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.

European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations

Newsletter

The voice of Libraries in Europe - Lobbying for Libraries
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The President’s Editorial

Dear Colleagues, EBLIDA Members,

I just went through some statistics in Finland. Our national book sales are a bit less than 20 million a year, and libraries lend almost 70 million books annually. So every literate citizen, given that our population is just above 5 million, is buying four books a year, and if libraries are included, the average Fin reads about two books a month.

That is a lot, considering that at the same time we watch television, google most of our information and socialise on Facebook!

But that is not my point. What I am saying is that libraries have a crucial role in keeping up the culture of reading, and literacy in general.

European publishers might interpret these figures as evidence against libraries, claiming that this is precisely how libraries cannibalise book sales. But that is not the case.

Four bought books a year per literate citizen is on the top level in the EU, as well as is our national literacy rate. This simply means, that the more people use libraries, the more they also buy books. And furthermore, libraries have old books, too, unlike bookshops. So if there is an author who is publishing her tenth book, nine others are still available in libraries and her name stays in the minds of the readers.

As well as that, the habit of reading has to be nurtured and cultivated. If a Finnish family of four were to buy all the books they read, they would have to buy eight books a month. People can't afford that.

Libraries are boosting the sales of printed books, and there is no reason why this would not be the case with e-books, contrary to what publishers are claiming.

Now the e-books market is limited and inhabited by the forerunners of the digital era, who believe in free content and open access. The publishers are claiming that this will be the case in the net for the times to come, and that the obscure (and non-existent) alliance of libraries and the American digital giants will make the world fall into a virtual 16th century Caribbean, populated by the robbers and the robbed.
the digital literacy, as we are doing in the world of matter. Let's keep people reading, in the future, too.

Yours sincerely,

Jukka Relander
EBLIDA President

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INSIDE BRUSSELS

Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market – IMCO voted on 8 June 2017

Today was an important step in the discussion regarding copyright reform since the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) of the European Parliament voted its compromise amendments on the proposal for a Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market.

The results of the vote has just been issued, and although it is a bit too soon to provide an overview of the result, it looks like some of our advocacy work paid off.

We will keep our EBLIDA members informed in a further communication very soon.

To be continued.

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MEP Library Lovers Group – 60 books for the Summer event at the European Parliament Library

Across Europe, libraries and reading agencies run creative and stimulating programmes to get kids on summer holidays (and their parents!) to take advantage of the long summer days and get some serious reading done.

MEPs from the MEP Library Lovers Group were asked to share their recommended Summer reading for adults and kids alike and the choices were curated by a panel of Europe’s leading library experts.

The results were launched at the European Parliament Library in Brussels on June 6th with a unique cocktail event and reception featuring guest authors from across Europe.
EBLIDA was represented by EC member Jean-Marie Reding.

The event also launched the 60 Books for the Summer dedicated website, where the public can learn about their MEPs favourite books, and be inspired to read the titles themselves.

To read more about this exciting project and the results, follow this link http://meplibrarygroup.eu/index.php/60-books-for-the-summer/ and to read more about the recommendation results read here http://www.mepbooksforsummer.eu/.
Further to the recommendation on 3 May 2017 of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) to lower VAT on e-books, the European Parliament endorsed on 1st June the proposal of a reduced rate of VAT on e-books -- bringing them into line with VAT levied on printed matter -- by 590 votes to 8, with 10 abstentions.

EBLIDA welcomes this decision as it is in line with the recommendation given in EBLIDA’s answer to the Public Consultation on a reduced VAT rates for electronically supplied publication of 16 September 2016.

You can access the European Parliament’s press release on the recent decision here.

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**Bulgarian MEP Mariya Gabriel to be appointed New Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society**

On Tuesday 16 May, Mariya Gabriel, born 20 May 1979 in Gotsse Delchev, Bulgaria and MEP from the European People’s Party (Christian Democrats) was proposed as Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society by Jean-Claude Juncker in an EU Commission press release.

She will now have to convince the Members of the European Parliament to validate her nomination. To our knowledge, her validation has not yet occurred.

You can find her biography on her MEP webpage or personal webpage.

Our Bulgarian colleague, Snejanka Ianeva, summarised her biography below:

She is one of the most active members of the European Parliament. In 2013 she was awarded the “MEP of the Year” in the category “Gender Equality” and in 2016 she received that award in the category “Development”.

As of 2014 Mariya Gabriel is Vice-President of the EPP Group and Head of the Bulgarian delegation in the EPP Group.

As member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, since 2009, Mariya Gabriel has focused her activities on the migration policy of the European Union, Schengen, visa liberalisation agreements with third countries, security issues, the fight against terrorism and human trafficking.

In the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mariya Gabriel’s focus is on Mediterranean countries, and relations between the EU and Africa, the Middle East and the countries from the Arab Peninsula. She upholds the need for improved consistency of the foreign and internal policies of the EU, conflict prevention and conflict resolution, migration and security, economic links, and development policy.

Since 2014, Mariya Gabriel has been President of the Working Group on Apiculture and Bee Health. In 2015 and 2016 she organised the European Week of Bees and Pollination in the European Parliament. In 2016 Albert II, Prince of Monaco, was a keynote speaker. As part of this event she established the European forum of beekeepers and farmers. In 2017 she started the national campaign ‘honey breakfast’ in schools aiming to promote the contribution of bees for biodiversity and the benefits from the consumption of honey and other apiculture products.

Since 2009 Mariya Gabriel has been an active member of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, which brings together parliamentarians from the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and the European Union. As part of the Assembly, she is a member of the Committee on Political Affairs. Her work focuses on conflict prevention and conflict resolution, strengthening the rule of law, development, EU-Africa relations, the future of ACP-EU cooperation, relations with the African Union, and participation of women in the democratisation and reconciliation process.
has established six European information centres in Bulgaria - two in Sofia, and one each in Blagoevgrad, Ruse, Burgas and Sliven. She organises training activities, presentations and campaigns aiming to familiarise young people with the benefits of Bulgaria’s membership of the EU. She is involved in the yearly school contests related to European affairs.

In her information bulletin for 08.05 – 14.05.2017, she has included information on the work of the European Parliament, but also many of the events she and her team have recently organised in Bulgaria, among them: open lesson in Plovdiv and Sliven as part of the ‘Honey breakfast’ campaign; information booths, debates, competitions and other activities to celebrate the Day in Europe in Sofia, Blagoevgrad, Burgas, Sliven and Russe; partnership in the project “Childhood without Violence”, etc.

She has initiated the national ‘Reader of the Year’ campaign and every year hosts a visit of the 27 winners to Brussels. This year she was honorary patron of the 19th National Children’s Book Festival and sent congratulation address to the participants in the official opening of the National Library Week.

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**EUROPE**

**EURODIG – a short overview**

![EuroDIG 2017 poster](image)

What does digital citizenship mean to you? What are the obstacles and risks behind it? What does the perfect digital society for citizens look like?

EBLIDA Director participated from 7 to 10 June in the edition of the European Dialogue on the Internet Governance, **EURODIG**.

The whole event was held on 6 and 7 June in Tallinn, Estonia, and addressed the issue of **Digital futures: promises and pitfalls.**

The [rich programme](#) encompassed a broad range of activities mixing official speeches and round table discussions.

EBLIDA Director followed the official opening on 7th June, followed the [Workshop 7: The EU copyright reform’s proposal – which impacts on users’ fundamental rights?](#) and was one of the panelist in [Workshop 10: Critical Internet literacy](#) as a guest from the Council of Europe.

The point of this workshop was to address the issue of how information is manipulated, how stakeholders, and especially libraries, can raise awareness on this issue and fight back against fake news and alternative facts, help people to become more aware and conscious of the activities and services they use over the Internet.
EBLIDA goes back to Aarhus for the Next Library event that will be held from 11 to 14 June.
You can follow the activity on the Next Library website at http://www.nextlibrary.net/.
Since EBLIDA Director was among the Advisory Committee, he will report live through blog post and twitter on what is happening there.
Stay tuned and don’t miss out on this great event.

Inside EBLIDA

EBLIDA Council and Conference 2018

EBLIDA Director has been busy negotiating with several parties over the past few weeks and over the coming weeks we hope to announce to you the definitive location and dates of next year’s events. Please watch this space for further information.

The EBLIDA blog is now hosted on our homepage

To increase visibility and post information on a more frequent basis that can be used by our members and any followers of our Social Media platforms, we have moved the EBLIDA blog to our homepage.
The blog was initially created for the Right to E-Read Campaign and has progressively evolved into a more general communication tool on articles of interest that we spot on the web and want to raise awareness on.
Now we hope to make it useful to flag initiatives of interest to the library community and to increase visibility of topical and relevant activities.

You can read our blog at http://eblida.tumblr.com/
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

June

June 8 – 12
Facilitating social sciences and humanities scholarship of the Arctic through library, archival, and information sciences
Place: Umeå, Sweden
http://www.trippus.se/web/Presentation/web.aspx?evid=t+k2p0UcaP8eXYy9TNfnXsQ==&ecid=loNJV+HVzL0o7zbDGv/zsQ==&ln=eng&view=category&template=desktop

June 11 – 14
Next Library 2017
Place: Aarhus, Denmark
http://www.nextlibrary.net/

June 12 – 16
Information, Narrative and Rhetoric: Exploring Meaning in a Digitalised Society (DTMD 2017)
Place: Gothenburg, Sweden
http://is4si-2017.org/is4si-organisation/

June 12 – 16
12th International Congress on Medical Librarianship and 2017 EAHIL Workshop: "Diversity in Practice: Integrating, Inspiring & Innovative"
Place: Dublin, Ireland
http://eahil2017.net/

June 13 – 15
Islandora Camp (iCamp EU)
Place: Delft, Netherlands
https://islandora.ca/camps/eu2017

June 14
Images: Digitization and Preservation of Special Collections in Libraries, Museums, and Archives
Place: Online only

June 14 – 15, 2nd Digital Preservation for the Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities (DPASSH) Conference
Place: Brighton, UK
http://dpassh.org/
30th Bled e-Conference: “Digital Transformation – From Connecting Things to Transforming Our Lives”
Place: Bled, Slovenia
http://bledconference.org/

June 18 – 22

Place: Bolzano, Italy

June 21

Society of Indexers 2017 Conference
Place: Oxford, UK

June 21 – 23

22nd International Conference on Natural Language & Information Systems (NLDB 2017)
Place: Liège, Belgium
http://nldb2017.conferences.hec.ulg.ac.be/

June 21 – 23

OAI10: CERN - UNIGE Workshop on Innovations in Scholarly Communication
Place: Geneva, Switzerland
https://indico.cern.ch/event/405949/

June 21 – 24

12th Iberian Conference on Information Systems and Technologies (CISTI’2017)
Place: Lisbon, Portugal
http://www.cisti.eu/index.php/pl/chamada-de-artigos

June 21 – 24

KM Conference 2017: Knowledge Management, Learning, Information Technology
Place: Novo Mesto, Slovenia

June 22

The future for copyright and design rights policy: rights management, enforcement and the UK’s approach post-Brexit
Place: London, UK
http://www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/conference/copyright-policy-17

June 22 – 23

The Book Index
Place: Oxford, UK
https://indexconference.wordpress.com/

June 22 – 24

2017 AES International Conference on Semantic Audio
Place: Erlangen, Germany
http://www.aes.org/conferences/2017/semantic/

June 26 – 30
Sponsor/Organizer: Library and Information Services of Cyprus University of Technology
http://staffmobility.eu/staffweek/libraries-impact-preserving-cultural

June 26 – July 7

11th annual Digital Methods Summer School: "Get the Picture. Digital Methods for Visual Research"
Place: Amsterdam, Netherlands
https://wiki.digitalmethods.net/Dml/SummerSchool2017

June 27 – 30

6th Information: Interactions and Impact (I3) conference
Place: Aberdeen, Scotland, UK
http://www.rgu.ac.uk/research/conferences/i-2017/overview/

June 28 – 29

4th International Linked Open Data in Libraries, Archives and Museums (LODLAM) Summit
Place: Venice, Italy
http://summit2017.lodlam.net/