Editorial
By Joanne Yeomans
This is the first time I'm writing to you in EBLIDA News. Following the advice of several EBLIDA members at the Council Meeting, I am going to try to improve our communication to you and give you more information about forthcoming events. I want to bring you a regular column from the Expert Groups so that you can see what is coming up on their agenda, and to let you know about meetings in which the secretariat and Executive Committee will participate. I hope this will afford you the opportunity to co-ordinate action within your own country so that we can better work together across a growing Europe. I extend an invitation to you all to also feed relevant information about your own activities to other members through this channel.

If you have any items you think are interesting to share with others, please send me a short paragraph via the EBLIDA mail address using the subject “News”. Submissions are also invited for longer reports. I’ll include a round-up of the Expert Groups’ news, upcoming events and finally my own activity report. I hope you’ll appreciate these new features and let me know if you have suggestions for improvements.

If you have any comments, suggestions, news stories, events to promote, or ideas for reports, please contact the editors through the EBLIDA office:
Email: eblida@debibliotheken.nl with subject “News”
Telephone: +31 70 30 90 551

News Round-Up

BL publishes new leaflet on copyright for the non-specialist
The British has produced a leaflet on Copyright and Research aimed at the non-specialist: www.bl.uk/ip/pdf/copyrightresearchreport.pdf
The leaflet contains some anecdotes showing how copyright is restricting positive action in the UK, an action list for the Government, and The British Library’s own “Principles on Copyright Law”.

German National Librarian’s Conference in June: “A new view on libraries”.
From June 2nd to 5th, 2009, the annual librarians’ meeting, the German Bibliothekartag, will take place in Erfurt, Germany. It is the main national conference with a broad professional programme and is organized by the German professional associations. About 2000 colleagues are expected to participate and its topic for 2009 is “A new view on libraries”. www.bibliothekartag2009.de/

New EBLIDA members in April
♦ Istanbul Technical University Library (Associate member)
♦ Turkish Librarians’ Association, Istanbul Branch (Associate member)

EBLIDA Council re-elects President and new Executive Committee
The 17th EBLIDA Council Meeting took place in Vienna on May 7th at the Academy of Sciences. The meeting welcomed a record number of participants: 67 in total from 43 different member organizations and 23 different countries.

The main business of the day was the election of the Executive Committee and President for the term 2009 – 11.

Gerald Leitner from the Austrian Library Association (BVÖ) was unanimously re-elected as President. He spoke of his determination to reach the ambitious goals set in the EBLIDA work programme and his belief and trust in the new Executive Committee. He thanked personally in turn each of the outgoing members of the Committee adding what a pleasure it had been to work with them.

The new Executive Committee, whose first meeting will be in autumn 2009, will be composed as follows:
♦ EBLIDA President: Mr. Gerald Leitner, BVÖ Austria: re-elected.
♦ EBLIDA Vice-President: Ms Jill Martin, CILIP UK: re-elected, newly appointed to position.
♦ EBLIDA treasurer: Mr. Klaus-Peter Böttger, BID Germany: newly elected.
♦ Ms. Lene Byriansen, Danish Library Association: newly elected.
♦ Ms. Saara Ihmäki, Finnish Library Association: re-elected.
♦ Mr. Aldo Pirola, AIB Italy: re-elected.
♦ Ms. Erna Winters, VOB Netherlands: newly elected.
♦ Mr. António de Pina Falcão, BAD Portugal: re-appointed.
♦ Ms. Gloria Perez Salmerón, FESABID Spain: re-elected.
♦ Mr. Berndt Fredriksson, Swedish Association of Archivists: newly elected.
The outgoing representatives who had reached the terms of their office, were awarded small gifts of thanks for their work:

Barbara Lison, who was EBLIDA Vice-President, Karin Åstrom Iko, Toby Bainton, Pernille Drost, and Bas Savenije, who was EBLIDA Treasurer. Bas, Barbara and Toby will remain chairs of their respective Expert Groups.

Other business at the Council Meeting included the presentation of the previous year’s annual report by Andrew Cranfield, outgoing EBLIDA Director, and presentation of the coming year’s work programme by new Director, Joanne Yeomans.

The meeting was concluded by a champagne reception followed by dinner in the Glacis Beisl restaurant, where the warm evening and candle-lit garden made for some friendly networking amongst members.

Thank you to all attendees for your participation and we look forward to seeing you all in Helsinki in May 2010.

“A Library Policy for Europe”: joint EBLIDA-NAPLE conference

Participants couldn’t have wished for a more typical or a more beautiful Viennese hall for the location of this conference, held on May 8th in connection with the EBLIDA Council Meeting. Marble stucco walls, glittering chandeliers and an inspiring ceiling fresco expressed the elegance of the 18th century Feestsaal which had witnessed Schubert, Beethoven, and Haydn play to royal audiences.

The speakers rose to the occasion and delivered a very interesting and cohesive programme along the theme of A Library Policy in Europe. Newly re-elected EBLIDA President, Gerald Leitner, opened the proceedings with a rousing speech suggesting that “if we believe in the idea of a unified Europe, offering equal rights and opportunities for all its citizens, we will have to act for a common European library policy […] in order to ensure equal and unrestricted access to information, education and culture for all European citizens”. He prompted the audience to be “more proactive than reactive” to “make politicians aware of the possibilities that libraries have to offer”.

María Antonia Carrato Mena, Chair of NAPLE, complemented this introduction by noting that “we [already] have documents and projects [which form a] basis and it should be possible to build over it together a common policy on libraries in Europe”. She added that “NAPLE Forum has had a close relation with EBLIDA since its creation and our wish is to reinforce it in order to improve the position and visibility of libraries in the European context.”

The first session “Library policy and legislation” provided an overview of the political situation regarding libraries and looked at how public library perspectives are reflected in national policies. Claudia Lux, above, opened the session highlighting why we should advocate for libraries.

The second session “The role of libraries in a European perspective” began with Paul Sturges’s entertaining look at the overlap between libraries and cafes in the modern and ancient world. Speakers from the European Commission, particularly Yvo Volman, showed how EU projects evolve and create the need for debate and discussion amongst the different players within EU states. Breda Karun finished with a very useful history of EU library-related projects.

The third part of the conference looked at where the EU currently focuses its interests in relation to information provision, culture and research. Jill Cousins showed the many interesting items about Mozart that are brought together in Europeana. Paul Ayris gave a stimulating example of pro-activity with his work on University College London’s Open Access policy. Toby Bainton, chair of the Expert Group on Information Law, showed how movement at a European level on copyright had been moving backwards as far as libraries are concerned, demonstrating how much more work there is ahead of us.

At the end of the proceedings, Gerald Leitner presented a paper that had been discussed and agreed by the EBLIDA Executive Committee and NAPLE. It calls for action by the EU on four points: the writing of a White Paper on the role of public libraries in the European Knowledge Society, the creation of a Knowledge Centre collecting information on European libraries, European funded projects which promote the development of libraries generally, and a removal of the barriers to a true information society created by copyright in its current form.

This Vienna Declaration is available to read at: www.eblida.org/index.php?page=position-papers-and-statements-5.
Thanks for this smooth and successful conference are due to Gerald Leitner’s office at the BVÖ who did a great job of organizing the logistics of the event.

Presentations from the speakers are available to see on the conference web site: www.conference.bvoe.at/

EBLIDA Expert groups
EBLIDA co-ordinates four expert groups which meet and communicate online to discuss lobbying tactics in their field of interest. Anyone with an interest in the topic can become a member of these groups, you do not necessarily need to be in a member organization, so you are welcome to contact the chair of the group if you are interested in contributing.

We have been asked to let you know the date of the next meeting of each group and to highlight the particular items of relevance that are coming up so that you can discuss these within your own organization and feed information into the groups. We will try to improve this information in coming issues of EBLIDA news and in the meantime we will keep you informed of additions to the web pages for these groups.

For any further information about the work of the group, contact the Chair or one of the members.

Chair: Barbara Lison,
barbara.lison@stadtbibliothek.bremen.de
Next meeting: November 2009, to be confirmed.

The EGCIS members are spending time over the next months collecting and analyzing relevant EU documents in preparation for preparing position papers for EBLIDA and planning our lobbying tactics in this area for the new European Parliament. They also hope to collect best-practise examples on “learning about culture and learning through culture” from and in libraries and archives. If you have any such examples, please contact Barbara.

∞ Looking for new members from eastern European states.

EGIL – Expert Group on Information Law.
Chair: Toby Bainton, toby.bainton@sconul.ac.uk
Next meeting: September 2009, to be confirmed.

Other events: The chair of the group will attend a meeting for the Europeana projects cluster group in Prague on May 27th.

The group regularly monitors activities in relation to information law and is quick to respond when necessary. Currently they are monitoring:
♦ the Google court settlement in the US which affects European books.
♦ the proposed extension of the term of performers’ rights (currently with the Council of ministers so a matter for national lobbying).
♦ The Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) which affects copying of copyright works as potential ’counterfeiting’

In addition they intend to do further lobbying about the EC (Markt) Green Paper ‘Copyright in the knowledge economy’ in order to ensure that the Commission’s actions, considered in the paper, are not forgotten. The paper can be found at: www.eblida.org/uploads/eblida/10/1228208920.pdf

They will also be supporting IFLA in WIPO with its work on exceptions to copyright.

ILEG - Information and Library Education Group.
Chair: Jill Martin, martin@cilip.org.uk
Next meeting: January 2010, to be confirmed.

ILEG members will try to map library education in EU states during the coming months. They intend to produce a position paper on the Bologna process. Their work is in collaboration with EUCLID and they will continue to discuss joint activities.

∞ Looking for new members from eastern European states and anyone with expertise on educating digital librarians.

JEGDO - Joint Expert Group on Digitisation and Online Access.
Chair: Bas Savenije, bas.savenije@kb.nl
Next meeting: to be confirmed.

JEGDO is a joint group organized with LIBER – it will be reviewed in light of proposed changes to LIBER’s organization and the membership will also be reviewed.
The group hopes to develop EBLIDA’s position on Open Access, and on Europeana, and to work towards a statement on best practices for digitization (for each phase of the workflow).

Work plan and mission statement now on the web: www.eblida.org/index.php?page=jegdo

Looking for more members from the public library sector.

EGELLL – Expert Group on Education and Lifelong Learning
Chair: Joanne Yeomans, yeomans@debibliotheken.nl
Next meeting: Milan IFLA conference.

This is not yet a formal expert group and so interested people are welcome to our preliminary discussions about what this group might achieve if it were set up. Please contact Joanne if you are interested in hearing more or participating.

Looking for anyone with views on what EBLIDA might do in relation to this subject.

Events in May-June
Full details of events in bold are on the web site at www.eblida.org/index.php?page= european-events

♦ 26 - 29 May : QQML2009 www.isast.org/
♦ 27 May : Europeana Project Cluster Group Meeting on IPR in Prague (Toby Bainton to represent EBLIDA)
♦ 2 – 5 June : German national Librarians’ Conference www.bibliothekartag2009.de/?mode=1
♦ 8 June Meeting : EBLIDA Director, British Library and IFLA

Director’s Report
April Executive Committee Meeting and meeting with Turkish colleagues
On March 30th and April 1st the Executive Committee were invited to meet in Turkey for our regular spring business meeting, and then to meet our Turkish colleagues for a discussion. The meetings were hosted very generously by Serdar Katipoğlu at the Istanbul Bilgi University Library and his team kindly helped us with our logistics.

The Executive Committee meeting minutes are available for EBLIDA members: www.eblida.org/index.php?page= executive-committee-2

The Turkish meeting was attended by nearly 30 people from various Turkish University Libraries, the Istanbul branch of the Turkish Librarian’s Association and the EBLIDA Executive Committee. The Committee and President presented EBLIDA and the work of the Expert Groups and in return we were given an insight into the organization of the Turkish Librarian’s Association and the particular interests of Turkish Librarians. Ayhan Kaygusuz from the Istanbul Technical University identified many common interests: digitization, copyright law, Open Access and open archives, and information literacy and lifelong learning.

Mehmet Manyas, President of the Istanbul branch of the Librarians’ Association, gave an overview of his organisation’s history, founded in 1948 and now with 1500 individual members. He stated Turkey’s hopes for joining the EU and hence the Association’s wishes to become more involved in European networks. Both the Technical University and the Librarians’ Association decided to join EBLIDA and we look forward to having the opportunity to introduce them to other members at future events.

EBLIDA to represent libraries on Europeana
EBLIDA has been invited to join the work group on licensing for Europeana, the European digital library project. I attended the kick-off meeting in The Hague on April 2 and have signed up to receive further information. The group is charged with developing a Europeana Content License and hopes to do most of this virtually. However, Toby Bainton, Chair of EGIL, agreed to attend a discussion in Prague on May 27 about licensing issues encountered by the projects cluster group which are aggregators from other EU projects who will feed their content into Europeana.

Director’s Work Plan for May and June
May was my launch into the work of EBLIDA and I enjoyed meeting many members at the Council Meeting in Vienna. Now I have to type up the minutes for that meeting, and the other meetings that coincided there.

In June I’ll be at the German Librarians’ Conference at their kind invitation. It’s also a chance for some meetings — including a meeting with the new EBLIDA treasurer, and the EBLIDA President, to go through the budget. I hope I’ll also meet some new German colleagues.

After Erfurt I have a meeting with Stuart Hamilton from IFLA and Ben White from the British Library to discuss collaboration, then there’ll be the June issue of the Newsletter to produce and some more improvements to the web site.

Claudia is checking our membership database and chasing up unpaid membership fees. She’s also helping with updates to the website - so watch this space!