Dear EBLIDA members, dear colleagues,

The festive season is here and there has been a lot going at EBLIDA and behind the scenes.

We kick started the E-books Campaign “The right to e-read” by sending out the text from the campaign posters to members to translate into their own languages. We have already received 10 reactions so many thanks to you for your cooperation and creativity with the slogans! We are very impressed with the response so far and this reinforces our belief that we are part of a larger community. Take a look at page 4 item e-books corner for more information.

On the 6th of December EBLIDA participated in a second seminar on remote access to e-books in libraries organised by the European Writers Council (EWC) and the Federation of European Publishers (FEP). This event shows the attitude of some authors and some publishers, as well as booksellers towards libraries, not to mention the European Commission Head of Copyright Unit. After having been seen as potential “pirates” for the last two years, now librarians are cannibals, cannibalising the sales of publishers and libraries becomes mere distributors like booksellers! Although we accepted the offer to participate in a third round of discussions, the basis of negotiations should change if is to become a dialogue. Until now, it is more a monologue than a dialogue, where libraries are, as always, the weaker part being presented as the main threat. This is simply incomprehensible.

I am happy to see that German CDU/CSU - SPD Coalition Agreement, published on 27 November, includes a paragraph on libraries and related issues. This shows that politicians need to take the role of science, research and education into consideration and that a limitation for the benefit of education and science should be introduced into the Copyright Act. The coalition agreement includes the question of the rights of public libraries in the licencing of electronic books. Open access strategy and open data are also on the agenda.

Meanwhile, the European Commission launched a consultation on the review of the EU Copyright. It means a lot of careful work from EBLIDA, as well as joining forces with LIBER so that we all work towards the same goal, and gain representation for libraries at European level.

Preparations for our Annual Council and Conference in Athens are underway and going well. Please save the date in your agenda: the Annual Council will be held in the afternoon of the 13th of May. The Annual Conference, that we organise together with our colleagues from NAPLE and the support of our Greek members of EBLIDA, will be held on the 14th of May. The Conference Title: Libraries in Transition. Changes? Crisis? Chances! is of interest to the whole library and information community since it addresses salient issues currently faced by libraries. More information will be available after the Christmas break.

Please note that the EBLIDA office will be closed from 19th of December until 2nd of January 2014.

Finally I would like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas. I hope that you will enjoy the end of the year, and that you will join us fit and ready for 2014.

Klaus-Peter Böttger,
EBLIDA President
Commission launches public consultation on review of EU Copyright: 5th December, 2013 to 5th February 2014.


According to the press release, this operation is part of Commission's on-going efforts to review and modernise EU copyright rules.

Through a list of 80 questions, the consultation touches upon issues of fundamental importance to the future of EU copyright, including: territoriality in the Single Market, harmonisation, limitations and exceptions to copyright in the digital age, fragmentation of the EU copyright market (including whether the EU should go for full harmonisation); and how to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of enforcement while underpinning its legitimacy in the wider context of copyright reform.

EBLIDA Expert Group on Information Law (EGIL) is in the process of analysing the content. Consultation with LIBER is ongoing in order to coordinate our response whenever possible. As many libraries and library associations as possible should respond to this consultation in order to express their opinion on the necessity of the review of EU Copyright. To be continued.

Written declaration on the impact of public libraries in European Communities


To date, there have been 142 signatures on this declaration, showing the growing support for public libraries in European Communities. Please show your support by requesting your national MEP to add your signature.

More information available: http://www.wdpubliclibraries.eu/

A Snapshot on the Book Famine and Marrakech Treaty and ETIN by Koen Krikhaar (Chair of IFLA Library for Print Disabled people Committee, and co-chair of ETIN)

The Book Famine and the Marrakech Treaty
The problem is twofold. On one hand, the blind and visually impaired as well as other print-disabled persons, need standard printed books to be adapted – in one way or another – so that they are accessible and readable for these persons. On the other hand, it should be possible for these adapted books to be transported to wherever they are needed. This is not the case at the current time.

The Amazon.coms of this world do not sell books in accessible formats for the visually impaired. Publishing houses have never seen Braille books or accessible audio books for the visually impaired as a profitable business. It is the institutions providing services for the visually impaired that produce accessible materials for them. Once an adapted copy is made, it is done so under national (copyright) regulations, in many cases with public funding, and cannot be exported without the permission of the right holders and/or publishers for a particular title.

This is why the World Blind Union decided that an international legal framework that would put an end to this situation was required. A long and hotly debated political process on this issue ended with the successful conclusion of a new international WIPO Treaty: A Treaty to facilitate access to published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print disabled. Fifty one countries signed the Treaty at the conference end of last June. The Treaty comes into effect however, when (and only when) twenty or more countries have ratified the Treaty. A complicating factor for Europe is that the European Council has not yet decided whether they should (or can) ratify at EU level for their members, or that each of the 28 EU member states need to go through a ratification process on a national level.

The “European Network of Trusted Intermediaries” (ETIN)
Working towards a European answer to the above mentioned problem of the Book Famine, publishers and libraries for the print disabled, set out to work, with the support of the European Commission, on the practical implementation of the commitments made in a EU Memorandum of Understanding. This MoU on access to works by people with print disabilities (), was signed by stakeholders such as the European Blind Union (EBU) and the Federation of European Publishers (FEP) and was witnessed by EU Commissioner Michel Barnier on 14 September 2010. The MoU aims to increase access to works for people with print disabilities, by establishing a network of “Trusted Intermediaries” (TIs) for the exchange of accessible versions made under copyright exceptions or under licences.
On the Digital Future of Our Literature

In 2013, the website Fiktion (http://fiktion.cc/about.php) has been launched. “Fiktion has been set up by German- and English-language writers as a model for using the opportunities afforded by the digital to raise the profile of challenging literature and improve its means of distribution. The project operates on several levels [...]” that you can find detailed on their website at http://fiktion.cc/about.php.

With their kind authorisation, we reproduce here their declaration On the Digital Future of Our Literature (also accessible at http://fiktion.cc/deklaration.php in German in English version).

On the Digital Future of Our Literature

In Spring 2013, Fiktion and the Haus der Kulturen der Welt hosted several workshops during which authors consulted publishing industry experts and the Humboldt Internet Law Clinic about opportunities the digital age holds for literature that demands a special level of concentration. The following declaration opens this discussion to the public.

Never has there been as much reading and writing as today. Less than 20 percent of the world’s population is illiterate, half of what it was twenty years ago—and the number continues to drop. Children from every social background maintain lively personal correspondence, a pastime once reserved for the elite. Just two decades ago, the telephone seemed to threaten the very existence of this type of communication; now what continues to be called a telephone is mostly used for writing and reading.

Day-to-day writing lowers the threshold for composing one’s own poems, stories, and novels. Almost anyone can make their texts available to the public and receive feedback from all over the world. Those successful in this arena might then be acknowledged by traditional publishers as well.

(continued overleaf)
Wonderful as this is, our literary texts—which demand more in terms of concentration—are falling increasingly behind in competing for audiences with an overall limited attention span. This process began even before the introduction of e-books. Denying it is no solution; we have to develop new methods for communicating our literature to readers using digital technology.

Until now, we were content to have trade publishers attend to our work on a comprehensive level: they edited our books, placed, printed, distributed, and promoted them, acquired subsidiary rights, and granted us a share of the profits. In the best situation they did this book after book, until eventually the time came for a critical, complete edition. The less our literature contribute to company accounts, the less effort is put into our books, and in many bookstores they never hit the shelves in the first place. Many older titles are not even available as e-books. Commercial publishers have, for the most part, reacted defensively to the challenges of the digital age: shrinking their program, merging, axing employees, and concentrating on bestsellers. Smaller publishing houses that have sacrificed themselves for our literature have found it increasingly difficult to compete on the book market.

The idea that publishing books that do not immediately sell well is tantamount to an act of charity has compromised our writing. We can no longer stand by and watch as conditions deteriorate for our literature. It is time to consider these conditions ourselves and test the opportunities that the digital holds for the dissemination of our work:

- Because e-books can be made available anywhere in the world, irrespective of their commercial success, the success or failure of a title no longer needs to be determined within the first few weeks of its release. Attention can be garnered slowly and without the service of the mass media.
- Distributing e-books does not necessarily mean selling them. Indeed, as writers, we prefer living from the valorisation of our works rather than hiring ourselves out in a way that keeps us from writing. But we want the freedom to decide for each of our books if and when we were to give them away. The idea that it’s a necessary evil for reading to cost money needs to be proved over and over again.
- Standard e-book formats mimic the printed book and expand it with added functions that may be beneficial for nonfiction, but that are rather distracting for those reading our literature. There has yet to be a digital reading format that uses the technical possibilities to facilitate concentration on our literature.

Existing Internet portals and forums might suffice for self-publishing genre literature, but our work requires intensive individual attention and an environment that stimulates curiosity. It is because of this that we have to join together—be it as a cooperative, foundation, association, or initiative, whether by means of investments, donations, contributions, sponsorship, or subsidies. Our literature, on the whole, can regain importance only if we collectively redefine our role as writers.

September 2013,
Marcus Braun, Jan Peter Bremer, Nina Bußmann, Mathias Gatza, Katharina Hacker, Elfriede Jelinek, Ingo Niermann, Urs Richle, Michael Schindhelm, Sabine Scholl.

EBLIDA Activities

EBLIDA E-books Corner by Gerald Leitner

We warmly thank for the translation of the slogans into your National language.

NB : The logo itself constitute a “brand” that should remain as is. If, for your national campaign, there is the need to translate the words, please do it below the logo, in relation to the slogan you have chosen. The idea with this unique logo is to create a European wide identity.

The campaign itself needs to be adapted to your national plans, hence the choice between three different slogans, and whenever necessary the possibility to create a different one.

You are also invited to add your logo to the posters, postcards, and all related documents. This means that in addition to the EBLIDA logo at the bottom of each document (printed and digital), the presence of your national association, the local libraries and all other partner taking part in the Campaign is ensured. In order for this to happen, we would need to receive your logo in high resolution.

The launch of the website is expected by mid-January.

Let’s move forward with the Campaign and act in 2014 to ensure the Right to e-read all over Europe!
**December 2013**

December 9 – 12, 8th International Conference for Internet Technology and Secured Transactions (ICITST-2013)  
**Place:** London, UK  
**URL:** [http://www.icitst.org/](http://www.icitst.org/)

December 14, 8th International Research Workshop on IT Project Management (IRWITPM)  
**Place:** Milan, Italy  

December 14, 6th Annual SIG GlobDev Workshop: ICT in Global Development: Reclaiming the Meaning of Development: ICT and the Path to Community  
**Place:** Milan, Italy  

December 14, 2nd Workshop on Information Privacy and Security  
**Place:** Milan, Italy  
**URL:** [http://www.cersi.it/jips/](http://www.cersi.it/jips/)

December 14, 2013 OASIS Workshop  
**Place:** Milan, Italy  
**URL:** [http://ifipwg82.org/content/2013-oasis-pre-icis-workshop](http://ifipwg82.org/content/2013-oasis-pre-icis-workshop)

December 14, 7th annual Workshop on Information Security and Privacy (WISP)  
**Place:** Milan, Italy  
**URL:** [http://www.oru.se/hh/wisp2013](http://www.oru.se/hh/wisp2013)

December 15, Reshaping Organizations and Society Through Managing and Designing Information  
**Place:** Milan, Italy  

**Place:** Milan, Italy  
**URL:** [http://icis2013.aisnet.org/](http://icis2013.aisnet.org/)

**January 2014**

January 5 – 8, 5th International Conference on Information Visualization Theory and Applications (IVAPP 2014)  
**Place:** Lisbon, Portugal  
**URL:** [http://www.ivapp.visigrapp.org/](http://www.ivapp.visigrapp.org/)

January 17, Doctoral Open Day: Digital Research  
**Place:** London, UK  
**URL:** [http://www.bl.uk/whatson/events/event155919.html](http://www.bl.uk/whatson/events/event155919.html)

January 22, Data, the universe and everything  
**Place:** London, UK  

**Place:** Barcelona, Spain  
**URL:** [http://bobcatsss2014.hb.se/](http://bobcatsss2014.hb.se/)

**February 2014**

February 12, Publication Ethics: Fraud and Misconduct  
**Place:** London, UK  

February 24 – 25, Association of Subscription Agents & Intermediaries (ASA) Annual Conference: "Transforming the Publishing Landscape"  
**Place:** London, UK  
**URL:** [http://subscription-agents.org/conferences](http://subscription-agents.org/conferences)

February 26, Journal Development 1: Practical Plans for Improving Journal Success  
**Place:** London, UK  

February 26 – 27, Handheld Librarian 9 (HHLib9) Online Conference: "Encouraging Innovation and Technology"  
**Place:** Online only  
**URL:** [http://nine.handheldlibrarian.org/](http://nine.handheldlibrarian.org/)

February 27 – 28, Faster, smarter and richer. Reshaping the library catalogue (FSR 2014)  
**Place:** Rome, Italy  

**March 2014**

March 3 – 6, 7th International Conference on Health Informatics – HEALTHINF 2014  
**Place:** Angers, France  
**URL:** [http://www.healthinf.biostec.org/](http://www.healthinf.biostec.org/)
Place: Berlin, Germany
URL: http://ischools.org/the-iconference/

March 5, Developing Open Access and Hybrid Journals
Place: London, UK
URL: http://alpsp.org/Ebusiness/Meetings/Meeting.aspx?ID=372

March 6 – 7, i2c2. Innovation, Inspiration and Creativity Conference: "Using Positive Disruption to improve libraries"
Place: Manchester, UK
URL: http://i2c2conference.org/index.html

March 12, Introduction to Journals Publishing
Place: London, UK
URL: http://alpsp.org/Ebusiness/Meetings/Meeting.aspx?ID=385

March 19, Strategic Journals Finance
Place: London, UK
URL: http://alpsp.org/Ebusiness/Meetings/Meeting.aspx?ID=377

March 20, What do researchers want.....and what are we doing about it? (ALPSP Seminar)
Place: London, UK
URL: http://alpsp.org/Ebusiness/ProductCatalog/1403WRW.aspx?ID=398

March 22 – 24, 4th International Conference on Information Systems and Technologies (ICIST 2014)
Place: Valencia, Spain
URL: http://www.ijist.net/ICIST14/

March 25 – 26, Search Marketing Expo (SMX) München
Place: Munich, Germany
Sponsor/Organizer: Third Door Media
URL: http://smxmuenchen.de/

March 26 – 28, Research Data Alliance (RDA) 3rd Plenary Meeting
Place: Dublin, Ireland
URL: https://rda-alliance.org/rda-third-plenary-meeting.html

March 28, Measuring Academic Productivity: The Role of Publication (NFAIS Virtual Seminar)
Place: Online only
URL: http://www.nfais.org

SAVE THE DATE:

EBLIDA 22nd COUNCIL AND EBLIDA NAPLE CONFERENCE

Date: 13-14th May, 2013
Venue: The Council and Conference will be hosted by the Technological Educational Institute of Athens, Greece.