The President's Editorial

Dear EBLIDA members, dear colleagues,

Two weeks ago, Gerald Leitner and I gave presentations at the Conference "Communication strategies for libraries", in Prague, Czech Republic (see our Press release at http://tinyurl.com/qap5jzl).

This Conference, organised by the Goethe Institute and SKIP (Association of Library and Information Professionals of the Czech Republic) was held in connection with the EBLIDA Executive Committee meeting.

Participants at the Conference were librarians and they showed a strong interest in the "right to e-read" campaign, its objectives and the actions set up by EBLIDA. It was noted that in Czech Republic, despite a strong network of libraries distributed throughout the country, the availability of e-books is still very low, probably because of the small commercial interest due to a narrow market.

However, this shouldn't stop libraries from fighting for the right to e-read for their users, as well as improving their communication strategies towards policy makers and authorities to make their voice heard.

Our Czech colleagues showed a deep savoir-faire in welcoming the EBLIDA Executive Committee members and accommodating them in the new National Library of Technology: an amazing library building with tremendous services especially for students, also hosting a branch of Prague's Public Library. Knowledge is everywhere in the building, and Culture is spread throughout the city. This was inspirational to EC members who worked hard over the two days.

Among other topics, EC members discussed the Copyright Consultation Review, and together with me, they are very thankful for the hard work EGIL members vested in answering this consultation composed of 80 detailed questions. Thanks to all for your hard work!

EC members also discussed the "right to e-read" campaign that is currently gaining momentum. The recent press release on our website (see http://tinyurl.com/o4ghywu) is the first of three before the European press conference to be held in Brussels on the 23rd of April 2014. EBLIDA would like to make the World Copyright Day the "right to e-read" day in Europe, and we would like once again to encourage you to organise events in your countries on that day and also during that week so that we raise awareness on the current situation for libraries (read more on page 4).

Registration is now open for the EBLIDA Council and EBLIDA-NAPLE annual Conference. Please note that early bird price will be available until 31st of March. The sooner you register, the better.

Check on page 3 for the latest updates regarding the Conference.

Enjoy reading!

Klaus-Peter Böttger,
EBLIDA President

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ENUMERATE is a European Commission-funded project, led by Collections Trust in the UK. The primary objective of ENUMERATE is to create a reliable baseline of statistical data about digitisation, digital preservation and online access to cultural heritage in Europe.

Recent information circulated by the ENUMERATE team underlined that a second core survey has been conducted in the last couple of months and is now available online.

The ENUMERATE core surveys focus on high level data on the digitisation of cultural heritage in Europe, in order to get an overview of the progress being made. Data are collected about:
- digitisation activity
- the cost of digital collections
- access to digital collections
- the preservation of digital heritage materials

The full report on Core Survey 2 can be downloaded here: http://www.enumerate.eu/en/surveys/core_survey_2/

This report in including libraries and archives could provide useful European data on digitisation that might support library and archive advocacy, and EBLIDA is encouraging its members to consult and use it.


News round-up - Princess Laurentien launches the European Literacy Network, ELINET

On 25th February, 2014 in Vienna (Austria), Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands launched ELINET, the European Literacy Policy Network.

Two years ago, EBLIDA’s Expert group on Culture and Information Society (EGCIS) participated in the European report prepared by the High Level Group on Literacy presided by the Princess.

The report called for action to combat illiteracy and low literacy in Europe, where 20% of 15-year old adolescents and 75 million adults cannot read or write sufficiently. Following-up on this report, the European Commission called for the establishment of a literacy network to strengthen policies. Unexpectedly, 80 organisations responded together for a 2 year project: ELINET was born and launched in Vienna on the 25th of February 2014.

EBLIDA is a core network partner, the only one representing libraries: it stresses the role libraries can play in the promotion of reading, raising awareness about low literacy and facilitating the learning of new literacy skills.

EBLIDA’s commitment will also help to improve libraries’ social and economic position in Europe. In Vienna, EBLIDA, represented by Marian Koren, took the opportunity to connect with other European organisations in the field of adult learning, literacy and reading.

EBLIDA will participate in Team 7, working on raising awareness, developing a toolkit for action and advocacy; and preparing a literacy event in Brussels on International Literacy Day: 8th of September 2015. The Princess herself chaired the first meeting of this team.

EBLIDA will inform its members about ELINET and encourage them to participate in the national literacy networks that are composed in order to create a consorted strategy and action. Several surveys will map the national situation of literacy and it will be important to highlight the role of libraries and present best practices with libraries as important partners.

As the audience in Vienna showed: mainly representatives from basic and higher education were present and reading and libraries seemed at first almost forgotten, but - with some EBLIDA effort - were gradually introduced in the discussions and finally mentioned in the last conclusions.

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views of its authors only, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained herein.
Public Consultation on the review of the EU copyright rules

On 5th of March, EBLIDA submitted its response to the European Commission consultation on copyright rules. EBLIDA has built up its response by merging views from different European countries and from the perspective of national, university, public and school libraries and library associations.

In its response, EBLIDA calls in particular for:

- Reinstating a true balance of rights between the exclusive rights of the rights holders and other fundamental rights;
- Full exploitation of digital opportunities to be supported by a progressive and flexible approach to copyright rules at EU level;
- An updated copyright framework to secure libraries’ public missions;
- A legislative solution to clarify that access to content made by libraries and cultural institutions for their public-interest mission are allowed, regardless of the medium of transmission;
- Greater harmonisation of the legal framework for sharing content across EU member states;
- All exceptions to be made mandatory for all EU countries, especially those for research and education, public-mission institutions, and disability, because they protect fundamental rights;
- Ensuring that contracts cannot override limitations and exceptions to copyright;
- The “right to e-lend” for libraries to give the library users a “right to e-read”;
- Improving users’ rights;
- An adaptation of the public lending right to apply to the extension of digital lending (e-lending) of copyright works ensuring that authors and creators are rewarded for the use of their works;
- The current 70 years after death terms of protection in Europe to be reduced to life plus 50 years for copyrighted works as is in the Berne Convention.

To learn more, please download the EBLIDA Response to the Public Consultation on EU Copyright Rules (PDF).

22nd EBLIDA-NAPLE Conference

This year, the EBLIDA-NAPLE Conference will welcome two international Keynote speakers.

The first speaker is Her Royal Highness Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands. She works on issues concerning the development of individuals and their impact on society. In particular, she is active in the fields of literacy and sustainability. In 2004 she founded Stichting Lezen & Schrijven (Reading & Writing Foundation), which works both in the Netherlands and internationally to prevent illiteracy among children and to reduce it among adults. The Princess is UNESCO’s Special Envoy on Literacy and Development, and served as Chair of the EU High Level Group of experts on Literacy, which presented its findings in 2012.

The second speaker is Sinika Sipilä, IFLA President. She has been working as Secretary General of the Finnish Library Association since 1997 and previously worked as head of library department. Ms Sipilä completed her Master’s degree in Social Sciences at the University of Tampere, with specialization in Library and Information Sciences.

Ms Sinikka Sipilä is IFLA President in 2013-2015. She has been a Member of the IFLA Governing Board since 2007. She was a Member of the Standing Committee of Management of Library Associations Section (MLAS) in 2003-2011 and Chair in 2007-2009. She was also Co-Chair of the National inHelsinkiINNational Committee for the IFLA World Library and Information Congress 2012 in Helsinki.

Thanks to the talent of our Greek colleagues, this year EBLIDA innovates in creating a pre-conference online platform to be used as a forum for discussion ahead of the Conference. The Platform will give the opportunity to those who are planning to attend, but also to those who can’t attend the EBLIDA Conference to have their say on the topic. It is a pilot project that we hope will be successful. The platform should be up and running by 24 March, so get ready for a new experience! An email with the correct url will be send out on the EBLIDA mailing lists in due time.

Early bird prices remain available until 31st of March, 60 € for EBLIDA members. As of April 1st the price will become 75 €. Don’t forget to register now at http://eblida2014.eebep.gr/registration/.
The campaign: You and us!

By Gerald Leitner

The purpose of this campaign is to improve the situation for libraries and to inform the public about the issue. Here you can find out about what you can do and how EBLIDA can support your effort.

Responding to changes and developments in the media and information market remains one of the biggest challenges for libraries in the coming years. There is uncertainty among politicians, the general public and even many librarians regarding the legal terms in which the e-book-market functions, or better, malfunctions. The reactions are of surprise when they learn that publishers can refuse to sell e-book-licenses to libraries and therefore prohibit access to this media for library users.

To inform the public about this EBLIDA has started the Europe-wide awareness campaign “the right to e-read”. EBLIDA has developed a website where you will find more information http://www.eblida.org/e-read/home-campaign/

How can you engage and what will happen next?

Step 1: Disseminate information to your colleagues
Most librarians are no experts when it comes to the legal conditions of e-book-lending. That's why we distribute information via our EBLDA website: http://www.eblida.org/e-read/home-campaign/
Brief your colleagues and keep librarians in your country updated. Encourage them to read up on the information, to debate about the issue in workshops.

Step 2: Inform the public
Incite your colleagues to print informative posters and flyers (from EBLIDA website), hang up the posters and put out flyers. Talk about the issue with your readers, for example, you can organise an event where people can debate about it.
Make it clear to the public, that the current situation is impending our offers and support for libraries.
Hold a press conference on the 23rd of April – World Book Day – and receive more informative material.

Step 3: Inform politicians
On the 23rd of April we will start an online petition on our EBLIDA website in which we declare:
“We want a precise Act concerning copyright, which permits libraries to buy e-books without restrictions and to lend them to library users just like printed books and provide an appropriate remuneration for the authors!”

It is up to YOU: encourage people to sign the petition!

This campaign is carried out all over Europe and is addressed to all decision making politicians in Europe.
As the network evolves, and as new members enter EBLIDA’s community, the EBLIDA newsletter has decided to open its columns to members wishing to introduce themselves to others. This month, EBLIDA opens its columns to: Réseau Carel, France.

Réseau Carel

Réseau Carel stands for « Coopération pour l’accès aux ressources numériques en bibliothèque ». Founded in April 2011, Réseau Carel is a young association created by librarians representing their local authorities (cities, urban districts as well as our French « départements »), with the aim of promoting the development of digital resources in public libraries.

Carel benefits from the support of the well-known BPI (Bibliothèque publique d’information, Paris) which plays an important part in cooperation between public libraries on a national level and has an extensive experience of digital collections and services.

225 local authorities of various sizes have already joined the association.

The core mission of Carel is to negotiate digital resources of all kinds (music, video, self learning, e-book) in order to obtain better subscription fares for public libraries. In this task, the more members we have, the stronger we are, though Carel is not a consortium and cannot therefore guarantee a minimum number of customers to publishers.

If the outcome of the negotiations is satisfactory, the resource is included in the Carel catalogue on the website, where libraries can find a description, evaluations, pricing models and contacts, as well as a list of customer libraries.

Through its website but also thanks to the expert members’ willingness to cooperate, the association proves itself a resource centre for public libraries.

But the association is also very much involved in current debates about the role of libraries in the digital age and more specifically about necessary conditions for the development of digital collections and services. Gradually, its role as a spokesman for public libraries is being recognized in this field. The matter of e-lending has been on the agenda a lot recently, whether it concerns the launching of « PNB » (Prêt numérique en bibliothèque), a national project which should facilitate the development of e-books in libraries or the current discussions between library associations, booksellers and publishers led by the Ministry of Culture in order to reach a common framework for e-book distribution and lending in libraries.

Among other tasks, Carel organises conferences and workshops as well as an annual survey on digital resources in libraries.

Please note that our next general assembly will take place in Paris on June 18th, where we will be delighted to greet those of you who plan to attend the ABF congress (Association des bibliothécaires de France) on the following days.

Annie Brigant
Vice-chairman of Réseau Carel
in charge ebooks

Denis Llavori, Chairman

Annie Brigant, Vice-Chairman
Events and Dates

March 2014

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

March 13, Typefi User Group meeting
Place: Brighton, UK
URL: http://www.typefi.com/

March 13 – 16, Leipzig Book Fair
Place: Leipzig, Germany
URL: http://lemmon.leipziger-messe.de/LeMMon/uch_web_eng.nsf

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 21 – 24, 34th Paris Book Fair
Place: Paris, France
URL: http://www.salondulivreparis.com/GB/Home-PRO/Trade-Visitor-Section.htm

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

March 24 – 27, Bologna Children’s Book Fair
Place: Bologna, Italy

March 24 – 28, 17th International Conference on Extending Database Technology (EDBT)
Place: Athens, Greece
URL: http://www.edbticdt2014.gr/

March 25 – 26, Search Marketing Expo (SMX)
München
Place: Munich, Germany
URL: http://smxmunchen.de/

March 26 – 28, Research Data Alliance (RDA) 3rd Plenary Meeting
Place: Dublin, Ireland
URL: https://rd-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

April 2014

April 1 – 3, 6th International Conference on Computer Supported Education (CSEDU 2014)
Place: Barcelona, Spain
URL: http://www.csedu.org/Home.aspx

April 1 – 4, ACM International Conference on Multimedia Retrieval (ICMR 2014)
Place: Glasgow, Scotland
URL: http://www.icmr2014.org/

April 2, Understanding eJournal Technology
Place: London, UK
URL: Understanding eJournal Technology

April 3 – 5, 10th International Conference on Web Information Systems and Technologies - WEBIST 2014
Place: Barcelona, Spain
URL: http://www.webist.org/

April 7, Grey Literature and Policy Development: The Pisa Declaration
Place: Pisa, Italy

April 7 – 9, Digital Media Europe 2014
Place: London, UK
URL: http://www.wan-ifra.org/events/digital-media-europe-2014

April 7 – 9, 19th UKAIS International Conference on Information Systems: "Using information systems to make the world a better place: from ideals to action"
Place: Oxford, UK
URL: http://www.ukais.org.uk/conference/
Events and Dates (continued)

April 8 – 10, London Book Fair
Place: London, UK
URL: http://www.londonbookfair.co.uk/

April 8 – 10, IFINTEC Finance Technologies Conference and Exhibition
Place: Istanbul, Turkey
URL: http://www.ifintec.com/EN/519/Conference/About-Conference.aspx

April 10 – 11, 6th European Conference on Intellectual Capital (ECIC-2014)
Place: Trnava, Slovak Republic
URL: http://academic-conferences.org/ecic/ecic2014/ecic14-home.htm

April 10 – 11, EOD Conference 2014: "Sustaining the networked future: use and reuse of digital content"
Place: Innsbruck, Austria
URL: http://books2ebooks.eu/eod2014/

April 10 – 12, 16th Fiesole Retreat: "Succeeding in the Next Decade"
Place: Cambridge, UK
URL: http://www.casalini.it/retreat/retreat_2014.html

April 11, Fraud and Piracy (ALPSP Seminar)
Place: London, UK
URL: http://alpsp.org/Ebusiness/ProductCatalog/1404FAP.aspx?ID=396

April 13, 4th Workshop on Context-awareness in Retrieval and Recommendation (CaRR)
Place: Amsterdam, Netherlands
URL: http://carr-workshop.org/

April 13, Workshop on Gamification for Information Retrieval (GamifIR)
Place: Amsterdam, Netherlands
URL: http://gamifir2014.dai-labor.de/

April 14 – 15, 2014 International Information Conference on Search, Data Mining and Visualization (II-SDV)
Place: Nice, France
URL: http://www.ii-sdv.com/ii-sdv-home.html

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.