Hi There,

As you might read elsewhere in this newsletter, our next and 26th EBLIDA Council and Conference will take place on 30 and 31 May 2018 in the second capital of Europe, Strasbourg.

As the European Union is a brave and historical attempt to unite European nations to support French agriculture, I think it is more than fair that we pay the French a visit. And Strasbourg is, apart from its administrative status, an important center for libraries and culture in general. So there are plenty of professional reasons to go. (I guess a third egg in this basket, when our Executive Committee took the decision, was more materialistic. The food will be gorgeous).

Our timing for the conference is a bit exceptional. The norm has been that we meet in early May. This time it will be at the very end of it, so that we are coordinated with the European Parliament schedule. The whole parliament will be in Strasbourgh at the same time with us. I do hope we manage to combine some serious networking with our conference, and there is a good chance to get a couple of MEP’s to visit our
Most of Europe is still working. Here in Finland the cities have dumped most of their population in the countryside, as our short Summer peaks in July. And the bookshelves in libraries are pretty empty, too, since we have brought the books with us to countless cottages. I wish you a refreshing summer break, mine will begin right now. See you in Wroclaw at the IFLA WLIC, and if not there, then later!

Yours sincerely,

Jukka Relander
EBLIDA President

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**INSIDE BRUSSELS**

**An EBLIDA blog post ahead of the CULT Committee vote on Copyright in the Digital Single Market**

By the end of this week the European Parliament will be closing for the summer until the 28th of August. MEPs have just been out for a busy Plenary setting in Strasbourg (3 to 6 July), and in this final Committee week, they are pursuing voting on topics of interests for libraries.

In that context, and ahead of the CULT Committee vote due on 11 July 2017, EBLIDA (as well as IFLA) published a blog post entitled [How much does the EP CULT Committee really care about culture and education?](http://www.itslibрис.com/blog/2017/07/how-much-does-the-ep-cult-committee-really-care-about-culture-and-education), calling on CULT Committee members not to forget them and their millions of users throughout Europe.

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**Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market, some highlights**

**A Workshop**

In this crucial period, the Copyright coalition of libraries and Cultural Heritage Institutions made up of EBLIDA and its partners, organised a 1hr30 workshop
June at the European Parliament. The event was hosted by MEP Julia Reda.

The aim was to raise awareness on the library’s position on the copyright dossier especially with regard to the issues of Text and Data Mining, Document Delivery, Out of Commerce Works, Undedicated Terminals, Cross-Border Preservation Networks, Illustration for Teaching and e-Lending.

**Vote in CULT and ITRE, consideration of amendments in JURI**

EBLIDA sent voting recommendation to members of both Committee to mitigate bad wording in the Directive proposal.

CULT and ITRE Committee voted on 11 July:
We can only have mixed feelings on the vote of 11 July in the CULT and ITRE Committees.

On the whole, there are not really any good surprise or progressive proposals. There are worrying developments with the request for compensation for TDM and the education exception in CULT, while in ITRE the demand for deletion of copies made for TDM are also regrettable.

There are positive provisions in both committees though, with for instance in CULT greater effort to define Out of Commerce Works and Never in Commerce Works, or the provision on Illustration for Teaching protected against abusive license terms.

In ITRE, there are very positive requirements such as the opening of the Illustration for Teaching to Cultural Heritage Institutions (and so libraries).

The next step is really for us to convey the views of libraries and Cultural Heritage Institutions to Mr. Voss, the new rapporteur in the JURI Committee.

**Axel Voss new Rapporteur for the Copyright Directive in the Digital Single Market for the CULT Committee**

(Picture © European Parliament)

**Axel Voss** is the new rapporteur in charge of the Copyright dossier in the JURI Committee, replacing Ms Comidini Cachia who was elected to the Maltese Parliament.
Demokratische Union Deutschlands, CDU).

Since MEP Voss joined as Rapporteur on Copyright Directive for the JURI Committee, it was not possible to set up a meeting with him. Meanwhile, the European People’s Party took a position on several issues included in the dossier (e.g. on Text and Data Mining) as publicised by MEP Reda in a tweet, showing negative signs for libraries.

As long as Mr Voss is out of reach, it will be hard for us to explain the reasons why those positions are not future-proof.

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**European Parliament voted on Marrakesh Treaty**

On July 6, the MEPs debated and voted in plenary setting on the **Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled** a.k.a. the **Marrakesh Treaty**.

The Treaty that was adopted at a diplomatic conference in Marrakesh on 27 June 2013 forms (quoting WIPO website) *part of the body of international copyright treaties administered by WIPO. It has a clear humanitarian and social development dimension and its main goal is to create a set of mandatory limitations and exceptions for the benefit of the blind, visually impaired, and otherwise print disabled (VIPS).*

After the Court of Justice of the European Union recognised the **full competence of the EU to conclude the Treaty** in February 2017, the EU pursued its work on a **Directive on certain permitted uses of works and other subject-matter protected by copyright and related rights for the benefit of persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled** and on a **Regulation on the cross-border exchange between the Union and third countries of accessible format copies of certain works and other subject-matter protected by copyright and related rights for the benefit of persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled**.

EBLIDA and IFLA warned in a **joint statement** on 15 May 2017 that “[...] the decision to allow governments the option to implement ‘compensation’ schemes that impose additional costs on libraries and charities is a major mistake [...].”

Apart from this annoying provision that hopefully the Member-states won’t use, Directive and Regulation proposals are a positive step forward in improving access to knowledge and information to visually impaired people.
The resolution on the cross-border exchange of accessible format copies (i.e. Regulation text) was approved by 610 votes to 21, with one abstention.

See also the EU Parliament press release.

A bit earlier, the Directorate General for Internal Policies, Policy Department for citizen’s rights and constitutional affairs, published a study on the Marrakesh Treaty. It “[…] provides an analysis of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Copyright Works for the Blind or Print-Disabled. It explains the background and movements that led to its proposal, negotiation and successful adoption. It then considers the Treaty’s current situation in relation to its content and issues around its ratification, particularly by the EU. It finally examines future developments around copyright reform and makes recommendations to EU institutions and Member States”.

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**Bulgarian MEP Mariya Gabriel now New Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society**

Mariya Gabriel (see article in our previous newsletter) is now officially new Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society after a vote of the European Parliament with 517 votes in favour to 77, with 89 abstentions, in a secret ballot.

See also the European Parliament Press Release.

Ms Gabriel should take on her new position in the next weeks.

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**EUROPE**

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**Hello Estonia!**

Estonia is now holding the EU Presidency from July to December 2017 for the first time in its history.

The most digital country in Europe has created a dedicated website available in 4 EU official languages, the 3 official working languages of the EU (English, French and German) + Estonian.
You can access the 4 priorities of the Presidency programme entitled Unity through balance [here](#) or individually below:

- **An open and innovative European economy**
- **A safe and secure Europe**
- **A digital Europe and the free movement of data**
- **An inclusive and sustainable Europe**

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**Cultural Heritage 3.0: Audience and access in the digital era, Tartu, Estonia**

From 11 to 13 July, the EU Presidency of Estonia is holding in the Estonian National Museum in Tartu, Estonia, the event **Cultural Heritage 3.0: Audience and access in the digital era** in conjunction with the **European Heritage Label Days**

The trailer of the conference reads “While digital technologies have changed the way people access, produce and use cultural content, what is the role of culture and heritage in building stronger user communities and a cohesive society? How can audiences be placed at the centre of matters, while developing the capacity of cultural heritage institutions?

These are the exciting topics and discussions the conference aims to address. We will look at the challenge of linking cultural heritage with social innovation and economic development. The debate on copyright reform and its influence on the accessibility of cultural content is also planned. The conference includes hands-on workshops, as well as cultural and creative field trips. The conference will be organised in conjunction with the **European Heritage Label networking seminar**.

In that context, EBLIDA Director is participating in the final debate on the copyright reform.

The programme is available [here](#).

Curious about what #digitalaccesstoculture looks like? Check out these drawing panels from @colinegraphic
Inside EBLIDA

Celebrating 25 years of Library Advocacy in Europe, by Marian Koren

As a follow-up of the EBLIDA NAPLE Conference held in Aarhus (DK) on 4 May 2017, Marian Koren kindly provided us with the text of her speech Celebrating 25 years of Library Advocacy in Europe that you can read in its full version here.

A celebration is a wonderful opportunity to rethink.

The 25th anniversary of EBLIDA and 15 years of NAPLE is an appropriate moment to reflect on Library Advocacy in Europe. I am very grateful to these organisations and to the Danish Library Association for inviting me to contribute to the theme. Rethinking is an act of sorting out the various experiences of the past, but also an act of bringing the essence out for thinking ahead. A celebration in this sense is both an end and a beginning, a milestone in the library adventure in Europe.

An adventure it is! I’m not going to give an overview of EBLIDA’s history, as there is a written version by our Luxembourg colleague Jean-Marie Reding based on a French study by Lena Baude, available on the EBLIDA’s website, and also distributed here as a brochure. Instead, I would like to focus on some of the recurrent themes and dilemmas in the work of EBLIDA and European library advocacy.

Back to the adventure! Who could have thought that a small number of library associations was able to set up an office especially for lobbying the library issues in Europe. And since then, most library associations in Europe have joined, as well as a number of institutions, national and academic libraries. Was this evident in 1992? No, not at all!
Announcement of 26th EBLIDA Annual Council Meeting & EBLIDA-NAPLE Conference in STRASBOURG (France) from 29 to 31 May 2017

Here we are! After consultation with potential hosts, the EBLIDA Executive Committee took a final decision on the hosting of the next EBLIDA-NAPLE Conference 2018 that will be held in Strasbourg (France) between 30 and 31 May 2018, with the EBLIDA Executive Committee meeting being held on 29 May.

26th EBLIDA Annual Council 30 May 2018
EBLIDA-NAPLE Conference, 30 and 31 May 2018 “Libraries bridging borders”

The title of the conference is “Libraries bridging borders”, a theme that suits Strasbourg perfectly, in itself an international city right at the heart of Europe. Indeed, the city hosts the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, the European Court of Human Rights, and lots of other institutions.

Besides that, Strasbourg is also part of the European Campus (EUCOR) “created against the backdrop of longstanding cooperation between the universities on the Upper Rhine. In 1989 they teamed up to form an international network called Eucor (European Confederation of Universities on the Upper Rhine). By establishing the European Campus, the five universities aim to take this cross-border cooperation in research and teaching to a new level in order to gain a key advantage in the international competition for the best minds and ideas”. Read more.

The city also shares a border with Germany, with whom it has strong links, and hosts an amazing network of public libraries, a national school for training head civil servants with a dedicated 18 month training course for future head librarians (INET), fab labs, etc.

Strasbourg is very accessible and boasts a good public transport system, as well as also offering amazing architectural treasures, such as the cathedral and the city centre (the Island), which is on the list of UNESCO’s World Heritage.
We invite you to check out the tourist information desk to learn more about the city.

**NOTE:** Because the conference will be hosted at the same time as a European Parliament Plenary Session, we recommend that you book your hotel room as soon as possible.

More information will be available after the summer break.

>> 5 reason why membership matters <<

**EBLIDA-LIST** is a general mailing list intended to foster communications between EBLIDA, its membership and members of the European library community. The goal is to facilitate information exchange as well as professional communication and development within the EBLIDA community. **Subscribe** now!

Events and Dates

July
19th IEEE International Conference on Business Informatics (CBI'17)
Place: Thessaloniki, Greece
https://conferences.cwa.gr/cbi2017/

July 24 – 27

4th Annual International Conference on Library and Information Science
Place: Athens, Greece
https://www.atiner.gr/library?utm_source=researchbib

July 24 – 29

LIS International Summer School 2017: "Designing the Future of Libraries, Learning and Information"
Place: Stuttgart, Germany
https://www.hdm-stuttgart.de/bi/studierende_dozenten/summerschool2017/

August

August 12 – 28

Edinburgh International Book Festival
Place: Edinburgh, Scotland, UK
https://www.edbookfest.co.uk/

August 19 – 25

Place: Wroclaw, Poland
http://2017.ifla.org/

August 23 – 25

International Symposium on Open Collaboration (OpenSym 2017)
Place: Galway, Ireland
http://conference.ie/Conferences/AddRegistration.asp?Conference=510

August 23 – 26

IEEE/WIC/ACM International Conference on Web Intelligence 2017 (WI’17)
Place: Leipzig, Germany
http://webintelligence2017.com/

August 25 – 26

Mining Humanistic Data Workshop 2017
August 27 – 31

20th anniversary International Conference on Text, Speech and Dialogue (TSD 2017)
Place: Prague, Czech Republic

August 28 – 30

16th International Conference on Perspectives in Business Informatics Research (BIR 2017): "The Digital Transformation"
Place: Copenhagen, Denmark
http://www.bir2017.aau.dk/

August 29 – September 1

International Cross Domain Conference for Machine Learning & Knowledge Extraction (CD-MAKE)
Place: Reggio Calabria, Italy
https://cd-make.net/