership Matching for EU-funded Projects: E-PANEMA

Does your library have an idea for a project funded by the European Union, but needs the support of a partner to pursue the project and cannot find this partner? Would you like to know what projects have used EU funds in the past to inspire your own? You are not alone. EBLIDA has been proudly working on a tool which will allow European libraries to connect and pursue joint EU-funded projects: E-PANEMA, the EBLIDA – Partnership Matching Tool.

With a simple, intuitive design, E-PANEMA will be hosted on EBLIDA’s website for easy access. Using this new resource, you will be able to create your own listing describing a project you would like to propose for EU funding and announce your search for partners with the same goal. In turn, these partners will be able to find your listing via E-PANEMA’s powerful search tool. Using dynamic information, this tool allows you to filter your search according to the status of the project, the country or countries or the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) it refers to, and the EU Programme it aims for. Once you find a project you are interested in, it is also very easy to find similar projects, both current and past.

Indeed, browsing E-PANEMA will connect you not only to project proposals and projects in development, but also projects which are already complete. You are encouraged to be inspired by them and to allow them to inform exciting new projects, or to improve existing ones!

EBLIDA has been working diligently on the development of E-PANEMA to ensure that, when released, it will cover most (if not all) needs concerning partnership matching in the context of EU-
5. An Update to the Second Report on Sustainable Development and Libraries

When the First Report on Sustainable Development and Libraries was released in 2020, it was received with a wide range of reactions, from unwavering commitment to the EU Agenda 2030 and SDGs, to a minimal level of awareness.

By the time the Second Report was published, in January 2022, the landscape was noticeably different: awareness was high and the number of library associations that had fully embraced the EU Agenda 2030 challenge had risen.

This commitment continues to grow, as proven by six countries’ request for an update to the Second Report, and in particular, their country profiles.

Due to this request, the Second Report on Sustainable Development and Libraries is going to be the target of a small update: the country profiles of Estonia, Finland, Italy, Latvia, Sweden, and Denmark are going to be changed to reflect the developments of the last year.

While the update is being worked on, you can read more about the First and Second reports here.

How does your country and its libraries fare regarding the Sustainable Development Goals?


Funded by the European Commission via the grant Erasmus+, “Resourcing Libraries in the European Union” (RL:EU) is a project developed by EBLIDA, PINA and PL2030 with the aim of facilitating European libraries’ access to European programmes.
To achieve this, the three institutions are promoting a series of activities, divided into four areas: Events, Research, Training of trainers, and Mentoring.

As the organisation responsible for the events, EBLIDA is participating in various library associations' national events with seminars and workshops on access to EU programmes. The seminars and workshops consist of an introduction and overview of EU programmes followed by a practical exercise which allows participants to develop a greater awareness of how EU funding is available to libraries and a better understanding of how to apply for it. At the moment, there are five events scheduled where EBLIDA is participating with this purpose:

- “Always Do it through European Programmes!” in Riga, Latvia (28 March),
- Convegno delle Stelline 2023, Milan, Italy (30 March),
- EBLIDA’s 31st Annual Conference and Council, Luxembourg (19 April),
- 14th Congress of BAD, in Faro, Portugal (4 May) and
- IFLA WLIC in Rotterdam, Netherlands (21-25 August)

As the year passes and EBLIDA's work progresses, expect to see more events on the Resourcing Libraries in the European Union (RL:EU) project – and do not forget to register if you can attend!

7. E-Relevance – The Role of Arts and Culture in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

The Council of Europe publication “E-Relevance – The Role of Arts and Culture in the Age of Artificial Intelligence” provides a critical analysis of the sector’s current and possibly future relationship with technology.

The existing discourse on new technologies is complex and hindered by a lack of mutual agreement on the meaning and role of new technologies in society.

Beyond simply pursuing profitable or military purposes, professionals in the sector suggest that public dialogue needs to be broadened on concepts such as technological progress, artificial intelligence (AI) and invite us to critically rethink how science and technology could coexist with the complexities of the human condition. The
reflections on AI-powered artistic expression described in the paper will not only provide readers with entry points to further research on how algorithms really work but also what they could and should do for the well-being of our societies and the planet.

“The relation of AI and culture is framed as a painful adaptation to something that seems almost magical, whereas it should rather be regarded as a call to action” (p.12 of the book).

As shown in the publication, when aimed at fostering social cohesion through collaborative, heritage-related instruments and tools can enable inclusive access to tangible and intangible cultural heritage as they could find its place in the Art world. It is clear that a link between the cultural and new technological sectors is possible when working together towards the same goal: to foster new tools and, thus, new narratives that contribute to the development of a social framework fostering creation based on equality, access, participation, and social justice.

This CoE ISBN publication is available only in EN, as paper version, and can be ordered via CoE Publishing website or by email: publishing@coe.int.

8. Save the Date! 20th March!

In June 2020, the Internet Archive, a non-profit digital library, was sued by four publishers (Hachette Book Group, HarperCollins Publishers, John Wiley & Sons, and Penguin Random House) for lending digitised books.

After nearly three years, the lawsuit will reach its conclusion on 20 March. As the Internet Archive states, “This lawsuit is not just about the future of the Internet Archive, it is about the future of all libraries. It’s also about the future of access to knowledge in the digital age.”

The Internet Archive is going to showcase stories from their communities on social media with the aim of providing twenty reasons for you to care about the outcome of the lawsuit.

You can find them on Mastodon, Facebook, and Twitter – make sure you check their pages and support their work on access to knowledge!

9. The role of Share-VDE in the transition to linked open data for libraries

The Share Virtual Discovery Environment is an international, collaborative, consortial effort dedicated to bringing a flexible, sustainable and collaborative approach to putting linked open data...
The collaborative development of a common infrastructure, guided by participants’ real-world experiences and sharing of expertise, has allowed the community to create innovative tools and services, developed and driven by libraries, for libraries, which enable the discovery of knowledge.

Share-VDE supports libraries, archives and museums in the transition from traditional cataloguing environments to innovative models based on linked open data and collaborative entity management, ensuring interoperability with international bibliographic data models BIBFRAME and IFLA LRM. In keeping with its commitment to open data sharing and reuse, the Share-VDE linked open data knowledge base provides a reliable and up-to-date source of quality data for its community of libraries. By employing new linked data standards and technologies, Share-VDE helps institutions to enhance the discoverability and diffusion of knowledge in order to increase user engagement with library and cultural heritage collections, supporting seamless linking between catalogues and repositories in a shared discovery environment.

Share-VDE libraries are committed to collaboration in order to collectively shape and embrace the future of the emerging ecosystem of bibliographic data in linked data, facilitating the re-use of enriched and structured data and simplifying wider access to knowledge, while sharing time, expertise and costs across the international library communities. Share-VDE is part of the wider Share Family, which includes initiatives for the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC) and a global, collective catalogue of national bibliographies.


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**10. Major library events in 2023**

**EBLIDA is promoting major library events in your country in 2023.**

If your event is not listed below then please fill in the form here. Thank you!

16-23 March
Copyright Essentials Training Spring 2023
Online
https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/CopyrightEssentialsSpring2023

20-23 March
Access Lab - OpenAthens 2023 Annual Conference
Online
https://www.openathens.net/access-lab/

28 March
30 March
Convegno delle Stelline 2023
Milan, Italy
https://www.convegnostelline.com/

18-19 April
31st EBLIDA Council & Conference and 2nd EBLIDA-NAPLE-PL2030 Event
Who is afraid of library power? Empowering citizens for a democratic and sustainable society
Luxembourg
https://eblida2023.sciencesconf.org/

27-28 April
Danish Library Association
Odense, Denmark
https://db.dk/events/det-bibliotekspolitiske-topmoede-2023/

02-05 May
Österreichische Bibliothekskongress: "Arbeitswelten – Realitäten und Visionen"
Hybrid & Kongresszentrum
Innsbruck, Austria
https://www.uibk.ac.at/congress/bibliothek2023/

04 May
14th Congress of BAD
Faro, Portugal
https://eventos.bad.pt/14congresso/

03-05 May
14th Congress of our Association BAD
Algarve, Portugal
https://eventos.bad.pt/14congresso/

14-16 May
Next Library
Hybrid & Aarhus, Denmark
https://www.nextlibrary.net/

18-19 May
XII Congress of the Estonian Librarians: "Libraries are the future"
Viimsi, Estonia

23-26 May
111. Bibliothekartag
Hannover, Germany
https://bibliothekartag2023.de/

24-27 May
LIDA, Libraries & Information Institutions in the Digital Age, 2023
Osijek, Croatia
30 May - 3 June
15th Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries International Conference (QQML2023):
"Library as a promoter of democracy and active citizenship"
Hybrid & Heraklion, Crete, Greece
http://qqml.org

05-07 June
Finnish Library Association: Kirjastopäivät (Library Days)
Kuopio, Finland

12-16 June
European Association For Health Information And Libraries (Eahil):
"Radical positive change agents"
Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim, Norway
https://eahil2023.org/

14-16 June
British and Irish Association of Law Librarians (BIALL) 2023 Annual Conference:
"Gaining the edge: investing in our skillset"
Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK
https://biall.org.uk/annual-conference/2023-annual-conference-belfast/

27-29 June
10th International Open Science Conference
Online
https://www.open-science-conference.eu/

05-07 July
Liber 2023
Budapest, Hungary
https://liberconference.eu

21-25 August
88th IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC):
"Let's work together, let's library"
Hybrid & Rotterdam, Netherlands
https://2023.ifla.org/

29-30 September
BIC - Biblioteche Innovazione Comunità
Bergamo, Italy
http://www.retedellereti.org

09-12 October
8th European Conference on Information Literacy (ECIL)
Krakow, Poland
https://ecil2023.ilconf.org/

02-03 November
Der Schweizer Bibliothekskongress 2023
Zürich, Switzerland
https://www.bibliosuisse.ch/aktivitaten/schweizerbibliothekskongress/2023zurich
Please look at the Four good reasons to become EBLIDA member and at the membership fee which varies according to the organisation’s turnover and the status of the organisation wishing to join EBLIDA: Full or Associate Member.

For the registration form please fill out the Membership Enquiry Form or contact the Secretariat: eblida@eblida.org

About the Newsletter

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