Dear EBLIDA members, dear colleagues,

It is great honour and also a great pleasure for me to write my first editorial for EBLIDA news!

Thank you for your confidence in me which has resulted in my election as President!

For those who didn’t attend the 20th Annual Council meeting, I would like to briefly introduce myself.

My name is Klaus-Peter Böttger. I am a German Public Librarian who caught the virus of libraries over 34 years ago! I have worked in several Public Libraries in Germany and I am now the Director of the Public Library of Essen, serving a population of about 579,000 inhabitants.

I served in several Library Associations among which BID Germany, IFLA, and of course EBLIDA are included. I was first elected as a member of EBLIDA Executive Committee from 2001 to 2005. Then I was a substitute in EBLIDA Executive Committee from 2005 to 2009. After that, I was glad to serve as EBLIDA treasurer from 2009 to 2012. Now, thanks to all of you, I have the even greater honour of being EBLIDA President from now until 2015. I am very happy to be working in this European environment that I continue to find exciting, at times challenging, sometimes difficult but always rewarding.

Enough about me - now I would like to write about EBLIDA.

Each decision taken at a European level and each resulting directive has an impact on our daily lives as European citizens, Member-State citizens and not least as librarians. During the past years, the questions raised in the field of copyright along with the challenges of the digital environment modified the context in which libraries evolve. As EBLIDA has done during its first 20 years of existence (thanks to the work of my predecessors), I will work hard on the continuity of this work under my presidency, and I will ensure that EBLIDA remains the voice for libraries in Europe.

As I stated before, I am determined to tackle the many challenges awaiting libraries especially in the field of access to eBooks and e-content. I am also intent on increasing EBLIDA’s lobbying position to strengthen the role of libraries in Europe by seeking to influence the European Community and the initiatives and decisions relevant not only to libraries but to all other stakeholders involved.

EBLIDA will also closely monitor the discussion regarding copyright development in the digital era and will fight wherever necessary for a fair copyright policy for the benefit of libraries’ users, in respect of the legal framework. I will do my utmost as EBLIDA President for the benefit of its members, the librarians and all the citizens of Europe.

Please enjoy reading this newsletter!

Klaus-Peter Böttger,
EBLIDA President

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**CONTENT**

- Page 2: News round-up: EBLIDA and Europe: *Making Copyright work for Libraries and Consumers*;
- Page 2 and 3: EBLIDA activities: *EBLIDA 20th Annual Council Meeting*.
- Page 3: EBLIDA activities: *EBLIDA e-books Campaign*.
- Page 4: EBLIDA activities: *EBLIDA NAPLE Conference*.
- Page 5: EBLIDA activities: *EBLIDA Position Paper European libraries and the challenges of e-publishing*.
- Page 6: EBLIDA’s *Who’s Who?* This Month: *Central Library of the European Commission*.
- Page 7: Events and Dates.
Making Copyright work for Libraries and Consumers

On Wednesday 30th May, Copyright for Creativity (C4C), in partnership with the European Consumers’ Organisation (BEUC), Consumers International (CI), the European Bureau of Library Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA), the Electronic Information For Libraries (eIFL), the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), and Informations Sans Frontières (ISF) organised the event Making Copyright Work for Libraries and Consumers in the Library of the European Parliament in Brussels.

This event, organised under the auspices of Marietje Schaake (Member of the European Parliament), is distributed in two sessions.

In the morning, the session Index or footnote? How to ensure that libraries power the information society will focus on the roles of libraries and archives in providing access to cultural works. In that context, special attention will be given to the treaty proposal for copyright exceptions and limitations to enable libraries to preserve their collections, support education and research, and lend materials which are currently on the table at the World Intellectual Property Organisation in Geneva.

In the afternoon, the session I Want it Now! Creators addressing consumers’ needs in the digital age will look at certain copyright uses from the perspectives of users. The aim of the event is to present a set of simple, practical and readily-available solutions to make the European copyright regime more consumer-friendly, in particular with regard to uses of copyrighted works which are generally tolerated but not legal in all the member States (e.g. format shifting of videos, fan fiction and YouTube mash-ups). You can find the details for the two events below.

The core audience of the event is primarily Members of the European Parliament and their assistants, European Commission civil servants and Brussels-based librarians. In inviting highly esteemed experts to address the issue through presentations and lively panel discussions, the idea is to give the politicians a better idea of the issues at stake and to show that library organisations, together with other organisations, are willing to address the issues at the highest level.

EBLIDA 20th Annual Council Meeting

10th May 2012, Black Diamond, Copenhagen (Denmark) was the place to be to celebrate the 20th anniversary of EBLIDA. About 60 participants representing 1/3 of the members participated in a lively and friendly Council meeting.

The agenda was busy as usual with the agreement of the minutes of the previous Council meeting in Málaga, the approval of the Annual Report, the reports of each Expert Group and the approval of the Work Programme 2012-2013. Changes have been made to the Work Programme by the Director, which has resulted in it being developed further as a tool to evaluate the work achieved at EBLIDA and also to highlight what remains to be done and carried over into the Work Programme of the following year.

It was also a time to celebrate: EBLIDA’s 20th anniversary and 20 years of active lobbying! Gerald Leitner presented a short slide-show with important moments and dates during the life of the association since its creation in 1992 until now. It was a great moment for our old audience to relive memories and for our new audience to learn more about the role of EBLIDA. The presentation ended with an invitation to celebrate EBLIDA 20th Anniversary with a toast to the association.
The Annual Council meeting was also lively this year because of the elections to renew the EBLIDA Presidency and Executive Committee for the term 2012-2015. Each candidate introduced him/herself to the audience with a short statement of the reasons they consider it important to work for EBLIDA. Because there were both 10 candidates and 10 seats, the Council members agreed to proceed by acclamation to elect the candidates. All candidates were therefore elected by acclamation: Klaus-Peter Böttger (BID, Germany) as EBLIDA President, Mr Guy Daines, CILIP(UK), Mr Ulrika Domellöf Mattson (Swedish Library Association, Sweden), Mr Georgios Glossiotis (EEB, Greece), Ms Lone Knakkergaard (Danish Library Association, Denmark), Mr Gerald Leitner (BVÖ, Austria), Ms Maria Jose Moura (BAD, Portugal), Ms Gloria Perez Salmerón (FESABID, Spain), Mr Aldo Pirola (AIB, Italy), Ms Leena Toivonen (Finnish Library Association, Finland), Ms Erna Winters (VOB, Netherlands) as members of the Executive Committee 2012-2015.

After the election, the Council meeting ended with the plan for next year’s Annual Council meeting and Conference to hopefully be held in Milan, Italy. The discussion is ongoing, but because of the wonderful contact we have with our Italian colleagues, we are feeling positive that Milan will be the venue for the 21st EBLIDA Annual Council meeting and Conference. Confirmation is still needed however, and we will come back to you in the next issues.

To end the Council meeting, Gerald Leitner gave an emotional speech as outgoing President. He highlighted the fact that he served EBLIDA to the best of his abilities and took great pleasure in his work as President. He told of the wonderful experience he has gained during his two terms of Presidency. He emphasised his happiness to remain firmly connected to EBLIDA with his continuation of the work as an Executive Committee member, and in particular his excitement at being in charge of leading the Action group on E-books (see below). He thanked all the members of EBLIDA for their support and work during the preceding years, the different members of the Executive Committee and give a special thanks to the outgoing members Lene Byralsen (Danish Library Association) and Saara Ihamäki (Finnish Library Association).

By the end of the day, EBLIDA members and guests were invited to gather at the place within the Black Diamond where the new building and the old building merge, a wonderful place full of light and views of the surroundings.

In this marvellous space, Mr. Erland Kolding Nielsen, director of the Royal Library of Denmark delivered a tremendous speech on the Royal Library and the importance of hosting important events there such as the EBLIDA Council meeting.

The reception was an ideal moment for EBLIDA members to discuss and know more about each other.

### EBLIDA ebooks campaign

E-books and access to e-content is at the core of a lot of discussions worldwide, at a European Level and of course at each national level. In order to avoid a situation as the one that is happening in the United States of America, and to strengthen the position of libraries in Europe, EBLIDA Executive Committee decided to place the EBLIDA E-books campaign as a priority of the Work Programme 2012-2013.

The idea was to use the Annual Conference as a platform to enter into discussion with different stakeholders and with the Federation of the European Publishers in particular to show them what libraries are expecting in the growing market of e-books (see next page).

In addition, EBLIDA created an Action Group that will work specifically on this topic. This small Action Group will be led by Gerald Leitner and among it’s aims will be to collect all relevant information regarding e-books in Europe (pitfalls and success stories), to develop a proposal for Fair Licensing Models and to try and get in contact with all EBLIDA members to motivate action in the member countries. Background papers for an information campaign are under preparation. Contributions from all members are welcome. Gerald Leitner will act as spokesman regarding e-books for EBLIDA.

For this specific action to be successful, money is needed, and EBLIDA launched a call for donation. EBLIDA is proud to announce that ALBAD (Luxembourg Association of Librarians Archivists and Documentalists) is the first member to have made a donation. Contributions are most welcome. More information will follow on the website.
Democracy Development in a new media Environment

To celebrate its 20th Anniversary and the 10th Anniversary of NAPLE, EBLIDA and NAPLE organised the Conference Democracy Development in a New Media Environment in Copenhagen on May 11th.

This must-attend conference grouped together more than 120 participants coming from all over Europe and from different backgrounds (librarians of course, but also publishers, booksellers, politicians).

The general topic of the Conference was the question of democracy since libraries play a core role in delivering access to information especially in an evolving environment. Economics were also at the core of the question. In a context where the book chain is shifting from the analogue to the digital world, no-one knows yet what business model will be the most efficient for libraries.

The first keynote speaker, Tarja Cronberg (member of the European Parliament, the Greens) emphasised the fact that libraries assist citizens in developing their knowledge and building society and remained important places for democracy especially in troubled times like ours. She also underlined the fact that in order to build an active dialogue with politicians, it is necessary to show them solutions, concrete points that would prove to them that libraries are part of the Creative economy.

The second keynote speaker, Cory Doctorow (author, blogger and activist) delivered a punchy and perhaps at times controversial speech suggesting that publishers were in fact the pirates keeping all content for themselves! He advocated for a copyright regime that is similar to the one in the paper economy: To buy is to get the right to use, no DRM should be allowed.

Panel Discussion

To avoid a situation similar to what is happening in the United States of America and to debate on this broad topic, EBLIDA invited publishers, booksellers and authors to take part in a panel discussion and share their opinions.

For the publishers, the support should come from the public authority (state) directly to the libraries that can in return finance the publishers with their purchasing. For the booksellers, the threat comes from big Internet companies such as Google or Amazon. For the librarians, the question is how best to serve the users without being under the restrictive conditions imposed by publishers? EBLIDA’s President took the opportunity of this panel discussion to introduce the idea of a Memorandum of Understanding especially with the Federation of European Publishers on Fair Licensing Models.

The audience also took part interactively in the debate which closed with the lunch break.

Active Workshops

Participants took the opportunity to attend 4 workshops and to give their opinions on the different issues. These were collected by the moderators. After the 20th EBLIDA and 10th NAPLE birthday cakes, moderators gave some brief feedback on each workshop.

Position Paper European Libraries and the Challenges of e-publishing

EBLIDA’s Position Paper (see p.5) was handed out to each participant. Gerald Leitner, chair of the Action Group on EBLIDA’s campaign for e-books, emphasised that EBLIDA was keen to enter into negotiations with different stakeholders on a Memorandum of Understanding on Fair Licensing Models.

The New EBLIDA President closed the session by stating that access to e-content remains a real issue in the current evolving environment, and that EBLIDA will contribute to a system that better serves the users. Libraries are important places for citizens, and they will remain important places in the future, also in the digital age.
Society is on the brink of major changes. The transformation of media and of the information market is one of the biggest challenges for our society. It is an opportunity as well as a threat for Europe.

It is the task of European politicians to guarantee free access to information, education, culture, leisure, and content for all European citizens via public services. A competitive market can only innovate by relying on well educated and informed citizens.

In this context libraries guarantee free access to content, information, and culture for all European citizens. But the current legal framework hinders libraries from fulfilling these essential services for our society in the digital era, especially regarding the development of the e-book market.

1. Because of the exhaustion of distribution right after the first sale, a library may buy published works, e.g. books, from a bookseller and use the copies for lending to the library’s patrons. The library’s actions do not interfere with the rights of the author (or other rights holder). In consequence, the library decides in accordance with its collection building policy what books to buy and use for public lending.

2. On the other hand, because eLending is a service, the concept of exhaustion does not apply, and the library can only acquire the digital object, the eBook or eJournal, by entering into a licence agreement with the author (or other rights holders). The rights holders are free to decide whether they want to give access to a specific work, and to decide on the terms for such access. The consequence of this is that the collection building policy may be decided by the publisher and not by the library.

3. It is a significant, and in our view unacceptable, change that the collection building policy of libraries may be decided by the publishers and that free access for the European citizens is decided by the publishers. And the challenge is to find solutions to this problem.

Therefore EBLIDA suggests:

a. A memorandum of understanding with the Federation of European Publishers for “Fair Licensing Models”;

b. An updating of the copyright regime for e-books, e-lending and e-content in order to enable libraries to continue to perform their services for all European citizens.

EBLIDA is the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations, an independent umbrella association of national library, information, documentation and archive associations and institutions in Europe.

Contact email: eblida@eblida.org Web site: www.eblida.org
EBLIDA who's who?

As the network is growing, and as new members enter into EBLIDA’s community, the EBLIDA newsletter has decided to open its columns to members wishing to introduce themselves to others. The idea is to get to know each other better, to discover more about our association-colleagues, and to strengthen our links and cooperation. And why not to open up discussions, to launch proposals, and to create partnerships?

This month, EBLIDA opens its columns to:

Background

The Central Library of the European Commission was established in 1958. Commission departments are scattered over a multitude of locations in Brussels and Luxembourg and other geographical locations in Europe. As the European Union has grown and developed its role and interest in EU affairs increased so has the coverage of the Library’s collections and the number of languages represented therein. With more than 500,000 references to over a million items the library catalogue, ECLAS cover the years from 1978 onwards, the records for the previous 20 years are complete only in the traditional card catalogue.

Networks

Although effectively a global service for all Commission staff, the Library is positioned in and managed by, the Directorate-General (DG) for Education and Culture.

We maintain a professional network of independent specialist libraries in Directorates-General (RéseauBIB), and work with colleagues in the Historical Archives (http://ec.europa.eu/historical_archives/index_en.htm), libraries of other EU institutions (Eurolib, http://www.eurolibnet.eu/3/26/), and in European Documentation Centres.

Over the last 50 years the Library has built up wide-ranging collections that can be used to monitor current developments or explore EU history in depth. Although our primary goal is to help Commission staff to obtain pertinent, quality information, our insight into the past, present and future of European integration is at the service of not only staff, but also researchers and libraries worldwide:

- Request interlibrary loans via email biblio-ill@ec.europa.eu
- Send information requests via email biblio-library@ec.europa.eu
- Locate EU-related web resources in our Virtual Reference Collection
- Go to the Library's website for more information: http://ec.europa.eu/libraries/doc/index_en.htm
- Want to follow the European Union in social media? Go to our current awareness portal at: http://www.netvibes.com/euinsocialmedia.

Future

In 2009 ECOTEC, an independent consultancy carried out an evaluation of the library (http://ec.europa.eu/libraries/doc/centrallibrary/Evaluation-Review_European_Commission_Library-Final%20Report-Full_v2%2005.pdf). We are currently in the process of implementing those recommendations accepted by the DG Management Board.

Exacting requirements for transparency and financial accountability, consume considerable staff resources, and the tight IT security constraints often hamper our efforts to provide modern electronic services and exchange data with external organisations. Nevertheless we have made considerable advances in rethinking our channels of communication, our collection policy, and on-site services.

Concern over the loss of information, principally electronic, but also historical printed records echoed by EDC librarians, led Eurolib to set up a working group on EU grey literature. A recognition within the institutions of a need to improve the findability of EU publications, documents and records chimes with our views.

We have revived or initiated links with EBLIDA, IFLA, SPARC, EUROPEANA and others in an effort to remain in tune with the movement towards open access and exchange of ideas with other libraries of all types within and beyond Europe. We are working with the Publications Office:

- to increase the visibility of EU publications (Bookshop: http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/home/);
- to fill gaps in the digitised historical publications;
- EUROVOC to provide interoperability between thesauri and classification systems (http://eurovoc.europa.eu/drupal/?q=node/936).
May 2012 (in bold: EBLIDA events)

Index or Footnote? How ensure that libraries power the information society? + I Want it Now! Creators addressing consumers’ needs in the digital age.

Date: 30 May 2012, Brussels, Belgium
8th Spring Researchers Colloquium on Databases and Information Systems 2012
Date: 31 May 2012 to 01 June 2012
http://syrccdis.ispras.hr/2012/

June 2012

Workshop on Education and Open Access Repositories: Policies Law and Future Prospects
Date: 2 June 2012 to 05 June 2012
http://issey2012.haifa.ac.il/Koutras.htm

SMX Paris
Date: 7 June 2012 to 08 June 2012; Paris, France
http://smxfrance.com/

20th European Conference on Information Systems (ECIL 2012)
Date: 10 June 2012 to 13 June 2012; Barcelona, Spain
http://www.ecis2012.eu/

Structural Frameworks for Open, Digital Research: Strategy, Policy & Infrastructure
Date: 11 June 2012 to 13 June 2012; Copenhagen, Denmark

Archiving 2012
Date: 12 June 2012 to 15 June 2012; Copenhagen, Denmark
http://www.imagining.org/ist/conferences/archiving/index.cfm

2nd International Conference on Web Intelligence, Mining and Semantics (WIMS’12)
Date: 13 June 2012 to 15 June 2012; Craiova, Romania
http://software.ucv.ro/Wims12/

16th International Conference on Electronic Publishing: Social Shaping of Digital Publishing: Exploring the interplay between Culture and Technology
Date: 14 June 2012 to 15 June 2012; Guimarães, Portugal
http://www.elpub.net/Elpub_2012/Main_Page.html

Libraries in the Digital Age (LIDA) 2012: “CHANGES”
Date: 18 June 2012 to 22 June 2012; Zadar, Croatia
http://ozk.unizd.hr/lida/

MakeLearn 2012: Knowledge and Learning: Global Empowerment
Date: 20 June 2012 to 22 June 2012; Celje, Slovenia
http://makelearn.isbss.si/index.php?id=146

7th Iberian Conference on Information Systems and Technologies
Date: 20 June 2012 to 23 June 2012; Madrid, Spain

International Conference on Information Society (i-Society 2012)
Date: 25 June 2012 to 28 June 2012; London, UK
http://www.i-society.eu/

6th International Workshop on Ontology, Models, Conceptualization and Epistemology in Social, Artificial and Natural Systems (ONTOSE 2012)
Date: 26 June 2012; Gdansk, Poland
http://conf.ifit.uni-klu.ac.at/ontose/

17th International conference on Application of Natural Language Processing to Information Systems (NLDB 2012)
Date: 26 June 2012 to 28 June 2012; Groningen, Netherlands
http://www.nldb.org/

July 2012

Education & Open Access Repositories: Policies, Law and Future prospects
Date: 2 July 2012 to 06 July 2012; Summary: Nicosia, Cyprus
http://issey2012.haifa.ac.il/

EAHIL 2012 Conference: Health information without frontiers
Date: 4 July 2012 to 06 July 2012; Brussels, Belgium

11th European Conference on Information Warfare and Security (ECIW-2012)
Date: 5 July 2012 to 06 July 2012; Laval, France
http://academic-conferences.org/eciw/eciw2012/eciw12-call-papers.htm

DREaM Project (Developing Research Excellence and Methods) Workshop 4
Date: 9 July 2012; Summary: London, UK
http://lisresearch.org/dream-project/

7th International Conference on Open Repositories (OR12)
Date: 9 July 2012 to 13 July 2012; Edinburgh, Scotland
http://groups.google.com/group/open-repositories

2nd International Conference on Digital Information Processing and Communications
Date: 10 July 2012 to 12 July 2012; Klaipeda, Lithuania
http://sdwic.info/bla/page.php?id=1

2nd International Conference on Digital Enterprise and Information Systems (DEIS2012)
Date: 16 July 2012 to 18 July 2012; Ostrava, Czech Republic

3rd International Conference on Biomedical Ontology (ICBO 2012)
Date: 22 July 2012 to 24 July 2012; Graz, Austria
http://user.meduni-graz.at/stefan.schulz/icbofois2012/icbo.htm

7th International Conference on Formal Ontology in Information Systems (FOIS 2012)
Date: 24 July 2012 to 27 July 2012; Graz, Austria
http://user.meduni-graz.at/stefan.schulz/icbofois2012/icbo.htm