President’s Editorial

Central to EBLIDA’s role is to promote and defend libraries, their services, and the benefits that they bring for the citizen of Europe, and one of the specific policy areas is to support the role of libraries and archives in processes and activities related to lifelong learning.

That libraries have an important role to play in supporting lifelong learning is obvious. Public libraries are often one of the few places where people who are no longer in education can find a learning environment and support. Local libraries are embedded in the local community and usually offer a flexible range of opportunities to inspire and support people continuing or returning to learning.

However, the opportunities libraries offer for lifelong learning are not always so evident to educational and cultural policy makers at the national or European level. Libraries need to make sure that their potential is recognized and that they can show the impact they have in this area.

The ENTITLE project aims to do just that and EBLIDA is a contributing partner. The aim is to disseminate, consolidate and enhance the work of existing networks and projects for lifelong learning in Europe’s public libraries.

Now coming to the end of its lifetime, ENTITLE’s final conference will take place in Budapest in October and will be chaired by EBLIDA. All librarians, educators, policy makers and representatives from the learning sector are invited to attend. It promises to bring together many librarians with interesting experience in supporting lifelong learning. There are more details inside this newsletter.

Still overshadowing all other news at the moment is the Google Book Settlement. EBLIDA’s Director represented us at the recent European Commission hearing and reports on this inside this issue. The Google controversy is leading to questions about the future of Europeana and the effectiveness of current European copyright legislation in supporting such digitization projects. We will be keeping you up-to-date with news on these topics.

One last reminder: the LIBER-EBLIDA workshop on Digitization of Library Material in Europe takes place from the 19th – 21st of October. If you want to join and didn’t register already, don’t forget the deadline is October 2.

Gerald Leitner, EBLIDA President

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News Round-Up

Barroso Re-elected European Commission President

On 16 September, the European Parliament approved José Manuel Barroso as President of the European Commission for his second term.

Barroso will work together with the Council to suggest other members for the Commission. The European Commission will then be approved by the European Parliament and the Council before it takes office in 2010.

Presenting his plans for the new Commission, Barroso confirmed that he envisages a commissioner responsible for justice, fundamental rights and civil liberties, including citizens’ and minority rights. He also said he envisages having a commissioner for internal affairs and migration, and another one for “climate action”. He also said he planned to create the new post of chief scientific advisor.

Current Commissioner for Information Society and Media, Viviane Reding, is expected to retain her post for a third term though there might be changes to her portfolio. Charlie McCreevy, however, will step down as Internal Market and Services Commissioner and there are several candidates being touted as likely replacements. Ján Figel' is not expected to stay on as Education, Training, Culture and Youth Commissioner, nor are László Kovacs, Taxation and Customs Union Commissioner, nor Neelie Kroes, Competition Commissioner. Details of the new organization and the Commissioners are expected to emerge between November and January 2010.

Europeana—Next Steps Consultation

The European Commission has opened up a consultation on the future of Europeana. On 28 August a press pack was released entitled "Europe's Digital Library doubles in size but also shows EU's lack of common web copyright solution":

ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=5181


Deadline of 15 November 2009 for responses.

At the recent plenary conference for Europeana, Jill Cousins, Programme Director, urged people to respond to this consultation to show that Europeana is supported by the community. This should help to secure its future within the new Commission structure, she said.

EBLIDA’s Expert Groups on Information Law (EGIL) and Digitization and Online Access (JEGDO) plan to prepare a response for EBLIDA and members are also welcome to send input to the secretariat.


Upcoming challenges for Digital Europe are raised in a public consultation launched by the Commission and open until 9 October 2009.

The objective of the consultation is to help prepare a new EU strategy for the information society during 2010—2015, as the current i2010 strategy comes to a close this year.

Responses can be submitted to some or all of the questions. Of particular interest to libraries is section 6: Promoting access to creativity at all levels, which asks about copyright and digitization of content.

A press pack including reports and background information as well as a link to the public consultation document is available: ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=5146

An EBLIDA response will be prepared and members’ views are also welcome.

To support the debate on i2010, the Swedish presidency will organize a high level conference: the Visby conference, on 9—10 November: www.se2009.eu/visbyagenda

In preparation for the event, a report "A Green Knowledge Society - An ICT policy agenda to 2015 for Europe’s future knowledge society” was delivered on 14 September by a study team at SCF Associates Ltd, to the Swedish Minister for Communications Åsa Torstensson. The report will be subject to open consultation.

European Congress on E-Inclusion

Colleagues from NAPLE (National Authorities on Public Libraries in Europe) and (EBLIDA member) Bibnet have invited EBLIDA members to register for the European Congress on E-Inclusion: ‘Technology and Beyond in Public Libraries’ taking place on October 22—23 at the Flemish Parliament in Brussels.

The conference will aim to raise the profile of European public libraries. The agenda will look at the role and opportunities public libraries have to be places where citizens can learn about and use technology. Speakers will consider the responsibility of libraries to ensure they are accessible and relevant to all citizens.

HADOPI 2 Passed in France

On 15 September, the French National Assembly approved the HADOPI 2 bill taking it a step nearer to becoming law in France.

The bill is a revised version of HADOPI (reported in the June EBLIDA Newsletter) which was controversially adopted by the French National Assembly in May before being rejected by the Constitutional Council in June because several points did not comply with the French Constitution. It allows authorities to cut off internet access and impose fines on those found to have downloaded copyrighted material without authorization.
US Settlement Hearing Postponed

On September 24 Judge Denny Chin, who was due to preside over the fairness hearing for the Google Book Settlement, issued an order adjoining the hearing indefinitely. The request to adjourn was made by the plaintiffs (The Authors Guild et al.) and was not opposed by Google.

The order (available to read on the Authors Guild website) explains that the original settlement will be subjected to changes in light of ongoing negotiations with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and so a hearing would make no sense until the revised text of the settlement was ready to be considered. Possible changes are hinted at in the letter that the DOJ submitted to the Court on September 18: thepublicindex.org/docs/letters/usa.pdf

The DOJ makes three main claims against the proposed settlement which reflect some of the complaints received from European and library organizations:

1. That it fails to satisfy Rule 23 [which potentially defines the class of authors and their treatment by the settlement as well as the notification process];
2. That it would violate copyright law; and
3. That it would violate antitrust law [concerning both the pricing of books by the publishers and the possibility for others to compete with Google].

The hearing, due to start on October 7, will be replaced by a status conference to determine how to proceed.

EBLIDA’s views on what Europe should do

EBLIDA was invited to speak at the European Commission’s hearing on the Google Book Settlement which took place in Brussels on September 7th. Director, Joanne Yeomans attended and spoke on behalf of members.

We were asked to represent libraries views on “consumer issues, education and research” which was the first session of the day. EBLIDA co-ordinated its response with IFLA and LIBER who were timetabled to speak earlier in the agenda so as to maximize the time allotted.

The position statement was written by the Expert Group on Information Law (EGIL) which received input from a few EBLIDA members. The IFLA CLM group, which has an overlap in membership with EGIL, took a broader global focus and also sent its statement as a member of the plaintiff class (IFLA is an author and publisher of books in the US) to the US Court.

Verbally, IFLA gave an overview of all the points that concern libraries and which are contained in both our position statements. LIBER, a research library association, concentrated on access to the database for research and the question of fair price setting. This left EBLIDA to focus on the main concerns for European libraries in general and the public we serve: the inequality in access that will arise between the US and Europe if the settlement is agreed, and the necessary changes to (mainly copyright) legislation that are needed to make a Google-type database or settlement possible in Europe.


As a result of the hearing and participation in a press briefing, EBLIDA’s views were reported in a number of news sources, including the International Herald Tribune.

Google said at the end of the day that it was already in discussions with right holders organizations in Europe to try to agree a similar settlement. However, to allow for the digitization of all books, and especially Orphan Works, changes will need to be made to legislation in most countries and Google said that it had understood this message very clearly.

Changing copyright legislation is something the European Commission will need to consider if it wants Europe to have as wide access as the US, and appears to be something that Google itself will also push for. Changes to legislation rather than licensing solutions might also help other projects, such as Europeana, to compete with Google: something that the EC seems keen to encourage.

The Copyright Unit will write a report of the hearing for the European Parliament and Council. Apparently, it was asked to particularly report on Intellectual Property, cultural diversity and competition aspects.

Stop Press—EC Orphan Works Hearing

The European Commission has invited EBLIDA to present the views of its members on Orphan Works legislation at a hearing on October 26th. The Expert Group on Information Law will help prepare for this event; members are invited to offer views. Our position statements will be made available on the web.
BNF in negotiations with Google?

French newspaper, La Tribune, claimed on August 18 that the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF) had signed a deal with Google for digitization of its books. Notoriously opposed to Google in the past, the BnF was quick to issue a statement “to clarify that it has not signed an agreement with Google for the digitization of its collections.” However, Bruno Racine, Librarian at the BnF, implied that a digitization deal with a commercial company could not be ruled out and a second press release ten days later appeared to confirm that negotiations of some sort were indeed taking place with Google:

“talks between the Library and companies such as Google […] are absolutely normal; - no decision has been taken so far concerning a possible cooperation agreement”.

No further news has appeared about where these talks might be going.

Main Article

Europe’s New libraries Together In Transversal Learning Environments.

It’s not a particularly memorable title but the project has some worthy aims: to bring together European libraries who are involved in lifelong learning using digital library and ICT tools in order to disseminate, consolidate and enhance their work. As a result, the project partners hope to better demonstrate the value of libraries as informal/non-formal learning organisations backed up with recommendations to Member States and the EU for supporting and extending the contribution of libraries to lifelong learning policies and actions.

Project facts

♦ Funded under the Lifelong Learning Programme, Transversal Programme, Key Action 4 (KA4): Dissemination and Exploitation of Results.
♦ 14 partners in 13 countries.
♦ Lead partner: MDR Partners, UK.
♦ www.entitlell.eu/eng

Project deliverables

Each participant produced a country report describing the level of library involvement in learning services through a questionnaire which gave an opportunity to describe:

1. The policies relevant to the provision of learning services by public libraries.
2. What difference these policies have made to the strategies and services public libraries actually offer.
3. The types of learning services which public libraries offer and the people to whom they are offered, the learning materials being used, and the qualifications and competencies of staff.
4. Examples of existing learning services in public libraries.
5. Whether evaluation or impact assessment frameworks are in use

These provide some very interesting examples of learning activities that have taken place in European libraries.

As a result of the studies, a set of guidelines has been produced which describe the state of the art, draw out the themes that have emerged and give examples of best practice to highlight how future policy and funding might be targeted. The guidelines cover a wide range of issues from strategic responsibility to designing learning environments to partnering with other organizations. There is the possibility to comment on a guideline, to make a suggestion or leave details of your own related project: www.entitlell.eu/eng/Guidelines

The results of the project and especially the guidelines will be discussed at the final conference which will take place at the National Széchényi Library in Budapest on October 16th. The conference is co-organized by EBLIDA and several other members are key partners in the project and will be present. During the conference there will also be the opportunity to participate in one of three workshops with experts on:

♦ cooperation of LLL organizations,
♦ learning impact, or
♦ library 2.0 - libraries, literacy and learning in the knowledge society.

All EBLIDA members and anyone interested are welcome to attend for free and just need to register in advance: http://www.entitlell.eu/eng/Meetings/Final-Conference
New EBLIDA members in August

♦ Elsevier (Sponsor)

EBLIDA Executive Committee

Next meeting: Barcelona, Spain, 12—13 November 2009. Agenda to be announced.

Committee members and minutes of previous meetings: www.eblida.org/index.php?page=executive-committee

EBLIDA Expert groups

Expert Group on Information Law (EGIL).
Chair: Toby Bainton, toby.bainton@sconul.ac.uk
Next meeting: 29 September 2009, London.
Agenda (main items):
1. Strategy planning for follow-up on items:
   ♦ Green Paper on Copyright in the Knowledge Economy,
   ♦ Vienna Declaration,
   ♦ Term Extension,
   ♦ Google Book Settlement.
2. Preparing responses on:
   ♦ Orphan Works Hearing
   ♦ Europeana—Next steps (with JEGDO)
   ♦ Public consultation on post-i2010


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

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

Joint Expert Group on Digitisation and Online Access (JEGDO).
Chair: Bas Savenije, bas.savenije@kb.nl
Next meeting: 19 October 2009, The Hague.
Agenda (still to be announced).

Preparing responses on:
♦ Europeana—Next Steps (with EGIL)

∞ Looking for more members from the public library sector.

Expert Group on Culture and the Information Society (EGCIS).
Chair: Barbara Lison, barbara.lison@stadtbibliothek.bremen.de
Next meeting: November 2009, to be confirmed (the group is currently carrying out a lot of its work by email and online).

♦ A web page is being compiled containing links to background documents on culture at a European level. This will eventually be made public.
♦ Hella Klauser will represent the group at the European Culture Forum (Culture in Motion conference) in Brussels on 28—30 September: ec.europa.eu/culture/news/news2307_en.htm
♦ Barbara Lison is going to meet the Secretary General of the European Cultural Parliament to discuss future participation: www.kulturparlament.com/

∞ Looking for new members from eastern Europe.

Expert Group on Education and Lifelong Learning (EGELLL)

Some members of the group met in Milan where they agreed to start collecting useful links for information about what is going on in the EU.

This is not yet a formal expert group; please contact the Chair, Joanne Yeomans joanne.yeomans@eblida.org if you are interested in hearing more or participating.

Events in October—November

Further details in EBLIDA’s calendar of European events: www.eblida.org/index.php?page=european-events

IX Workshop REBIUN on digital projects
1—2 October 2009, Salamanca, Spain

6th Communia Workshop: Memory Institutions and Public Domain
1—2 October 2009, Barcelona, Spain

UK Public Libraries Authorities Conference
7—9 October 2009, Bristol, UK

28th Annual Course on International Law Librarianship
11—15 October 2009, Istanbul, Turkey

Enhancing the culture of reading and books in the digital age
13 October 2009, Frankfurt, Germany

Internet Librarian International 2009
14—16 October 2009, London, UK
ENTITLE Project Final Conference: Libraries for Lifelong Learning  
16 October 2009, Budapest, Hungary  
Full details earlier in this newsletter.

2nd LIBER-EBLIDA Workshop on the Digitization of Library Material in Europe  
Full details in the July-August newsletter.

IFLA ILDS 2009: 11th Interlending and Document Supply Conference  
20—22 October 2009, Hannover, Germany

European Congress on E-Inclusion: ECEI09. Technology and beyond in public libraries  
22—23 October 2009, Brussels, Belgium.  
See the brief news item in this newsletter.

International UDC Seminar 2009: Classification at a crossroads - Multiple Directions to Usability  
29—30 October 2009, The Hague, Netherlands

International Conference on Intellectual Property and Cultural Heritage in the Digital World  
29—30 October 2009, Madrid, Spain

WissKom2009  
4—6 November 2009, Juelich, Germany

2nd International Conference INFuture2009: Digital Resources and Knowledge Sharing  
4—6 November 2009, Zagreb, Croatia

4th ICITST 2009: 4th International Conference for Internet Technology and Secured Transactions 2009  
9—12 November 2009, London, UK

Funding calls and deadlines  
[We hope to develop this section in future issues]

Digital libraries and Digital Preservation  
9 October 2009: EC ICT Call 6 Information Day, Luxembourg. Registration is free; deadline October 4.  
cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/telearn-digicult/call6-infoday_en.html

This event addresses researchers interested in submitting project proposals to the sixth ICT call under FP7, objective ICT-2009.4.1: Digital Libraries and Digital Preservation. The information day aims at helping participants to better understand the work programme and criteria for the evaluation of proposals, to facilitate sharing of ideas and experiences, and to meet potential partners for project consortia.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Access to Learning Award  
31 October 2009: application deadline.  
www.gatesfoundation.org/ATLA

Ulverscroft Foundation Best Practice Awards  
31 December 2009: application deadline.  
The Ulverscroft Foundation has agreed to provide renewed sponsorship of 20,000 GP Pounds to continue a best practice development programme, organised with the IFLA Libraries Serving Persons with Print Disabilities Section (LPD). Whilst this will be of particular interest to special library services for the blind, applications are also welcomed from public libraries, school libraries, university and college libraries, national libraries etc.  
www.foundation.ulverscroft.com/award809.htm

Grundtvig Actions: preparatory visits funding  
Deadline: varies depending on national agency.  
ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/guide/fiches/grund4_en.html#1

Later deadlines  
10 February 2010: EC Culture programme funding opportunities, deadline for applications.

Director’s Report

The Google hearing at the EC at the beginning of September was an exciting few days and I combined it with an extra day in Brussels to accompany Ben White of the British Library to a meeting with a think tank and an MEP. It was valuable experience as we start to ramp up EBLIDA’s lobbying activities. We expect lots of activity in coming months and need to devote even more time to preparing our arguments and our positions on orphan works, information strategy, copyright legislation, and library policy and more involvement in areas related to our other core activities such as culture events.

During October I won’t be in the EBLIDA office very often. I will start the month in Barcelona with two EGIL members for the Communia workshop: Memory Institutions and the Public Domain. EBLIDA is part of the Communia network which looks at copyright issues related to putting material in the digital environment.

After that there’s a bit of time in the office before I go to perform Chairing duties at the ENTITLE conference in Budapest. Then it’s quickly back to The Hague for the EBLIDA workshop on digitization of library materials in Europe and straight from there to Brussels for the E-Inclusion meeting co-organized by NAPLE where library policy will be one of the topics for discussion.

I will stay in Brussels for the Orphan Works hearing the following week, then fly from there to Vienna to meet the EBLIDA President. Before you know it, it will be the end of the month and time for the next newsletter. I’m looking forward to reporting all this action to you then.

Joanne Yeomans, EBLIDA Director.