The President’s Editorial

Dear colleagues,

John Maynard Keynes is reported to say: *If facts change, I change my mind.* Facts have changed, indeed, for Europe and for libraries. At least two circumstances have profoundly transformed European outlooks in only one year and the way libraries have been impacted.

The first event is Covid-19 and its consequences for the economy, the welfare state, and the people. It is commonly agreed that, at the end of the pandemic, nothing will be as it used to be.

The second is the spectacular turn of the European Commission, with sustainable development put at the core of the European social and economic development. A European Union “that strives for more” (von Leyen) is greener, more technological, more connected, more social, and closer to citizens. EU programmes have been re-oriented, re-focussed and re-budgeted and a substantial amount of money is now being made available to socio-economic actors committed to sustainability.

If facts have changed and Europe is different, why should European libraries, and EBLIDA, remain the same?

Last October, with its Annual Council, EBLIDA activities have been re-oriented in many aspects. The “Think The Unthinkable” (TTU) workshops were designed to surrogate the EBLIDA Annual Conference. In the evaluation phase, we found out that the level of participation increased by 50 percent in relation to the number of people attending the Conference in Dublin in June 2019.
• European,
• policy-oriented and
• measurable.

EBLIDA reports, or extracts of them, have been, and are being, translated into Italian, French, Spanish, Dutch and Danish. National TTU workshops are being, or will be held in France, Spain, The Netherlands and Italy. Digital and socially inclusive libraries take SDGs as a common frame of reference and the European 2030 Agenda is now core policy for many library associations in Europe.

Any EBLIDA Member can organise online TTU in its own country. Please contact the EBLIDA Secretariat in case you wish to work out a national workshop in collaboration with EBLIDA.

To tell stories about SDGs in libraries is excellent, but real impact on society is visible only through national and Europe-wide policies to be shared with partners external to libraries. To serve this purpose, the EBLIDA Executive Committee approved the creation of an EBLIDA Expert Group: ELSIA (European Libraries and Sustainable development Implementation and Assessment). Ms. Alicia Sellés Carot, President FESABID (Spain), has kindly accepted to be its Chair. More information about ELSIA will be provided in the next issue of the EBLIDA Newsletter.

To measure SDG implementation in libraries is not an easy issue, but solutions are now being experimented with. Aurore Tessa and Florence Koll report about two initiatives undertaken at the Canopée Library in Paris. The first concerns the implementation of the Environmental Management System (EMS) based on the ISO 14001: 2015. The second is the renewal of library services to the public to comply with sustainable development.

EBLIDA is also closely monitoring the release of new EU programmes, such as the Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027), and more information about that will be provided in the next Newsletter issue with an updating of the EBLIDA Matrix.

This Newsletter also reviews three initiatives that took place during the pandemic with important copyright implications: the Internet Archives Emergency Library, the Latvian agreement with copyright agencies (already presented in the EBLIDA Newsletter, May 2020) and the Call launched by the Irish Library Association. Giuseppe Vitiello, the EBLIDA Director, is commenting on the three initiatives.

We do not see yet a light at the end of the Covid 19 tunnel; therefore, I reiterate my wish to you to go through these difficult moments peacefully: stay healthy and be resilient!

Yours sincerely,

Ton van Vlimmeren
EBLIDA President

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EBLIDA Annual Council, 28th October 2020

1. Annual Council: main issues

Preceded by three successful workshops dealing with the EBLIDA “Think The Unthinkable” report, the 2020 Annual Council was held online. In spite of the algid environment that normally
surrounds online meetings, the online platform allowed for a high-level of interaction. Effervescence was perhaps not there, but conversations were lively and decisions taken were solid.

Some of the reports presented during the Council are going to exert influence on the policy of European libraries. The “Think The Unthinkable” report in its four versions has proved to be quite successful as the number of translations - into Italian, French, Dutch, Spanish - easily proves. It should be borne in mind that EBLIDA policy to use European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027 for SDG-oriented library projects applies to ALL countries in Europe, including those not belonging to the European Union through the Interreg programmes.

This is so far the list of articles reporting about EBLIDA policy in national professional journals:

- **Hvad gjorde Europas bibliotek under Covid-19?**, Perspektiv, Nr 7 (in Danish),
- **SDG’S en Europese bibliotheken**, META nummer 2020/6, (in Dutch)
- **Nuove opportunità di sviluppo per le biblioteche europee, Biblioteche oggi**, Settembre 2020, (In Italian)
- **I Fondi strutturali e di investimento europei (FSIE) 2021-2027? Finanziare le biblioteche per progetti di sviluppo sostenibili** (In Italian)
- **Preparing a European library agenda for the post-CoViD-19 age**, Bladen voor documentatie = Cahiers de la documentation. (in print.)

[This list will be updated in the next Newsletter issues.]

Last year, the Annual Council approved the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan. This year, the Annual Council approved an adjusted Strategic Plan where greater emphasis is placed on sustainable development. The momentum provided to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development by the European Commission is now adequately reflected in EBLIDA’s policy.

### 2. Think The Unthinkable National Workshops: why, what and to whom?

EBLIDA is organising a series of national “Think The Unthinkable” online Workshops. They mainly focus on seeking funding opportunities for libraries within the European Structural and Investment Funds. National workshops are now being prepared with a series of kick-off meetings / preliminary workshops which are being held in national languages and will engage a community of libraries larger than that of EBLIDA Members.
The first three preparatory/kick off meetings take place in Italy, The Netherlands, and France.

In Italy, on 30th October, a meeting preparatory to the national workshops has been organised in collaboration with “Rete delle Reti” (EBLIDA Members: AIB and CSBNO); the national workshop will be organised later in December. Gianni Stefanini, Valentina Bondesan, Simona Villa (representing CSBNO) and Cecilia Cognigni (representing AIB) attended the meeting together with Giuseppe Vitiello (EBLIDA Director).

This workshop aims at identifying SDGs that are relevant for a national library strategy; the good news is that one of the four priorities in the Italian ESIF 2021-2027 is “Culture as a vehicle for Social Cohesion”.

In the Netherlands, the kick-off meeting of a larger Expeditie.NL project was organised in collaboration with Bredebieb on 2nd November 2020. Contributors to the kick-off meeting were Ton van Vlimmeren (President EBLIDA), Giuseppe Vitiello (director EBLIDA) and Maarten Crump (The Alignment House/Bredebieb).

Twenty-one library directors signed up for the kick off meeting whose aim is to enlist additional funding opportunities for Dutch libraries and prepare library projects to be discussed in the national workshop on 25th January 2021.

In France, the meeting preparatory to the TTU national workshop takes place on 24th November and is organised by EBLIDA Members ABF, BPI and ENSSIB. Contributors are Raphaëlle Bats (ENSSIB), Guillaume Gast (on behalf of the Montreuil libraries), Fabrice Chambon (director, Montreuil Libraries), interacting with Juliette Limouzin (Est Ensemble). The meeting, directly organised by EBLIDA, will be chaired by Giuseppe Vitiello, director EBLIDA and Eléonore Clavreul, in charge of national and international cooperation at BPI.

The aim of this workshop is to make the most out of a French ESIF 2014-2020 library experience which took place in the city of Montreuil. A vade mecum concerning steps in filing applications with ESIF 2021-2027 will be drafted at the end of the Workshop, which will be attended by some 60-70 libraries.

Date: 24 November 2020
Registration: http://www.anymeeting.com/PIID=EF57DE86844C38

3. Revamping EBLIDA: setting up a Task Force

The EC has established a Task Force with a view to suggesting technical, economic and organisational solutions aiming to put EBLIDA on firm and sustainable ground and establishing strategic perspectives for EBLIDA 2021-2024. In the last two years, EBLIDA has managed to consolidate its position in relation to strategic and financial aspects. Revamping EBLIDA means expansion in membership, diversifying EBLIDA’s sources of income, and setting up long-term perspectives.
Green inside, Green outside: evaluating the implementation of SDGs in libraries

In 2019, the Canopée la Fontaine library in Paris was chosen to pilot a circular economy project for the network of Parisian public libraries with a view to:

a) reducing the environmental impact of the library;

b) changing library’s internal professional practices and building a coherent offer of services for the public in line with sustainable development.

Florence Koll and Aurore Tessa report about the methodology that was followed in the “Green inside, Green outside” project.

Evaluation of the library environmental impact through an EMS (Environmental Management System)

by Aurore Tessa

The library has begun to think about setting up an environmental management system (EMS) based on the ISO 14001: 2015 standard. This is a management tool for the establishment that will enable it to organise itself in such a way as to reduce and control its environmental impact and, above all, to commit to continuous improvement over time. Implementing an EMS means demonstrating compliance with current and future legal and regulatory requirements, as well as strengthening the involvement of management and employees by setting strategic environmental objectives.

The EMS also influences the organisation’s stakeholders such as the network, external service providers and partners. Other tools exist; the Canopée could, for example, have adopted a carbon footprint approach. This is a numerical calculation that focuses on greenhouse gas emissions. Other French public institutions have carried out a carbon balance: BnF (2008) and Univers Science (Palais de la Découverte and Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie, 2008). The Canopée has initially considered an EMS because it wants to address the issue of environmental impact in a global way, and not limited to the issue of greenhouse gases.

The EMS is divided into three phases:

1. Commitment and planning (main mission of my internship): we make a current inventory of the environmental impact generated by the library’s various activities, then we consider priority action plans and formalise our commitments.

2. Implementation and deployment: we draft an environmental policy, think about operational control and human needs.

3. Performance and continuous improvement: we will seek to improve by following indicators and then implement corrective or preventive actions to improve performance.

The environmental analysis carried out on the perimeter of the Canopée la Fontaine library revealed the most significant environmental impacts.

They are linked to:
The management of daily waste, the plastification of loaned works, and the management of weeded documents.

A question then arose: how can we set up actions for these three aspects when we are a library like the Canopée: in a building which we do not manage, with a choice of material depending on the city's markets, and heavy, long and not deconcentrated administrative procedures for the second life of the works?

We quickly realised that the Canopée library does not have direct control over this. However, it can alert and mobilise the decision-makers (hierarchically, the cultural affairs department of the city of Paris) so that they take up the issue and set up actions on the scale of the Parisian network. The library will then be able to act locally.

Sustainable development and the offer of public library services
by Florence Koll

In parallel with this internal approach, the library also wishes to renew its range of services to the public by building it in line with sustainable development. The Canopée already proposes numerous initiatives related to urban biodiversity, but sustainable development, as understood as the 17 objectives voted by the United Nations in 2015, covers much more diverse fields.

In order to focus on the aspects most relevant to library users, a quantitative survey was carried out from 25 September to 10 October: its questionnaire was inspired by the "My World 2030" survey (online since 2015, with more than 10 million responses) and the "Global Survey" (conducted between 2017 and 2019, with more than 27,000 respondents) conducted by the United Nations. The context of the pandemic calls for caution in interpreting the results: in normal times, part of the library's public is not registered and simply comes to enjoy the spaces. Strict sanitary conditions no longer allow readers to settle in the library, and this part of the public is therefore under-represented in the survey.

The survey simply invited the respondent to choose, among the 17 sustainable development objectives, the 3 that were of greatest concern to him/her and his/her family. In order not to bias the answers, the term "sustainable development" was not mentioned during the questionnaire. The survey was carried out in different ways: online (via the newsletter and the library's social networks), on paper (the questionnaire was then available in English and French), and on the shelf with the mediation of a librarian in the library. 324 people were interviewed: the average profile is an active woman in her forties.

The 3 objectives of sustainable development that were favoured by the public are as follows:

1. Quality education for all and throughout life;
2. Good health and well-being at all ages;
3. Gender equality.

The continuation of this process of building a new range of services for the public will now be based on a qualitative survey method: focus groups. Their objective is to understand the representations of users with regard to the library and sustainable development. They will also be invited to give their opinions on potential new services corresponding to the fields chosen in the quantitative survey. The results of these workshops will be used as a basis for recommendations for new services, new activities and new partnerships. The spontaneity of the conversation may also lead to unexpected proposals.
1. The Internet Archive Emergency Library and its early closing down

Founded in 1996, The Internet Archive is a non-profit digital library of millions of free books, movies, software, music, websites, and more. The Internet Archive currently holds over 20 million books and texts, 3 million movies and videos, 400,000 software programs, 7 million audio files, and 483 billion web pages in the Wayback Machine.

Its most famous project is the Wayback Machine, the deepest archive of internet history in existence with a collection of 483 billion archived web pages dating back to 1996. One of its the most important services is the Open Library, which unlocks for communities with limited or no access, four million books online, through purchase or digitisation, while honouring the rights of creators and expanding their online reach. Open Library claims to have over 20 million records in its database, with copies of the contents of tens of thousands of modern books made available from 150 libraries and publishers.

The mechanism through which this mass of information is being disseminated is the Controlled Digital Lending (CDL), that allows libraries to loan print books to digital patrons in a "lend like print" fashion. In other words, the book is made available for one hour, or a longer 14-day loan, after which the encrypted file using Adobe Digital Editions is no longer made available. Circulation in any format is controlled so that only one user can use any given copy at a time, for a limited time.

During the early days of the pandemic, the Internet Archive suspended waitlists for the 1.4 million book collection and created a National Emergency Library. Users were able to borrow books seamlessly. Multiple people were able to simultaneously check out the same digital copy of a book. At launch, the Internet Archive allowed authors and rightsholders to submit opt-out requests for their works to be omitted from the National Emergency Library.

The suspension of the waitlists was expected to run until June 30, 2020, but the experience terminated two weeks earlier after a group of publishing companies filed a copyright lawsuit. The lawsuit seeks financial damages for the sharing of 127 books under copyright, including titles like “Gone Girl,” “A Dance with Dragons,” and “The Catcher in the Rye”. If the court awards the plaintiffs the maximum amount provided under the law, the Internet Archive would have to pay $19 million — a sum that is large enough to seriously compromise the future of the Internet Archive.

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2. A successful deal in Latvia

During the Covid-19, crisis the National Library of Latvia managed to come to an agreement with AKKA/LAA (Copyright and Communication Consulting Agency/Latvian Authors’ Association). At the outset, the agreement concerned the collection of e-periodicals (digital versions of more than 1,400 newspapers and magazines published in Latvia from 1748 to date). Later on, a
A collection of digitised books - more than 10,000 works from the 17th century to the end of the 20th century, including some 2,500 authors - is being made available to users through a paid license. Additional expenses for accessing e-books were covered by the Ministry of Culture and concern both the number of accesses to publication and the number of sessions. The National Library of Latvia issued a statement in relation to works not included in the AKKA/LAA-NL Agreement and asked their authors whether they wished to be excluded from the portal. One month after, no notification was received for works to be removed from the portal.

The agreement has been extended until the end of 2020 and there are plans to extend it until the Covid emergency has come to an end.

### 3. Irish librarians call for action on the electronic content crisis facing libraries and library users

Irish Librarians and library-related organisations call on the Irish Government, publishers and other stakeholders to recognise, and take action against, the electronic content crisis facing libraries and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are deeply concerned about the rising costs and unfair licensing conditions for such content. Building on, and echoing, the recent UK-based [campaign to investigate the academic ebook market](#) (CIAEM) and the [RL UK content statement](#) we call on the Irish Government, publishers and other stakeholders for:

- Significant reductions in annual database, journal subscription and open access costs, not increases or price freezes to recognise the reality of library budgets.
- Increased transparency and sustainability in ebook costs and licensing. In public libraries, the average cost of an ebook is three times the cost of a print book, with far greater restrictions on how it can be used. In academic libraries the situation is even worse – academic ebook costs can often be ten times as much as for the same paper book. Price rises are common, sudden and appear arbitrary. The CIAEM cites examples of well-known publishers increasing costs for a single-user ebook by 200% or more with no warning in 2020.
- A deep discount on ebooks and e-textbooks where their print equivalents have been purchased in recent years. Instead at present ebooks are almost always more expensive, and frequently significantly and prohibitively so.
- Publishers to make all currently available and forthcoming books and textbooks available in accessible electronic format to libraries. At present approximately 20% of titles are available in e-format but this is much lower in certain disciplines. In some cases, a book is available as an ebook to an individual to purchase, but not available to a library to purchase.
- More flexibility in content selection to allow libraries to disaggregate collections.
- Ending ‘exploding licences’ – time-based licences that force books to be deleted from collections after a certain period of time.
- More government support for the creation and use of Open Education Resources (OER) and the associated curation infrastructure to ensure sustainable access.
Copyright law reform to:
- Remove the requirement for libraries to purchase versions of ebooks licensed specifically for library use which are subject to the aforementioned pricing and licensing obstacles.
- Allow libraries to scan whole books they own in print where ebooks are unavailable or unaffordable for controlled access to support research and learning.

The above problems pre-date COVID-19 but the sudden shift to remote working and learning due to the pandemic has underlined the need for change. Access to online content has never been more important yet the capacity of libraries to deliver it is inhibited by a perfect storm of financial pressures, a dysfunctional market and skyrocketing customer demand. The Irish Government has provided welcome resources to alleviate these issues but this level of additional support is not sustainable and would not be necessary if the market was functioning properly.

We call on the Irish Government, publishers and other stakeholders to recognise these challenges and take action. We support the call for an investigation into the publishing industry over its pricing and licensing practices regarding ebooks and electronic content.

- **Consortium of National and University Libraries (CONUL)**
- **Irish Universities Association Librarians’ Group**
- **Library Association of Ireland (LAI)**
- **Technological Higher Education Association Librarians’ Group**

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4. Comment, by Giuseppe Vitiello

The trans-Covid 19 library agenda has clearly demonstrated that, when libraries are partially or totally locked down, the best, and very often the only way to continue operations is to invest in digital libraries.

According to the report published by EBLIDA "A European library agenda for the post-Covid 19 age", the digital library boomed during the Covid crisis and public libraries took the lead by boosting all kinds of digital initiatives.

To juxtapose the three above mentioned initiatives is comparing apples and pears. The extraordinary enterprise of the Internet Archives cannot be easily compared with the Digital Library of Latvia in terms of vision, figures and resources. The Latvian Digital Library, however, is an extremely important resource for Latvian culture. The call launched by a group of Irish library associations echoed an appeal made by UK research library associations and is a demonstration that the practice of “milking the cow [publishing academic content] and selling the milk to the cow [the academia]” (the expression is of Ned Potter, university librarian in York) is suffocating any library development in this area.

STM publishing is a case study often mentioned in global financial analysis and reports for its surprising resilience in a time of open internet. During the Covid 19 crisis, Elsevier – “a global information analytics business specializing in science and health” – has consolidated positions and further expanded. Elsevier’s (or RLEX, the new name of the company) half-year financial report in 2020 shows that the three largest business areas - STM, Risk & Business Analytics and Legal – remain highly profitable. At the height of the Covid 19 crisis, Elsevier’s dividends remain the same and seven acquisitions in the information field companies were completed (https://www.relx.com/media/press-releases/year-2020/interim-results-2020). Apart from losses in the Exhibition sector, Elsevier did not suffer from the Covid 19 crisis; rather the opposite, it consolidated for further expansion.
A financial reporter writes that "the most perverse of those consequences, from the perspective of many open-access advocates, is an increase in the power and profits of the big commercial publishers." (https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2020-06-30/covid-19-shows-scientific-journals-like-elsevier-need-to-open-up)

At the time of writing this article, bookshops are closed again in many European countries. The calendars of events and meeting with writers taking place in book fairs and bookshops are once more cancelled. Both European publishers (https://fep-fee.eu/European-publishing-at-the-time-of) and the European writers congress (http://europeanwriterscouncil.eu/ewc-survey-covid19/) complain about the devastating effects of the Covid 19 crisis in their respective sectors. What fails in many of these analyses is the global impact of Covid 19 on what is the main component nurturing the chain of libraries, authors, publishers, and booksellers: the inclination for "deep" reading. At the end of the day, the practice "light" reading in social media may erode the core business of all actors operating in the book chain.

Since we wish to look at the global picture, it is good to underline the responsibility of European library organisations, such as EBLIDA.

There is a broad philosophy of “open internet”, with free and equal internet access also including open-source coding, open access, and the creative commons. By the end of 2021, a US court will decide on the lawsuit opposing The Internet Archive against a handle of publishers. We do hope that on the basis of fair use doctrine permeating the US legal culture, The Internet Archive will not be considered as a pirate site, but the invaluable resource it is – a digital library providing for universal access to all knowledge. It is extremely important for users all over the world that The Internet Archive continues its operations in a smooth way.

The publishing world today can be seen from many different angles but, in terms of copyright-protected works and the economic value assigned to them, a three-fold categorisation may be detected. The first is the oligopoly of STM publishers, a profitable global information business whose profit margins are constantly on the rise, at an even higher pace than those of Internet companies. These industries have incorporated open access practices; the mechanism through which they are able to generate larger profits stems from the application of the impact factor. To combat this, libraries should be able to develop indicators on their own; to give an example, how the academia is able to impact on sustainable development.

The other sector is the English-speaking global educational and academic publishing - a composite industry which has reached a mature level of concentration and globalisation in its processes. Controlled digital lending and the ability of libraries to arrange open educational resources with copyright-free material made available for didactic purposes may be a way to circumvent the high prices set by academic publishers.

And finally, there are national publishing industries in Europe whose sizes vary from country to country which support a sense of belonging typical of a national culture. The cultural nature of the book medium rests largely on the literary and artistic component of this industry and is the rationale for any national book policy.

The three examples proposed in this section show that any proposal coming from the library field should refrain from all-embracing solutions and take into account this complex and structured picture. In order to be successful, strategies meeting the needs of users should be tailored to the situation they wish to face and to solve. A convincing case for libraries can only be built by carefully mapping the book world and the STM scene, so that advocacy and/or mobilising actions are effective and do not have a boomerang effect on libraries themselves.
Responsible for the Newsletter: Giuseppe Vitiello
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Editors: Unless otherwise specified, all articles are written by the EBLIDA Secretariat.

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Events and Dates
November 2020

November 10
Agenda 2030 y bibliotecas: oportunidades y retos
Place: Online event
Organizer: Asociación Andaluza de Bibliotecarios (AAB)

November 10
The Integrated Preservation Suite
Place: Online event
Organizer: Open Preservation Foundation

November 12
International Society of Managing & Technical Editors (ISMTE) 2020 European Conference
Place: Amsterdam, Netherlands
Organizer: International Society of Managing & Technical Editors (ISMTE)

November 12
Research Data Management for information professionals
Place: Online event
Organizer: UK eInformation Group (UKeiG)

November 16-18
EAHIL2020 online - "Be Open, Act Together"
Place: Online
November 19
CILIP Conference - Reimagined
Place: Online
Organizer: Chartered Institute for Library and Information Professionals (CILIP)

November 24
Bibliothèques: l'Europe peut subventionner vos projets!
Registration: http://www.anymeeting.com/PlID=EF57DE86844C38
Place: Online
Organizer: EBLIDA, ABF, BPI and ENSSIB

November 24
Global Libraries Foundation - Bulgaria conference 'Libraries today: 21 century skills'
Place: Sofia, Bulgaria
Organizer: Global Libraries Foundation - Bulgaria

November 27
Tackling fake news and online misinformation
Place: Online event
Organizer: Westminster Forum

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