President’s Editorial
Thank you to EBLIDA members for a successful and enjoyable 18th Council meeting in Helsinki in May. Thanks to the efforts of those Full Members who attended and those who took the time to send proxy instructions we were able to reach quorum and hold a vote on the proposed changes to the EBLIDA Constitution which have resulted in giving more rights to Associate Members. This is a way towards better democracy and for Associates to be more involved in EBLIDA’s work and become more involved in the future.

The Council Meeting on 6 May was followed by the EBLIDA-NAPLE conference “Abolish Barriers—the role of libraries in an evolving Europe” on 7 May also in the conference room of the Finnish Parliament in Helsinki. This provided the next step forward for our work with NAPLE towards improving libraries’ position in Europe. We had some great speakers and gathered new ideas for how to move forwards in the afternoon workshop. Thank you to everyone for their contributions making it a great day.

Read more about the two events from page 4 onwards in this issue.

Belgium takes over EU Presidency from July 1
Belgium will take over the Presidency of the EU from Spain on 1 July until the end of the year when it hands over to Hungary to complete the trio Presidency cycle. In May, Belgium State Secretary for European Affairs Olivier Chastel said that the challenges facing the Presidency would be to cope with the economic and financial crisis, bolster social cohesion, boost Europe’s clout on the international stage, move the EU forward in justice and home affairs (asylum, immigration, etc.), pursue enlargement and monitor the budget agenda for the months ahead. Read more about Belgium’s role >>

EBLIDA and NAPLE will contribute to the Belgium Presidency event, ECEI10: ‘Delivering Digital Europe in Public Libraries’, which will take place in Brussels on 21—22 September. More information will follow.

Consultation Green Paper on Culture
The European Commission has released at the end of April a consultation paper seeking views on how to support and develop the cultural and creative industries in Europe. The Green Paper “Unlocking the potential of cultural and creative industries” refers to the KEA report of 2006 in which libraries were defined as a sub-sector of the cultural industry.

The EBLIDA Expert Group on Culture and Information Society (EGCIS) is drafting a response with input from the Expert Group on Information Law (EGIL) which will be sent on behalf of EBLIDA members. The submission will be posted to members who can add their support if they wish. Deadline for the consultation is 30 July 2010. Read all documents >>

Which Culture Programme after 2013?
In further Culture news, the DG Culture has given advance warning of a consultation that will be launched in September this year to gather opinions from cultural stakeholders on the next generation of the Culture Programme after the current 2007-2013 programme comes to an end. As the programme will potentially define funding and policy directions for another 6 years, it is important to influence it to ensure the role of libraries is recognized and that support is continued during a time when economic difficulties mean that the funding of libraries is threatened at the very time they are needed most.
Culture Info Day videos help improve funding chances
The full programme of presentations and videos are available for the Culture Info Day which took place in Brussels on 17 May. The day was designed to help organizations understand the Culture Programme and to take better advantage of funding opportunities. The presentations are mainly though not exclusively in English but the videos are available in English, French, German, Spanish and Italian. See the news announcement >>

The event is also followed up with Culture Contact Point events in each Member State. See the full agenda of national events >>

Commission’s Digital Agenda for Europe
The European Commission announced on 19 May its Communication “A Digital Agenda for Europe”. Already with input from the Parliament and approval from the Commission, the Agenda outlines seven priority areas for action:

- creating a Digital Single Market
- improving the framework conditions for interoperability between ICT products and services
- boosting internet trust and security
- guaranteeing the provision of much faster internet access
- encouraging investment in research and development
- enhancing digital literacy, skills and inclusion
- applying ICT to address social challenges such as climate change, rising healthcare costs and the ageing population.

The agenda’s website >> details the background and links to the full Communication paper. It also calls for input >> of ideas and examples of activities from your organization that relate to the identified priorities so that national meetings in all EU countries can discuss these further. All libraries and library associations should think about contributing examples and ideas so that the work of libraries is recognized.

Read further detail on the actions that will be associated with these aims in the summary >> and full details in all European languages in the full text of the Communication >>

Gallo report passes Committee stage
The controversial own-initiate report >> on the enforcement of intellectual property rights in the internal market by French MEP Marielle Gallo has passed the Committee stage and will go onto the Parliament’s agenda. The final report with amendments was adopted only after a close vote of 15-9 in favour by the Legal Affairs (JURI) Committee on 1 June. The report argues that IPR infringements have reached “worrying proportions” but at the same time stresses the need for a European Observatory on Counterfeiting and Piracy due to the lack of data. By focusing on IPR infringement, illegal downloading and piracy, the report seems to imply that copyright legislation and internet access must be tightened to protect industry at the expense of individual rights. The report was submitted to Parliament on 3 June but it does not yet appear on the agenda for upcoming meetings.

EBLIDA helps launch the Copyright for Creativity Declaration
Members of EBLIDA have contributed to the writing of the Copyright for Creativity Declaration which was launched at the European Parliament on 5 May. The declaration calls on the European Commission, European Parliament and Member States to engage in policy forming towards a balanced, flexible and harmonised system of exceptions that is in step with the 21st Century knowledge economy. It is backed up with examples of current problems that need solutions >>

Due to the timing, which coincided with the EBLIDA Annual Council meeting and conference, EBLIDA could not be represented at the launch but Stuart Hamilton of IFLA spoke for libraries and helped make a video of the event on YouTube >> with the Open Rights Group, another of the signatories.

The declaration is supported by a broad coalition of European groups, representing consumers, creators, libraries, civil society and technology companies; see the list of signatories >>. EBLIDA member associations are encouraged to sign up to the declaration and to do so should read the information about how to sign >> and then contact Nick Ashton-Hart through the contact link on the copyright4creativity.eu page where further information can also be found.
EBLIDA President Gerald Leitner is "Book Person of the Year"

The Austrian book and media industry association and the Ministry of Culture have elected the EBLIDA President and CEO of the Austrian Library Association "Book Person of the Year 2010". This award is given by publishers and booksellers to those who advocate most effectively for books in Austria. Last year the award was given to the Austrian Ministry of Culture, and the year before that to the Mayor of Vienna showing the high prestige of the award.

In his acceptance speech, Gerald Leitner pointed out that he does not see the prize as a commendation of himself, but of all people involved, and above all the thousands of Austrian librarians who contribute to the organization of Austria's biggest festival for literature "Austria Reads. Meeting Point Library".

EBLIDA present at the IFLA conference

EBLIDA members, including the President and Director, will attend the 76th IFLA General Conference see the website for which the programme runs from August 10—15. If you would like to meet the Director to discuss EBLIDA or find out more about what we are doing, please contact director@eblida.org.

Communia final conference and next event in Berlin

A reminder of the Communia final conference in Torino, Italy:

All kinds of materials including the programme, live twitter feed and wiki are available on the website for which the programme runs from August 10—15. If you would like to meet the Director to discuss EBLIDA or find out more about what we are doing, please contact director@eblida.org.

European: Parliament approval and the Public Domain Charter

The report on Europeana by Helga Trüpel of the Culture Committee of the European Parliament has been approved by the Parliament on 5 May and the resolution has also been commented on in a Communication from the Council, from their meeting of 10 May, which supports funding for Europeana until 2013. It calls for more content, better funding, and a review of copyright particularly in order to find solutions for orphan works. The report was based on input received from the Europeana consultation to which EBLIDA responded in November 2009.

The Europeana Foundation has published a policy statement, the Public Domain Charter, to highlight the value of public domain content in the knowledge economy. It alerts Europe's museums, libraries, archives and audiovisual collections to the fact that digitization of Public Domain content does not create new rights in it. The manifesto is not, however, a contract with those bodies who contribute to Europeana.

The Europeana Public Domain Charter is published in support of the recent Public Domain Manifesto from Communia. Europeana, and its governing body, the Europeana Foundation, support the principal aspirations of the Manifesto which is a statement made from the content users' perspective. The Europeana Charter, however, represents the position of the content holders – the organizations that are entrusted with the safe keeping of Europe's Public Domain content. In the Charter, Europe's museums, libraries, archives and audiovisual collections, who provide digitized content to Europeana, take a position that strongly supports the importance of the Public Domain as expressed in the Manifesto. The Charter takes account of the dilemma in which heritage collections find themselves: their drive to digitize and make Public Domain content accessible is tempered by a recognition of the costs involved, and the need to arrive at the most appropriate agreements with those who are willing and able to fund digitization programmes - including the private sector.

Europeana has also published its annual report for 2009 Europeana Annual Report.
“Fair use” industries contribute to economic growth

The Computer and Communications Industry (CCIA) has published a 2010 update to its previous 2007 study showing that companies benefitting from limitations on copyright holders’ exclusive rights (such as “fair use” and exceptions) generated revenue of $4.7 trillion in 2007. The study followed the same methodology used by the entertainment industry which had claimed that copyright protection contributes $1.52 trillion to the economy. The report was heavily criticized by the Executive Director of the Copyright Alliance, which includes many powerful companies from the music, film and TV industry, who seemed to view the report as providing arguments that would threaten copyright protection and original creators.

Read the report >>

Feedback for position paper from EBLIDA-NAPLE conference

“Abolish barriers: the role of libraries in an evolving Europe.”

The EBLIDA Council meeting and annual conference, which took place in the Finnish Parliament Building-Annex in Helsinki on 6th—7th May 2010, were attended by one hundred participants with only a few prevented from attending by the Icelandic volcanic eruption and the Greek riots.

The 2nd EBLIDA-NAPLE joint conference was organized around the theme of abolishing barriers to enable libraries to reach their potential in a Europe still evolving and adapting to the challenges of the twenty-first century. It followed the joint conference last year in Vienna which looked at the need for a library policy for Europe. The 2009 Vienna Declaration > estab-lished an agreement between EBLIDA and NAPLE about the support needed from the EU to improve the environment that would allow libraries to fulfill their role in Europe:

♦ a White Paper describing the new role of public libraries in the Knowledge Society and calling on member States to act on behalf of libraries;
♦ support to set up a Knowledge Centre for current and reliable information on libraries;
♦ European funded projects that promote the meaningful development of libraries, not just digital library services;
♦ a fair copyright policy for the digital age.

This year’s conference succeeded in moving a further step towards these goals by receiving input from speakers and participants to a more detailed position paper that will be used for lobbying. EBLIDA and NAPLE will work on this position paper in coming months in order to contact MEPs and the Commission again with more detailed demands.

The conference began with intelligent and warm introductions from Marcus Rantala of the Finnish Ministry of Culture and Tuula Haatainen, the Deputy Mayor of Helsinki, both of whom were obviously well-informed and appreciative of the activities in libraries. Haatainen ended by saying “We believe in the future and the future of libraries”. Jukka Relander, President of the Finnish Library Association, talked about the economic problems threatening libraries, and how Finland was lucky to have such great support, even coming from unexpected sources: the Director of district hospitals in Helsinki had said during a budget meeting that he would bargain on a couple of health care institutions if it would save a couple of libraries. Europe’s libraries are one of our great strengths. Maria Antonia Carrato thanked the Finnish hosts and welcomed participants on behalf of NAPLE. She talked about the Vienna Declaration which had cemented the agreement between NAPLE and EBLIDA to work together.

Gerald Leitner introduced the idea for the conference and the aim to gather input for the position paper. He was followed by the always-entertaining Eppo van Nispen tot Sevenaer, Director of the award-winning Delft DOK Library Concept Centre in The Netherlands. He inspired the audience to think about the point of libraries not from a librarian’s or literature-reader’s point of view, but from the person on the street, the child, the unemployed person, the X-factor viewer rather than the opera lover, the computer game-player rather than the book lover; what can libraries do for them?
Three speakers then reported the new roles of different libraries with Rolf Hapel representing public libraries, Derek Law speaking for academic libraries, and Bas Savenije describing the new roles of national libraries. These gave some interesting insights into three cutting-edge services and prepared the participants to think of ways their own libraries were using innovations to fulfill new roles.

After a buffet lunch in the Parliament cafeteria, the conference participants separated into four groups to discuss four challenges for libraries’ roles: illiteracy, fragmentation of society, pressure for innovation, and information overload. The input gathered by NAPLE and ELIDA from these groups will help with the writing of the position paper and preparing follow-up lobbying actions.

It is hoped the position paper can be ready to present to MEPs and Commission staff at the next EBLIDA-NAPLE event organized for the Brussels EU Presidency in autumn:

Next EBLIDA-NAPLE event:
ECEI’10 (2010 European Congress on E-Inclusion)
“Delivering Digital Europe in Public Libraries”,
Brussels 21st—22nd September 2010

18th EBLIDA Council Meeting

More than 60 members of the EBLIDA Council attended the meeting representing in person over 40 members with another 12 represented by proxy. The Council approved a number of documents: last year’s Council meeting minutes, the strategy for 2010—2013, the work programme for 2010-11, the budget for 2010 and estimate for 2011, the new members during 2009-10 and finally the proposed constitution changes.

The main reason for voting on a constitution change was for the suggestion made last year at the 18th meeting to give voting rights to Associate Members. The precise details were drafted during the year by a working group of the Executive Committee in consultation with a solicitor ready for agreement by the Committee and submission to the Council for approval. The change will give voting rights to Associate Members in future meetings and an increase in the weighting of the votes of Full Members to ensure that the wishes of Full Members take precedence over Associates. The Associate category encompasses any individual library members, as well as non-EU library associations. At the same time several other changes were proposed by the Executive Committee: a change to the quorum requirements to ensure that if Associates were awarded voting rights, the enlarged voting body would not put quorum of future meetings at risk, a lengthening of the term of the Executive Committee members from 2 to 3 years, and some small cosmetic changes mainly to do with language and changed definitions since the constitution was written in 1992.

The Council also heard about the work of the Expert Groups during the last year and a gift was presented to Toby Bainton who steps down as Chair of the Expert Group on Information Law due to his retirement.

All approved documents and presentations will be shortly available with the draft minutes of the meeting on the Council web page >>. This is only accessible to EBLIDA members and requires a login which was sent out with the Council invitation and can be obtained by emailing the EBLIDA Secretariat.

For the first time in its history, EBLIDA represents Full Members in all countries of the European Union—a very good reason to celebrate. The Council continued the celebrations in the evening with dinner by the sea to watch the late sunset over Helsinki.

Council members—all members of EBLIDA, whether full or associate, are warmly invited to the 19th Council meeting and conference:

EBLIDA 19th Council Meeting
Malaga, Andalucia, Spain,
26th—27th May 2011
Expert Group on Information Law—EGIL
The members of EGIL met in Helsinki on 5 May under the new chair, Harald von Hielmcrone (see below). They made further plans to develop the EBLIDA lobbying strategy for issues related to copyright and information law and discussed the recent developments on Orphan Works made by DG Markt. Members of the group met with Marielle Gallo shortly after returning from Helsinki to discuss her own-initiative report on IPR enforcement reported on page 2 of this issue.

New Chair of EGIL
Harald von Hielmcrone is MA in philosophy (1972). Since 1978 he has worked in university libraries in various capacities: Head of Public Services, Head of Acquisitions, and Head of Research. Presently he is Senior Consultant at the State and University Library in Aarhus, Denmark. He has been a member of various Danish government committees advising on library and information policy issues, and he was in 1996-97 the secretary for the committee revising the Danish library legislation. Harald von Hielmcrone is copyright advisor to the Danish library associations and has been a member of EBLIDA’s Expert Group on Copyright, which preceded the present EGIL Group, since 1999. Since 2004 he has been a member of IFLA’s committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM), and has represented IFLA at WIPO meetings.

Expert Group on Culture and Information Society—EGCIS
Members of EGCIS met in Helsinki on 6 May to discuss the work plan for the coming year. They have since published a list of important background links for the group which will be updated and expanded over time, and are currently working on a response to the Green Paper on “Unlocking the potential of cultural and creative industries” (see page 1 of this issue for details).

New Chair of EGCIS
Hella Klauser, Dipl.Bibl. M.A.
Hella has great and varied international library experience. Since December 2005 she has been responsible for international cooperation within the “Network Expertise for Libraries” (KNB) at the German Library Association. This field of interest also includes the coordination of the German IFLA national committee. From 2008 - April 2010 she was spokeswoman of BI-International, a commission of the German umbrella association BID (Library & Information Germany), which coordinates the international know-how-transfer by supporting and promoting international professional exchange. From 1991 until 2003 she worked as a library director at the Goethe-Institut, the German cultural institute. She spent five years working in Paris, France, being responsible for library matters in France, and seven years working in Tokyo, Japan, and coordinating library and information matters for different Asian countries (Korea, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong) as well as Japan. Between 1989 and 1991 she was library director at the German-American Institute in Heidelberg, Germany. Her university studies took place in Stuttgart, Germany, in linguistics, comparative literature and library science. She has a number of different publications on international library matters. She was born 1959 in Holzminden, Germany, and is married with two children (14 and 17 years old).

Digitization Group
Following the disbandment of the joint LIBER-EBLIDA group last year, Erna Winters, representative of the Dutch Library Association on the EBLIDA Executive Committee, is acting Chair of the new group to steer it towards a clear mission and work programme. She met with interested members in Helsinki and is developing a plan to establish the group during the next year. She is looking for potential members from all sectors—public, academic, and national libraries; see her presentation slides on the Council meeting page for more details.

Events and Dates

Events in June-July

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

IS&T Archiving Conference
1—4 June 2010: The Hague, Netherlands

Nordic Information Literacy Summer School Transformation from Digital Library to Digital Learning
7—11 June 2010: Korpo, Finland

Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals in Scotland (CILIPS) Annual Conference
7—9 June 2010: Glasgow, Scotland
The 34th ELAG conference “Meeting New User Expectations”
9—11 June 2010: Helsinki, Finland

ELPUB 2010 - Publishing in the Networked World: Transforming the Nature of Communication, 14th International Conference on Electronic Publishing
16—18 June 2010: Helsinki, Finland

InSITE 2010: Informing Science and IT Education Joint Conference
17—24 June 2010: Southern Italy

The International Conference on Information Society (i-Society 2010)
28—30 June 2010: London, UK

Final COMMUNIA conference
28—30 June 2010: Torino, Italy

39th LIBER Annual Conference - Re-Inventing the Library
29 June—2 July 2010: Aarhus, Denmark

The 4th FLOSS International Workshop on Free/Libre/Open Source Software
1—2 July 2010: Jena, Germany

Learning Forum London - ePortfolio 2010 and Key Competencies 2010
5—7 July 2010: London, UK

International Copyright Law, Postgraduate Summer School
5—9 July: Amsterdam, The Netherlands

International Network Conference (INC 2010)
6—8 July 2010: Heidelberg, Germany

International Conference on Open Repositories (OR 2010)
6—9 July 2010: Madrid, Spain

The 2nd International Conference on 'Networked Digital Technologies' (NDT 2010)
7—9 July 2010: Prague, Czech Republic

DML 2010, 3rd workshop/conference: Towards a Digital Mathematics Library
7—8 July 2010: Paris, France

The 3rd International Conference on the Applications of Digital Information and Web Technologies (ICADIWIT 2010)
12—14 July 2010: Istanbul, Turkey

ICCHP 2010: 12th International Conference on Computers Helping People with Special Needs
14—16 July 2010: Vienna, Austria

ACM SIGIR 2010: Association for Computing Machinery's Special Interest Group on Information Retrieval
19—23 July 2010: Geneva, Switzerland

Decoding the digital: a common language for preservation
27 July 2010: London, UK

Funding Calls and Deadlines

New calls and those with a deadline in June-July. The details are listed in order of their deadline date.

CIP ICT-PSP 2010 Call for Proposals
Deadline: 1 June 2010

Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP), ICT-PSP (The Information and Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme) 2010 Call for Proposals.

This, the 4th call of the ICT-PSP, was announced on 21 January 2010. Deadline for applications is 1 June 2010. Details of call >>

An Information Day on the call was held in Brussels on 14 January, 2010. One of the six themes of the call is on Digital Libraries, another on e-health. More information and presentations from the event are found on the ICT-PSP website >>

EUR 30 million are available to fund projects responding to six different objectives under theme 2: Digital Libraries.

Three objectives relate to Europeana:
2.1: Coordinating Europeana
2.2: Enhancing/Aggregating content in Europeana
2.3: Digitising content for Europeana

Three more objectives relate to further actions in the wider area of digital libraries:
2.4: Access to European Rights Information / Registry of Orphan Works
2.5: Open access to scientific information
2.6: Statistics on cultural heritage digitisation activities

A specific Information Day for the theme Digital Libraries was held in Luxembourg on 4 February 2010 >>

Lifelong Learning Programme: Calls announced related to vocational education and training (VET)

Three new calls under the Lifelong Learning Programme which are related to vocational education and training. More details on the EBLIDA funding website >>

Next newsletter issue will be the summer issue for July-August.

Looking forward to seeing many of you in Gothenburg in August.

Happy holidays!

EBLIDA Newsletter Editor, Joanne Yeomans