Presidents Editorial
I am looking forward to welcoming everyone to EBLIDA’s annual conference and the 18th Council Meeting, this year in Helsinki and kindly organized and hosted by the Library of the Finnish Parliament, Helsinki City Libraries, the Finnish Library Association and the Ministry of Education. At our last conference in Vienna we agreed the contents of the Vienna Declaration with NAPLE Forum and agreed to work together to try to achieve them. This year, we want to take forward the ideas in this document and further plan our joint efforts in this direction. We invite you all to join us in this work. There has never been a more important time to work together at a European level to ensure that the European Commission’s vision of a “Digital Europe” does not ignore the valuable services that libraries provide to the citizens of Europe.

EBLIDA signs COMMUNIA Public Domain Manifesto
The Public Domain Manifesto has been produced within the context of COMMUNIA, the European Thematic Network on the digital public domain. EBLIDA is one of the members of the Communia network. The manifesto along with a number of translations, and the list of signers is available online at www.publicdomainmanifesto.org

The manifesto closes with the following recommendations:

1. The term of copyright protection should be reduced.

2. Any change to the scope of copyright protection (including any new definition of protectable subject-matter or expansion of exclusive rights) needs to take into account the effects on the Public Domain.

3. When material is deemed to fall in the structural Public Domain in its country of origin, the material should be recognized as part of the structural Public Domain in all other countries of the world.

4. Any false or misleading attempt to misappropriate Public Domain material must be legally punished.

5. No other intellectual property right must be used to reconstitute exclusivity over Public Domain material.

6. There must be a practical and effective path to make available ‘orphan works’ and published works that are no longer commercially available (such as out-of-print works) for re-use by society.

7. Cultural heritage institutions should take upon themselves a special role in the effective labeling and preserving of Public Domain works.

8. There must be no legal obstacles that prevent the voluntary sharing of works or the dedication of works to the Public Domain.

9. Personal non-commercial uses of protected works must generally be made possible, for which alternative modes of remuneration for the author must be explored.

The next Communia event, open to all, is in Istanbul, Turkey, on 19—20 April. Its theme is “Education and the Public Domain: The Emergence of a Shared Educational Commons”; the keynote speaker is the renowned scholar of the public domain, Prof. James Boyle. Register and see more programme and location details on the website >>
We are moving towards a Europe without borders, achieved by the slow dismantling of barriers inherited from the old way of life. Libraries can play a key role in reducing illiteracy rates and digital illiteracy, improving the integration of all members of society, supporting innovation and the sharing of knowledge, and helping individuals navigate information overload so that they can live and work efficiently in the new digital Europe. Identifying the barriers to our success and working at removing them must be as much a part of our work as carrying on doing what we do best. If we do not adapt, others will come to take over our role.

If you share the belief that libraries still have an important contribution to make in European society, then help us to identify our strengths and fight for what it will take to do our work. Political awareness, legal restrictions, and not least the absence of funds, are among the barriers we have to work at removing. We have a lot to celebrate and much that we can still contribute. Through participation in the conference you will contribute to informing the work of the EBLIDA-NAPLE collaboration to raise awareness of the contributions that libraries can make to the European Union’s Digital Europe agenda.

All are welcome to attend the conference which offers a reduced rate for EBLIDA and NAPLE members. The conference is preceded by the 18th annual EBLIDA Council Meeting which is held at the same venue. EBLIDA members are welcome and should register in advance via the conference website.

18th EBLIDA Council Meeting for Members
Thursday 6th May 14:00 – 18:00
Parliament of Finland, in the Parliament Annex Little Parliament,
Address: Arkadiankatu 3, Helsinki, Finland.
Participation in the EBLIDA Dinner in the evening is €35.

EBLIDA-NAPLE Annual Conference:
Abolish Barriers: the role of libraries in an evolving Europe.
Friday 7th May 9:00 – 18:00
Parliament of Finland, in the Parliament Annex Little Parliament,
Address: Arkadiankatu 3, Helsinki, Finland.
Social events around Helsinki will take place on the 8th May for those who wish to stay.
€75 for EBLIDA or NAPLE members, €130 for non-members; evening dinner included in the fee.

Full details of the programme and social events, and the registration form are found on the conference website.>
Expert Group on Information Law (EGIL).
Members of the EGIL group went with representatives from Knowledge Exchange in early March to meet with Cecilia Wikström, Chair of the European Parliament Working Group on Authors’ Rights. The meeting focused on the point of view of academic authors and how exceptions and the use of licensing affect access to information for students and academics.

EBLIDA Director and Secretariat
In April, the Director will attend the Spanish EU Presidency event on “Digital libraries and copyright” on 12–13 April in Madrid, and the Dutch VOB Madurodam Conference “Agenda for the library future, comparing strategic issues” in The Hague on 22 April. The EBLIDA office is shut on 30 April which is a national holiday in The Netherlands.

Events and Dates

Events in April-May

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

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<td>8–10 April</td>
<td>12th Fiesole Collection Development Retreat 8—10 April 2010: Leuven, Belgium</td>
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<td>12–13 April</td>
<td>Spanish Presidency of the EU event: Digitisation of cultural material. Digital libraries and copyright</td>
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<td>19–21 April</td>
<td>MELCom International (Middle East Libraries Committee) 32nd annual conference 19–21 April 2010: Cordoba, Spain</td>
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<td>19–20 April</td>
<td>8th Communia Workshop: Education and the Public Domain: The Emergence of a Shared Educational Commons 19–20 April 2010: Istanbul, Turkey</td>
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<td>23 April</td>
<td>UNESCO: World Book &amp; Copyright Day Date: 23 April 2010</td>
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<td>24 April</td>
<td>Open Knowledge Conference (OKCon) 2010 24 April 2010: London, UK</td>
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<td>26 April</td>
<td>World Intellectual Property Day 26 April 2010</td>
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<td>2–4 May</td>
<td>Joint Technical Symposium (JTS) 2010: Digital Challenges and Digital Opportunities in Audiovisual Archiving 2—4 May 2010: Oslo, Norway</td>
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May 6–7, 2010
18th EBLIDA Annual Council Meeting and Conference, Helsinki, Finland.
More details on the web page >>

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<td>Libraries in the Digital Age (LIDA) 2010 24—28 May 2010: Zadar, Croatia</td>
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<td>25–27 May</td>
<td>2nd Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries International Conference (QQML2010) 25—28 May 2010: Chania, Crete, Greece</td>
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<td>25–27 May</td>
<td>WITSA (World Information Technology and Services Alliance)’s 17th World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT2010) 25—27 May 2010: Amsterdam, The Netherlands</td>
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<td>26–28 May</td>
<td>4th LIBER Conference Librarians Group, “Meeting with manuscripts, today and tomorrow” 26—28 May 2010: Rome, Italy</td>
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Funding Calls and Deadlines
New calls and those with a deadline in the next two months. The details are listed in order of their deadline date.

Further details of these and all open calls can be found on EBLIDA’s Funding and Project Opportunities page: http://www.eblida.org/index.php?page=funding-and-project-opportunities

IFLA Building Strong Library Associations Programme

The Building Strong Library Associations (BSLA) programme, a new IFLA programme, is currently in development and will be launched in September 2010. Training content in the programme includes support to develop the effectiveness of library associations in strategic planning and financial management, organizational sustainability, developing strategic relationships and fundraising, and advocating on behalf of the profession and library users.

The BSLA programme will consist of:
- The Building Strong Library Associations training package - a modular, customizable training package
- IFLA’s existing policy training packages
- Mentoring and activities (for example, study tours)
- Advice and help on working with other associations (for example, to form regional consortia)
- An online platform to provide remote access to materials and knowledge

IFLA will deliver the BSLA programme in three countries from 2010 and is seeking three library associations to participate. Activities would start from September 2010, and participants would receive funding for training, mentoring, and other activities to develop the capacity of the library association. Interested library associations in Europe should contact the Management of Library Associations section.

More information about the programme >>

FP7-ICT-2009-6:
4.1 Digital Libraries and Digital Preservation
Deadline: 13 April 2010

FP7-ICT-2009-6 (Framework Programme 7: Information and Communication Technologies: 6th Call).

Part of this call addresses the FP7 Challenge 4: Digital Libraries and Content, and there is a total of 69M EUR specifically for digital libraries and digital preservation.

Full call information >>

Details and slides from the Information Day >> held in Luxemburg on 9 October 2009.

IFLA Action for Development through Libraries (ALP) Programme: Projects
Deadline: 1 May 2010

€45,000 is provided for small projects. In 2010, the maximum provided per project is €12,000.

The types of projects that ALP supports include:
- One-off workshops and training activities, delivering existing IFLA’s policy-based training materials
- Workshops and training where new training packages and content based on ALP focal areas will be delivered and made available to IFLA
- Longer-term capacity building activities and training designed to support the development of the sector in a country, for example through the Building Strong Library Associations Programme.

ALP supports projects in training and development in developing countries and emerging economies with an emphasis on capacity building and train-the-trainer or cascading delivery. ALP does not support projects that are intended for the purchase of equipment, scholarships or in-service training. ALP does not pay fees to staff or consultants for a project.

For more information and application forms see the website >>

** NEW **

IFLA Researcher-Librarian Partnership
Deadline 3 May 2010.

The Researcher-Librarian Partnership is a new initiative of IFLA’s Library Theory and Research Section for 2010.

Research skill and knowledge are the essential tool kit for ensuring that libraries and librarians continue to effectively and efficiently meet the evolving needs of the clients and communities they serve. The Researcher-Librarian Partnership is a mentoring Program that will provide the opportunity for new professionals to develop and refine their skill, knowledge and confidence in conducting research.

The Partnership is open to practising librarians who have no more than seven years of professional experience in the library and information science sector at the time of application. Participants will be selected to reflect the range and diversity of the organization and institutions that represent the IFLA membership.

The purpose of the Partnership is to provide the opportunity for recipients to receive expert coaching and guidance as they undertake a research project on a selected library or information issue.

Up to six recipients will be selected to take part in the Partnership in 2010. The successful recipients will be matched with a mentor who has experience in conducting research.

The application form and further details are available on the website >>