Editorial by Ton van Vlimmeren, EBLIDA President

With this fourth special EBLIDA Newsletter issue dedicated to European libraries in the face of the Covid-19 crisis, EBLIDA is releasing the last chapter in the series of country profiles. Altogether, seventeen countries have been covered: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. Previous issues were published on 3rd, 23rd and 25th April.

The measures, practices and potential services that were initiated during the crisis and could be pursued in one way or another in the post-Covid 19 age, are summarised in the Report “Preparing a European Library Agenda for the post-Covid 19 age.” This Report aims to keep separate library activities based on contingent factors – the Covid-19 crisis - which hopefully will not replicate, from library activities and trends that will become permanent in the post-Covid 19 age.

More extensive information will be provided in the next Newsletter issue, to be published mid-May.

All libraries in Europe are already open or are starting to re-open, in the weeks to come.

We are ready to publish your experiences in how you managed the transition successfully.
Library recovery will not be easy and things will not revert to a business-as-usual mode, once the outbreak is over. It is possible that many countries in the world will re-prioritize their agendas and revise their public policies, including cultural and educational policies. As an organisation working in the European field, EBLIDA is closely monitoring these developments and will explore how libraries may align with new priorities in a proactive way.

I would like to wish all European libraries a good re-start in these difficult times.

**EBLIDA checklist for library associations and libraries in the face of the Covid-19 crisis**

The following questions can help you decide about strategic decisions your library association / library can take in a time when emergency locks down libraries.

We invite other EBLIDA Members to send their answers to the checklist to us. Should you have a question on a specific item, please ask: g.vitiello@kb.nl.

We will try to link you to a colleague in Europe who has been working on the topic highlighted in the text.

1. Does your (national) library association release regular website information, newsletters and/or updates on library posture in your country during the Covid-19 crisis?
2. Does information provided by your library association provide legal advice (or links to legal information) on the role, rights and duties of the library as an employer?
3. Do you provide any information or links about Covid-19 that are relevant for libraries (e.g. lifespan of the virus on paper and plastic)?
4. Is your library, or library association, participating in the general strategy of controlling the diffusion of Covid-19?
5. Is the Covid-19 crisis impacting on the financial position of your (national) library association (for instance, cancelled conferences)?
6. Does your association collect information on how the crisis impacts the financial position of the libraries?
7. Is your association negotiating with (local/national) government bodies for support to libraries in order to deal with financial effects and loss of results?
8. Is your association, the (national) library or other library coordination centre releasing regular information about the digital offer and library services to the general public?
9. Are digital services freely accessible to everyone? If not, is someone (association, national library) negotiating with relevant commercial partners and government to remove barriers as a crisis measure?
10. Have libraries organized specific hours/ helpdesks for the public to help them access the digital services?
11. Is there – especially in e-books- a more extensive and targeted offer for specific groups like elderly citizens isolated at home, young people and children?
12. Is there a (national) platform, list-server or otherwise where libraries can post their best practices of services during the Covid-19 crisis?
13. Is there a (national) platform, list-server or otherwise where libraries exchange and (re-)use digital products (e.g. Youtube movies with storytelling)?
15. Is there an exchange on services by libraries to schools and education?
16. Is there an exchange of how library staff is working from home, doing (online) learning and training or delivering services?
17. Is there a (national) platform, list-server or otherwise for online learning and training possibilities for library staff?
18. Is there a (national) platform, list-server or otherwise for other tasks performed by library staff (e.g. helping (online) in the community information centre or giving telephone calls to isolated elderly patrons/citizens)?
19. Is there any proposal you would like to make at European level?

EBLIDA checklist for library associations and libraries in the face of the Covid-19 crisis

Cyprus

Cyprus Association of Librarians and Information Specialists (CALIS) and the EBLIDA Checklist

by

Panagiotis Themistocleous

Checklist Point 1: During the Covid-19 crisis, the Cyprus Library Association has been releasing e-mails to inform libraries about Covid-19 developments.

Checklist Point 3: The Cyprus Library Association provides official Covid-19 information, which is copied from health institutions and authorities and released for public information.

Checklist Point 5: The Covid-19 crisis is affecting the financial position of the Cyprus library association: a couple of events, educational courses and conferences had to be postponed.

Checklist Point 7: The Cyprus Library association notified our governmental authorities a general announcement for the role and support to users which was included in the IFLA Newsletter.

Checklist Point 8: Our association is releasing regular information about the digital offer and library services to the public, by forwarding specific newsletters to all academic libraries and the Cyprus State Library, in order to feed their webpages. It also forwarded the same information to its users through mail lists.

Checklist Point 9: Digital services are freely accessible to every user. Additionally, all academic libraries and especially, libraries that are members of the Cyprus Libraries Consortium made available their content and partially licensed content via their functional platforms. Furthermore, they added announcements concerning the offers related to COVID-19 content which is being promoted by publishers and arranged remote access for it. This has resulted in an increase of the usage of e-resources by 15% in the period 24th March to 20th April 2020.
Checklist Point 15: Interlibrary loan has expanded among Cyprus Libraries.

Checklist Point 16: Exchange of library staff practices was done through general guidelines.

Checklist Point 17: There are only general guidelines for online learning and training possibilities for library staff.

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We have received these updates from the Danish Library Association.

Checklist Point 1: The Danish Library Association is worried about the consequences of post-Covid 19 crisis and has requested a meeting with the Ministry of Culture to discuss what the outbreak implies for Danish libraries.

An open-letter - asking for a soon and considerate/controlled re-opening of the public libraries - has been published and publicly promoted last week in cooperation with two other library organizations: The Association of Danish Public Library Managers and the Danish Union of Librarians.


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In Finland borrowing books and other material from libraries is immediately permitted. Public indoor premises - libraries and mobile libraries - will be opened in a gradual and controlled manner as of 1st of June.

Checklist Point 1: During the Covid-19 crisis the Finnish Library Association (FLA) has been
Checklist Point 2: Information has been diffused to media on the kind of services that are available during the lockdown. The Finnish Library Association has also diffused professional information for librarians.

Checklist Point 6: The crisis will most likely have impact on the financial position of Finnish libraries. In Finland, public libraries are funded both by municipalities and state; the FLA is monitoring the situation.

Checklist Point 8: The FLA organised a webinar at the end of April to support libraries and to present solutions for the re-opening of libraries. The webinar also included most recent information about e-books and other digital media services.

Checklist Point 9: Libraries have been purchasing more licenses and subscriptions to digital e-book and e-magazines and video on demand services during the lockdown. Currently, we do not have statistics about budgets for digital content during the lockdown; it can be said, however, that the demand for digital content has grown considerably because all libraries are closed. Unfortunately, libraries have not been able to meet the demand, due to lack of resources and available content.

Checklist Point 10: Specific hours/ helpdesks are a standard measure in every library, where customer service is available online, by e-mail and phone and on chat. These are standard customer service channels in the majority of the libraries during normal conditions. Chat services have been used a lot more during lockdown and we estimate it will be used more even after the crisis in normal situations.

Checklist Point 12: Online meetings have been arranged where libraries can post their best practices of services during the Covid-19 crisis. Also, Facebook groups have been very active.

Checklist Point 13: There are several commercial platforms in libraries for digital content. These platforms are produced by national and international companies. At the moment there is a project on the way to explore options for a national e-book platform.

Checklist Point 14: Public libraries comply with the official regulations and do not give out physical books now - until 13th May. Since the government decided to open schools from 13th May, we are expecting that also libraries will open gradually in Mid-May.

Checklist Point 16: In many municipalities’, library staff have been laid off temporarily. The ones that are working are mostly doing remote work and serving clients online.

Checklist Point 18: In some cities, librarians have been working with other professionals to reach out to elderly people in lockdown. For example, library workers are working with urgent social issues like food delivery. Also, in Helsinki, librarians are phoning to people over 70 years old to check out how they are coping with this difficult situation.

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Ireland

Library Association of Ireland and the EBLIDA Checklist

by
Marian Higgins
Checklist Point 1: During the Covid-19 crisis the Library Association of Ireland (LAI) has been releasing regular website information, newsletters, information on social media channels.

Checklist Point 2: Information is intended to promote and develop high standards of librarianship and to secure greater co-operation between library sectors and librarians.

Checklist Point 3: LAI diffused guidance provided by Irish National Public Health Authority. Information was also provided on the diversity of Covid-related work that Irish libraries are engaged in.

Checklist Point 4: LAI is focusing on disseminating the many wonderful activities that our members are engaged in to support the national effort in fighting Covid-19. There has been an enormous and diverse response from our library community. Responses include, online story time, donating equipment to hospitals, producing 3-D printed face shields for our public health colleagues, providing services in collaboration with mental health services, online lectures and interactive workshops, delivering care boxes with reading material to vulnerable members of the community, oral history and online projects archiving the present. Librarians are taking on new roles to support the national response which includes contact tracing of confirmed Covid cases. Community support helplines have been set up across Ireland to support the needs of the vulnerable and isolated, these services are being staffed and, in many cases, managed by librarians.

The Irish government has recognised the increasing demands on librarians and libraries. In a state of the nation address on St Patrick’s Day the Taoiseach (Prime minister) specifically mentioned librarians and the government announced additional funding for e-books due to unprecedented demand. More recently Irish libraries are supporting the National Mental Health Campaign, providing access to resources, signposting and communicating a unified wellbeing message.

Checklist Point 5: IFLA WLIC was to take place in August 2020 and due to the crisis, this has been cancelled. The annual North South LAI/CILIP conference has been postponed to Oct. Members are continuing to renew their annual membership.

Checklist Point 7: Large sectors of libraries in Ireland are already funded by national government i.e. National Library, academic, government and health libraries and locally as is the case of public libraries. We are confident that continuing support will be provided to libraries.

Checklist Point 8: Each library sector promotes their own service, from the National Library to academic libraries. At national level the Libraries Development Unit of the LGMA promotes digital services on behalf of and in collaboration with public libraries. Our Association promotes digital services on behalf of all our members on our social media channels and if requested as a news item on our website.
week commencing 29th of March compared to the week commencing 1st of March, including in
the following areas:

- 313% increase in new users of e-Books and e-audiobooks service;
- 467% increase in e-learning courses being taken;
- 227% increase in language courses being taken;
- 246% increase in usage of the online newspapers/e-magazines.

As a result of this demand our national government has purchased an additional €200,000 worth of e-books.

Checklist Point 10: Irish libraries have organized specific hours/ helpdesks for the public to help them access community services. They consist of community support lines available seven days a week, online classes and other wellbeing supports.

Checklist Point 12: This is a strong need for Irish libraries to identify best practices during the Covid 19 crisis. Therefore, a communication has been sent to all members to ask for best practices or innovative approaches to service delivery that will be circulated via LAI communication channels.

Checklist Point 13: Irish libraries exchange and (re-)use digital products. An example of a medium of exchange is the Libraries Ireland website, where Useful Online Resources for Library Staff during COVID-19 have been published. This page on the Libraries Ireland website is primarily aimed at staff who are seeking health information resources, inspiration for activities, arts and culture, going on online, information about libraries and COVID-19, or opportunities for online professional development during the current period: https://www.librariesireland.ie/useful-online-resources.

There is also a digital Spring into Storytime page on Libraries Ireland with links to videos and resources that library staff from around the country are creating. 
https://www.librariesireland.ie/services/right-to-read/spring-into-storytime

Using Online Resources and Continuing Professional Development. To support new users, Libraries Ireland have created more new webpages:

- Online services during Coronavirus;
- Information on joining the library.

Registering and accessing Borrowbox, PressReader, Universal Class, Transparent Languages and Rbdigital e-magazines they can be accessed at: https://www.librariesireland.ie/news/online-services-during-coronavirus

User Guides and Video Tutorials:
A list of user guides and video tutorials for the services listed above can be accessed at: https://www.librariesireland.ie/elibrary-user-guides

Checklist Point 14: Irish libraries continue to stay relevant for their patrons within the safety measures that must be taken. The LAI structure comprises of groups, sections and committees. Currently via Zoom members can progress their meeting and programmes. Members are encouraged to send best practice and innovative approaches to the LAI for circulation via communication channels

Checklist Point 15: There is an exchange of services by libraries to schools and education providers particularly in the area of online historical research and support.

Checklist Point 16: An exchange of the experiences of library staff is made within each field of
implications for our working environment. These learning experiences will be discussed in the near future at the LAI/CILIP annual seminar.

Checklist Point 17: Within the suite of free e-services provided by public libraries there are e-training opportunities to over 500 courses and 200 languages. Library staff are availing of these training opportunities as part of their continuous professional development.

Checklist Point 18: ‘Community Call’ is a national support service delivered via phone, text and email, this service is maintained by library staff. Set up 3 weeks ago, this service caters for those over 65 and vulnerable in our society. Supports range from providing a friendly voice to talk to, organising food, transport and medicine. Wellbeing and mental health is vitally important and library staff signpost callers to free phone services. Library managers were instrumental to the set-up of this service linking with the community and voluntary network.

Comments: Irish librarians are continuing to support their communities in innovative ways promoting digital resources, facilitating remote group engagement such as online book clubs, storytelling, STEM workshops, and most importantly providing access to accurate information. Many librarians are supporting their public health colleagues by engaging in contact tracing and providing essential community supports.

As an Association we are most conscious of the need to stay in touch and options provided include Zoom, social media, website and our group emails. Camaraderie will be more important for us than ever in these anxious times.

With the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers on the 12th of March 2020, a state of emergency was declared in Latvia from 13th of March to 14th of April with a number of restrictions for state and local government institutions. Libraries were instructed to evaluate and, as far as possible, ensure the provision of on-site services remotely. Libraries in Latvia have been closed since March 13th. On April 7th, the Cabinet of Ministers extended the state of emergency in the country until 12th May.

Checklist Point 1: The Ministry of Culture, in co-operation with the National Library of Latvia, has prepared the “Recommendations for Public Libraries to Provide Services in an Emergency Situation to Limit the Spread of the Covid-19 Virus”.

The recommendations consist of several sections: dissemination of current information; information about remote library services; provision of on-site services; administrative issues. Academic, special and school libraries are also invited to use these recommendations in their work. The State Chancellery has published the “Guidelines for the Organization of Work in State...
disinfection measures, libraries may use the “Recommendations concerning the cleaning of premises for non-medical institutions to reduce the risk of Covid-19 infection” prepared by the Center for Disease Prevention and Control. The National Library of Latvia monitors the situation in libraries of Latvia. There is a section “Current News about Covid-19” on the website of the Ministry of Culture, where up-to-date information, recommendations for employers and answers to frequently asked questions are available.

Checklist Point 2: The National Library of Latvia has diffused the State Chancellery document “Guidelines for the Organization of Work in State Administration Institutions during an Emergency Situation”.

Checklist Point 3: The National Library of Latvia has diffused the “Recommendations for Public Libraries to Provide Services in Emergency Situation to Limit the Spread of the Covid-19 Virus”. Experts in the Collection Conservation Center of the National Library of Latvia regularly review the latest information related to the work during the Covid-19 emergency situation.

Checklist Point 4: A representative of the National Library of Latvia is a member of the Crisis Management Working Group established by the Ministry of Culture.

Checklist Point 5: All planned events have been cancelled or postponed and this has had an impact on the financial position of the National Library of Latvia and the Library Association of Latvia.

Checklist Point 6: The Library Association of Latvia is not collecting this information, but the Ministry of Culture is. At present, the financial impact is mainly related to lost revenue or canceled events.

Checklist Point 7: The Library Association of Latvia is not collecting this information, but there is evidence that the National Library of Latvia is providing evidence that there is an increase in the amount of royalties due for the increased number of accesses to digital resources freely available to users. The Ministry of Culture is identifying the situation regarding state level libraries, the situation in other libraries is monitored by National Library of Latvia.

Checklist Point 8: Since March 16th, the Ministry of Culture has launched the information campaign #Ēkultūra (#E-Culture), inviting the public as a whole to enjoy various cultural events online during the Covid-19 emergency situation, and to use available e-services in the field of culture without visiting the institutions on-site.

Latvian libraries have joined the Ministry of Culture’s information campaign #E-Culture and offer remote use of digital resources and e-services: e-books, digital collections, databases with remote access and other digital information resources, such as the National Encyclopedia, as well as lectures, discussions, conferences, readings and other audio and video materials. Many of the resources have been in free and remote access even before the crisis, but this is the right time to advertise these services. Residents have been offered the opportunity to register in libraries remotely. Information about remote registration options and procedures is available in library websites and social media pages.

Checklist Point 9: Digital services are freely accessible to everyone. Until the end of the emergency situation, the collection of periodicals and e-books of the national Library of Latvia has been made available until the end of the emergency thanks to an agreement between the AKKA/LAA (Copyright and Communication Consulting Agency/Latvian Authors’ Association) and the National Library of Latvia.

[More information is provided in the article "News from Latvia: The agreement between the]
We have seen an increase of indicators due to these both portals being publicly available. The total number of unique users in the periodicals portal has doubled, however, during typical hours of high usage we have noticed an increase of concurrent users – 5 times greater than before the crisis. There is a similar situation in the digitized books portal, and increasing trend in usage is seen also in other parts of the National Digital Library. The National Digital Library in general has seen a 61% increase in new users and 70% in viewing sessions.

As regards post-emergency, we might have some discussions about lifting some of the limitations for access to our content, but we do not expect that big changes will be made.

**Checklist Point 10:** Residents are offered the opportunity to register in the library remotely. Information about remote registration options and procedures is available on library websites and social media pages. Information materials about the library’s e-services and those of other institutions are available on library websites. It is possible to receive consultations by e-mail or telephone.

**Checklist Point 11:** The e-book platform “3td e-GRĀMATU bibliotēka” (3td e-BOOK LIBRARY) is available in Latvian public libraries and e-books in Latvian are freely available to registered library users. During the emergency, the number of e-books to be read at the same time has been increased – one registered user can pick up 18 e-books in the e-book library for reading (previously it was possible to read no more than 9 e-books in 30 days) In more than a month (until 20th of April) the number of users of the e-BOOK LIBRARY has increased by 50 % since the declaration of the state of emergency on 13th of March 2020. Total loans increased by 43 %. It is important to mention that this e-BOOK LIBRARY opened just less than one and a half a years ago, and is quite a new service in Latvia. Before the emergency, there was a steady increase in indicators, but since the emergency indicators have shown a much bigger increase.

**Checklist Point 12:** The Ministry of Culture and the National Library of Latvia regularly monitor the work and experience of Latvian libraries in the emergency situation. All information is available on the Latvian Library Portal, a portal which is technically maintained by Culture Information Systems Center, but the National Library of Latvia is responsible for the content of the Portal, where a separate section for best practices will soon be created.

**Checklist Point 14:** Remote and contactless services are provided is in line with the “Recommendations for Public Libraries to Provide Services in Emergency Situation to Limit the Spread of the Covid-19 Virus”.

**Checklist Point 15:** To support study and research work, a solution was sought and found to make the collections of books and periodicals of the National Digital Library of Latvia freely available. See Checklist Points 9 and 11.

**Checklist Point 16:** Exchange of information on how library staff is working from home, doing (online) learning and training or delivering services is done through professional mailing lists and social media.

**Comments:** We think that going forward into post-emergency Latvia, virtual meetings will be used more often. Libraries have improved services and that will be continued, for example, the possibility to register and apply for e-services remotely.

Many people will become more skilled in using remote and digital services, especially databases and digital collections, and will continue to use it.
Checklist Point 3: The National Library of Poland (NLP) released an official recommendation for the quarantine of books after their return to libraries. The recommended duration has been shortened to three days on May 4th.

Checklist Point 4: The National Library uses its resources to define the public libraries strategy and advises the government. These resources include, among others, the microbiological knowledge of the Preservation and Conservation Department of NLP employees and expertise of Book and Readership Institute. The government regulations and recommendations for the course of action in dealing with the pandemic are mandatory for libraries.

Another field is the participation of the National Library in preparation of the next phase of the multiyear National Programme for Development of Readership for the years 2021-2025 to be financed by the state. The past-pandemic restrictions (as they are understood now) will be taken into consideration while working on the Programme.

Checklist Point 6-7: Some local government bodies announced cuts in spending but their impact on libraries is not known and the National Library advises the national government on steps to be taken.

Checklist Point 8: The National Library is releasing regular information about the digital offer and library services to the general public.

Checklist Point 9: Digital services are freely accessible for users of libraries but libraries pay subscriptions as usual. As this activity is often financed on a local basis by local governments, statistics are not available. A very rough estimate would amount to 30 million e-documents available in ca 9,000 libraries in Poland on a yearly basis (as of 2018). Documents in the public domain are freely available and some libraries have reached agreements with publishers or distributors to allow for free access in pandemic time.

Checklist Point 10: Libraries have organized specific hours/helpdesks for the public to help them access the digital services. Because of pandemic restrictions it was done on remote basis, by phone or e-mail.

Checklist Point 11: Some libraries provide additional services for the elderly, mainly serving them by phone but also distribution of electronic materials.

Checklist Point 12: Some libraries have been posting their best practices of services on Facebook groups and their internet sites.

Checklist Point 14: According to governmental regulations, all physical services provided by
libraries have been cancelled and forbidden by law up until May 4th. The recommendations were provided by the National Library of Poland and recently on the Government sites. Rules for the opening of libraries allow for limited physical access to libraries (only returning and lending of materials, with no access to physical catalogues or reading rooms). The rules of social distancing are in force, including masks covering the mouth and nose and disposable gloves. Plexiglas screens are recommended and it is mandatory to disinfect the counters after each patron's visit.

**Checklist Point 15:** There are numerous school libraries in Poland which have not been submitted to the general rules for closure of libraries (public, science etc.), nevertheless the schools were included in the full physical lock-down so almost all of services were unavailable. Online learning was mandatory for all schools, but its scope was very limited because of lack of resources and low availability of e-learning platforms. Exchange of information was happening mainly through Facebook groups.

**Checklist Point 16:** Professional exchanges on how library staff is working from home and doing (online) learning and training or delivering services through Facebook groups.

**Checklist Point 17:** Learning and training possibilities for library staff are provided by the National Library Associations. Some libraries opened their digital resources eg. the Regional Library of the Małopolska Region in Kraków has opened its distance-learning platform including materials for librarians for all interested users.

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In Switzerland libraries will re-open on 11th May 2020.

**Checklist Point 1:** Bibliosuisse has continuously been releasing regular website information on library posture during the Covid-19 crisis.

**Checklist Point 2:** Bibliosuisse is providing legal advice on the role, rights and duties of the library as an employer on its website.

**Checklist Point 3:** Bibliosuisse has been providing official public health information of relevance for libraries (e.g. lifespan of the virus on paper and plastic, quarantining books and other media) since mid-March. This information had been checked and approved by the Federal Office of Public Health FOPH before. When more general information on public health has to be provided, Bibliosuisse refers strictly and links directly to the FOPH website.

**Checklist Point 8:** Bibliosuisse gathered on its website a wide choice of information about digital and analogue library services to the public during the Covid-19 crisis. There are links to library websites that offer home delivery by bike and lists of services with many creative and playful hints.
The platform e-bibliomedia (run by Bibliomedia Switzerland), with literature in French and English, has almost doubled its loans in April 2020. To engage and exchange with librarians in isolation, Bibliosuisse staged open Zoom video-conferences to discuss on how to stay in touch with readers, to diffuse best practice experiences and to fulfil their needs.

**Checklist Point 10:** Some libraries organized specific hours/helpdesks for the public to help them access the digital services. A particularly interesting example comes from Geneva (Bibliothèques municipales de Genève) where you can rent a librarian online: [https://bmgeneve.agenda.ch](https://bmgeneve.agenda.ch) (see the whole digital offer from Geneva: [https://sway.office.com/DWk1kXxf4O5O19o?ref=Link](https://sway.office.com/DWk1kXxf4O5O19o?ref=Link))

**Checklist Point 12:** Libraries in Switzerland use the List-server swiss-lib for every information they wish to share (mostly job advertisement). During the Covid-19 crisis, swiss-lib was used for sharing best practice as well.

**Checklist Point 14:** see Point 8.

**Checklist Point 17:** Bibliosuisse provides links regarding online learning and training during Covid-19 crisis on its website.

**Checklist Point 18:** As far as I can judge, librarians in Switzerland are not involved in non-librarian tasks.

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**News from Latvia:**

The agreement between the National Library of Latvia and AKKA/LAA

During the Covid-19 crisis the [National Library of Latvia](https://www.latvijas Digitālais valsts atvērums) managed to come to an agreement with [AKKA/LAA](https://www.akka-laa.lv) (Copyright and Communication Consulting Agency/Latvian Authors’ Association) – perhaps, a unique example in Europe. At the beginning, 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).

AKKA/LAA agreed on a Licence Agreement providing public access to the periodicals portal at no cost for the National Library until the end of the state of emergency. The portal itself was upgraded in response to the AKKA/LAA’s request to receive detailed statistics at the end of the emergency time.

Similarly, a collection of digitized 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 until the end of the state of emergency. Without disclosing the details of the agreement, it can be said that additional expenses for accessing e-books are covered by the Ministry of Culture and concern both the number of accesses to publication and the number of...
It is also important to mention that the e-books subject to the AKKA/LAA - National Library agreement represent only a limited share of the portal and do not cover commercial works.

After the agreement, 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 taken out from the portal. It is possible that some of the clauses now limiting access to e-publications will be lifted after the emergency, although there is no expectation that clauses included in the pre-emergency AKKA/LAA-NL agreement will be significantly changed.

Erratum

In the EBLIDA Newsletter, Special issue EBLIDA Checklist in the face of the Covid-19 crisis (2) France country profile, we wrote:

Checklist Point 9: Digital services are freely accessible to everyone.

This should be:

Checklist Point 9: Digital services are freely accessible to everyone, as long as the user is registered with the library. Libraries are paying subscriptions to publishers.

We apologize to the author and to our readers.

About the Newsletter

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Editors: Unless otherwise specified, all articles are written by the EBLIDA Secretariat.

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