The President’s Editorial

Klaus-Peter Böttger  
*EBLIDA President*

Dear EBLIDA members, dear colleagues,

Live from Madrid, it is my pleasure to chair the first Executive Committee meeting of 2015 in this magnificent city.

Together with the Executive Committee members, we will hold a 2 day meeting to reflect on our work over the past 3 years. We’ll look at the way we believe EBLIDA could develop and look at the strengths of the organisation in a period where information is crucial, and where libraries, though core elements for a democratic society, are challenged with budget cuts and sometimes political threats. We will also take the opportunity of this meeting to prepare the coming elections at EBLIDA that should see half of the Executive Committee renewed.
Over the past months, the European Commission and Parliament has continued to dig into the copyright reform issue. Fortunately, EBLIDA and IFLA are a united front, jointly represented in Strasbourg this 12 February for an exchange of views with the Working Group on Intellectual Property Rights and Copyright Reform of the European Parliament.

I would like to underline the very remarkable team-spirit that has made this possible, and am particularly thankful to Mr. Blin, IFLA Governing Board Member, working at the National and University Library of Strasbourg, for his good-will on this task.

Next week, I will participate in a roundtable discussion with Günther H. Oettinger, European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, together with other stakeholders (publishers, authors, booksellers) with a view to exchanging experiences and views on the use of creative works by libraries, education and cultural heritage institutions in Europe, focussing on the opportunities and challenges brought about by digital technology. Exchanging views are high on the agenda of Commissioners and MEPs.

On 24 February, EBLIDA Director will attend the #Digital4EU Stakeholder Forum on Europe’s New Digital Priorities. The changes brought about digital technologies are therefore high on the agenda.

I take great pleasure in concluding my editorial by announcing you that the registration for the upcoming EBLIDA Conference, Building a Europe of Readers, is now open. Keynote speakers have confirmed their attendance. We are in the process of finalising the speakers, including a MEP, and the organisation of the workshop. We recommend that you register as soon as possible and also please book your hotel. During the EU Presidency in Riga, Latvia, demand for hotel rooms is very high. Next week, a letter of invitation will be despatched to members with more information, including hotel recommendations.

I hope you enjoy the new format of our newsletter. Should you have any comments, please do not hesitate to contact the EBLIDA office – we are always glad to get feedback from our readers!

Enjoy reading!

Klaus-Peter Böttger
EBLIDA President

News round-up


The core finding, as she highlighted on her blog is:

*Although the directive was meant to adapt copyright to the digital age, in reality it is blocking the exchange of knowledge and culture across borders today.*

Her report also lays out an agenda for reform and gives points of actions of interest for libraries, especially the item on exception and limitation.

Of course almost every point is of great importance. Some are however particularly closely aligned with what EBLIDA wants, e.g. 20. Calls for the adoption of a mandatory exception allowing libraries to lend books to the public in digital formats, irrespective of the place of access.

Ms Reda immediately issued amendments to her report due to size-limit constraint that are useful to read as well [here](#).

In addition to this report, Ms Reda also shows real commitment to transparency in making information surrounding her work transparent.

She highlighted the number of meetings she had with lobbyists since she began as MEP, as recommended by Transparency International, which is too rare not to be mentioned.

The next JURI Committee will be on 23 and 24 February in Brussels. However, a side meeting of the Working Group on Intellectual Property Rights and Copyright Reform is to take place on 12 February in the European Parliament in Strasbourg. (read more in the next article).

**Working Group on Intellectual Property Rights and Copyright Reform**

The Committee on Legal Affairs of the European Parliament (JURI) decided the setting-
This working group is made up of 10 members distributed as follows:

- 7 members of the Legal Affairs Committee (JURI),
- a member from the Committee on Culture and Education (CULT),
- a member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE),
- a member of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO).

The group welcomes an 11th member of the International Trade Committee who can participate, depending on the subject to be discussed.

The Parliament website stated that “The aim of the Working Group is to reflect on IPR issues and especially to pave the way to the upcoming reform of the EU legal framework on copyright. The Working Group will meet once a month and will exchange views with the widest range of stakeholders and civil society. The result of the work would serve as a starting point for future legislative review in the field and would enable Members to present concrete and innovative proposals to the European Commission”.

To access the page and minutes of meetings go to http://tinyurl.com/nkjuska.

On 12 February, the working group is organising an exchange of views on publishing and copyright issues in the digital environment. This meeting will welcome representatives of publishers, booksellers, authors, journalists and librarians. This meeting takes place at the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Each speaker will have 10 minutes to present the views of its constituencies and 10 minutes of exchange with the MEPs.

For this delicate exercise, EBLIDA and IFLA have teamed-up and asked Frédéric Blin, Director of Preservation at the National and University Library of Strasbourg, Member of the IFLA Governing Board (Treasurer), to represent the view of libraries.

In his speech, Frédéric Blin emphasizes that “Libraries, and their professional associations in particular, have always been working constructively with publishers, with authors, writers and their representatives, booksellers and distributors, to facilitate access to culture for all citizens and share with journalists common values and practices of giving access to information”. He also highlights the economic value of libraries in showing examples of return on investment in Latvia (€1 invested generates €1.37), Germany (€1 = €3.8) or the UK (€1 = €4.9) and insists on the fact that “libraries act according to strong values, social inclusion, neutrality, cultural diversity, freedom of expression, to promote population’s literacy and access to sources of information and culture, or preservation of their memory, as many skills and frameworks necessary for the personal development of individuals, and as a result of social and
But he underlines that “current legislative frameworks are an obstacle to these values in the digital world. Overwhelmed, they often prohibit today for digital content which is permitted for content in physical form. Instead of progress, library’s users (citizens) are now suffering an erosion of their rights, a flashback particularly damaging at a time when culture and information, and libraries themselves are the target of the worst obscurantism”.

He then quotes the reaction of Birmingham’s citizens after the announcement of budget cuts in their brand new library: “Large cuts in staff numbers and hours of opening will deny access to many people to opportunities to learn individually and collectively and to connect with the growing number of services available through the internet. The opening hours and the connectivity and the staff expertise are central to the modern citizen’s ability to properly engage with not only their community but with the wider world. The library is an emblematic sign that Birmingham is open for business, open for ideas and most definitely open – all of the time – for the future of the residents and their families” (you can read more about that at https://birminghamlibrariescampaigns.wordpress.com/2015/02/11/major-public-opposition-to-the-cuts-to-birmingham-libraries-override-by-council/).

He concludes his speech by underlining EBLIDA’s demand of Copyright reform to improve access to information to citizens and by pointing out key elements that are:

- greater harmonization of national legislation - and in particular the exceptions and limitations - to allow the emergence of a genuine European market, facilitating exchange and cross-border institutional cooperation in the interest of citizens;
- provisions making null and void any contractual trade clause contrary to rights, exceptions and limitations enshrined in law;
- libraries to get the right to acquire at normal market price any work made legally available for purchase to the public, including digital works, confirming the transfer of ownership and exhaustion induced by this purchase;
- the right of readers to access digital works via libraries, guaranteeing the right of libraries to lend to their users, including through international interlibrary loan, legally acquired digital works;
- the rights of authors and rights holders of intellectual property rights to balanced and fair compensation for their activities.

EBLIDA expressed support for Ms. Reda’s draft report on the implementation of Directive 2001/29 / EC, which appears to him to go in the direction of the desired balance. EBLIDA also supports the creation of the Council and the Commission of an Open Method of Coordination Method group dealing with contracts and licensing issues, cross-border services, and digital library lending.”

EBLIDA is thankful to Frédéric Blin for his valuable contribution on EBLIDA and IFLA’s behalf to this exchange of views with MEPs.
Swift Ratification of Marrakesh Treaty at EU Level Blocked?

Information on the World Intellectual Property Website shows that *The Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled (MVT)* is the latest addition to the body of international copyright treaties administered by WIPO. It has a clear humanitarian and social development dimension and its main goal is to create a set of mandatory limitations and exceptions for the benefit of the blind, visually impaired and otherwise print disabled (VIPs).

This treaty was adopted on 27 June 2013 in Marrakesh and still needs the ratification of several states.

However, a recent blog-post from the Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue tends to show that Commission and Council delay EU ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty, and that they would favour first copyright reform at EU level before going further on the ratification of the Treaty. This seems to contradict the prior engagement of former Commissioner Barnier.

To be continued...

IDEO’s toolkit for libraries is live!

What’s the future of libraries and how do we stay relevant as institution for our community? That is what Aarhus Public Libraries and Chicago Public Library wanted to find out – and with support from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation they engaged IDEO and did a project about design thinking and how it might best be adapted and applied to a library context. The final result is now here: the Design Thinking Toolkit for Libraries. The toolkit can be used by any front-line library staffer to adapt to library users’ changing needs.

**What can I use it for?**
The toolkit guides you through Design Thinking so you can start coming up with solutions to everyday challenges within the library. Design thinking, or human-centered design, is all about starting with people — the users that visit your
library. IDEO have been using similar methods to envision new products, services, spaces, and experiences in other business areas. IDEO created this toolkit specifically for the library setting in close cooperation with the project teams at Chicago and Aarhus Public Libraries.

**Developed and tested by library staffers**
Over the course of eight months library staffers in Aarhus and Chicago were guided closely by IDEO and learned the design thinking way of working. They interviewed users, did prototypes and engaged with patrons to test out new ideas. In Aarhus new ways to engage kids and families in storytelling were tested. In the adult section we have tested out a new design of the librarian’s desk and the service that the librarians offer. And we also did a “tech spa” for non-techie users that wanted to learn more about new technologies.

**What have we learned?**
Through interviews and prototyping we learned a lot of new things about our users and the way they use the library. We also learned that sometimes it is in the packaging and not in the service itself that a problem dwells. And we learned new methods to focus not on demographics (gender, age etc) but more on behaviors. The user’s habits, rituals, routines and their journey through the library system often tell us more about who they are than fx their age.

**Where can I find the toolkit?**
In this close cooperation with IDEO the project teams were guided through a design thinking process. All their experience and input was used to create the final result: the toolkit. It is a comprehensive new resource for any staff member hoping to advance their library by using human-centered design methods. The vision for the toolkit is that it can empower librarians to design new services as a way to make sure that the library stays relevant for the users and the community.

**Learn more**
Download the toolkit here: [www.designdesignthinkingforlibraries.com](http://www.designdesignthinkingforlibraries.com)
The toolkit comes in two parts: the toolkit guide, and the accompanying activities workbook. If you don’t have much time then download the "At-a-Glance-Guide" which introduces how you might get started using design thinking over the course of one day.

The toolkit is created with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation – The Global Libraries initiative.

**More information**
Learn more and get the toolkit here: [http://www.designdesignthinkingforlibraries.com](http://www.designdesignthinkingforlibraries.com)

**For more information please contact**
Director of Citizens’ Services and Libraries, Rolf Hapel, 0045 8940 9300, hapel@aarhus.dk
23rd EBLIDA Annual Council Meeting &
EBLIDA-NAPLE Conference

Theme: *Building a Europe of Readers*
07 May - 08 May 2015, Riga, Latvia

Second Keynote Speaker Announced:
Sven Birkerts

Sven Birkerts
Author

Sven Birkerts has been editor of *AGNI* since July 2002.

His most recent book, *The Other Walk*, was published in 2011, and a new collection of essays, *Changing the Subject: Essays on the Mediated Self* will be published in 2015.

He has received grants from the Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Foundation and the Guggenheim Foundation. He was winner of the Citation for Excellence in Reviewing from the National Book Critics Circle in 1985 and the Spielvogel-Diamonstein Award from PEN for the best book of essays in 1990.


He has taught writing at Harvard University, Emerson College, Amherst College, and Mt. Holyoke College, and is director of the graduate *Bennington Writing Seminars*. He lives in Arlington, Massachusetts.

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_AGNI_ was founded in 1972 at Antioch College by undergraduate Askold Melnychuk, a then-aspiring (now accomplished) writer with his own vision of a vehicle for alternative news, visual arts, and literature. Melnychuk was interested in creating a magazine that would feature a new generation of writers and visual artists. […] _AGNI_ has published more than seventy-nine issues in a history touching five decades. The magazine is one of the strongest voices of one of the most active writing communities in America, and we continue to focus on developing audiences for contemporary literature. We have held hundreds of readings (in Boston and nationwide) featuring such writers as Seamus Heaney, Louise Glück, Lan Samantha Chang, and Robert Pinsky (see upcoming events on our homepage). _AGNI_’s events are sought-after occasions with frequently standing-room-only audiences. [website consulted 4 February 2014, http://www.bu.edu/agni/history.html]

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**Online Registration to the Conference now open**

We are delighted to announce that online registration is now open and attendees can register for the Conference via the Conference web-site: [http://eblida2015.lnb.lv/registration](http://eblida2015.lnb.lv/registration)
EBLIDA News

EBLIDA’s first 2015 Executive Committee Meeting
Madrid, Spain, 12 and 13 February 2015

The EBLIDA Executive Committee (EC) meets three times a year: once in February/March, once during the Annual Council and Conference in May and once in November. Between meetings, the EC handles matters on a day-to-day basis by email and by phone/skype.

EBLIDA Executive Committee in Madrid

The EC is composed of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and 8 Members - representatives from different European countries. Members of the Executive Committee are elected by the Council for three year terms, with a maximum of 2 terms consecutively.

The main functions of the EC are to develop and implement the Annual Work Programme and to submit information to the Council regarding the Annual Report, Membership and Budget of the Association.

FESABID hosts the EC event at the headquarters of Instituto de Empresa (IE), a member of EBLIDA.
EBLIDA thanks and appreciates the generous support of FESABID and the Instituto de Empresa (IE).

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**EBLIDA Elections 2015-2018**

for President and Executive Committee Members

The upcoming elections are taking place during a period of profound political and economic crisis and will shape the association for the next three years.

EBLIDA elected its Executive Committee and President for 2012-2015 at its Council meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark in May 2012. This means that we will hold new elections at our next Council Meeting, to be held in Riga, Latvia on 7 May 2015.

According to the EBLIDA Constitution (Chapter 3, Article 29), the members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the Council for a period of three years, serving for a maximum of two terms.

There are currently 5 EC members (including the President) that are not eligible for re-election for the term 2015-2018.

As cited in Article 31 of the Constitution, the members of the Executive Committee, with the exception of its chairperson, are Full Members of the Association.

Soon, you will receive a letter from us, in which the EBLIDA Secretariat will invite members of the Association to nominate, in writing, their representatives for election to the EBLIDA Executive Committee and President.

You will then be asked to return the forms to the Secretariat, together with a short biography or CV of the nominee.

A list of current Executive members eligible for the period 2015-2018, i.e. who have only served one term on the EC, will also be circulated. Elections only happen every three years and are a great opportunity for new candidates to get involved, to represent the values of libraries, to campaign for the issues we - EBLIDA and our members - believe in.
We hope you are looking forward to it as much as we are!

Contact to request further information: Eblida@eblida.org

Events and Dates

February

February 18, Scientific Data Management (NISO Virtual Conference)
Place: Online only
Sponsor/Organizer: National Information Standards Organization (NISO)
URL: http://www.niso.org/news/events/2015/virtual_conferences/sci_data_management/

February 23 – 27, Fair Use Week 2015
Place: Online only
Sponsor/Organizer: Association of Research Libraries (ARL)
URL: http://www.arl.org/events/event/148#.VLlKM0fF-an

February 24, ALPSP Training Course: Introduction to Journals Publishing
Place: London, UK
Sponsor/Organizer: Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP)
URL: http://www.alpsp.org/Ebusiness/Meetings/Meeting.aspx?ID=420

February 26 – March 1, Alaska Library Association 2015 Conference
Place: Juneau, AK
Sponsor/Organizer: Alaska Library Association
URL: http://akla.org/

February 26 – March 3, 45th Brussels Book Fair
Place: Brussels, Belgium
Sponsor/Organizer: Exhibition Management
URL: http://flb.be/en/

February 28 – March 2, 2015 International Conference on Information Management (ICIM 2015)
Place: Guilin, China
Sponsor/Organizer: Organizing Committee
URL: http://www.icim.org/index.html

March 2015
March 3 – 4, International Conference: Intellectual Property and Beyond
Place: Riga, Latvia
Sponsor/Organizer: World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
URL: http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=35502

March 5 – 6, EDGE 2015: "Changing Challenge to Opportunity"
Place: Edinburgh, Scotland
Sponsor/Organizer: Edinburgh City Libraries
URL: http://edgeconference.co.uk/

March 10, ALPSP Training Course: Developing Open Access and Hybrid Journals
Place: London, UK
Sponsor/Organizer: Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP)
URL: http://www.alpsp.org/Ebusiness/Meetings/Meeting.aspx?ID=429

March 11 – 13, IFLA Rare Books and Manuscripts Section Midterm Meeting: "A coordinated approach to recording and searching provenance records and images: moving forward"
Place: London, UK
Sponsor/Organizer: IFLA Rare Books and Manuscripts Section
URL: http://www.ifla.org/node/9206?og=59

March 12 – 13, Conference of the Bells (Convegno delle Stelline)
Place: Milan, Italy
Sponsor/Organizer: Organizing Committee
URL: http://www.convegnostelline.it/

March 12 – 15, Leipzig Book Fair
Place: Leipzig, Germany
Sponsor/Organizer: Leipzig Trade Fair Management
URL: http://flb.be/en/

March 17, Disruption, development and divestment (ALPSP Seminar)
Place: London, UK
Sponsor/Organizer: Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP)

March 19 – 22, Vilnius Book Fair
Place: Vilnius, Lithuania
Sponsor/Organizer: Lithuanian Exhibition Centre “Litexpo”
URL: http://www.vilniusbookfair.lt/

March 20, ALPSP Training Course: Financial Management in Journals Publishing
March 20 – 23, Paris Book Fair
Place: Paris, France
Sponsor/Organizer: Reed Expositions France
URL: www.salondulivreparis.com

March 21 – 23, 5th International Conference on Information Systems and Technologies (ICIST15)
Place: Istanbul, Turkey
Sponsor/Organizer: Organizing Committee
URL: http://www.ijist.net/ICIST15/

March 24, ALPSP Training: Data Protection: Compliance Issues for Publishers
Place: London, UK
Sponsor/Organizer: Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP)
URL: http://www.alpsp.org/Ebusiness/Meetings/Meeting.aspx?ID=441

March 26, The future for Open Access and the move towards Open Data
Place: London, UK
Sponsor/Organizer: Westminster Higher Education Forum
URL: http://www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/forums/event.php?eid=876&t=8293

March 29 – April 2, 37th European Conference on Information Retrieval (ECIR 2015)
Place: Vienna, Austria
Sponsor/Organizer: Austrian Computer Society and Faculty of Informatics, University of Vienna
URL: http://ecir2015.ifs.tuwien.ac.at/wp/

March 30 – April 1, UKSG 38th Annual Conference and Exhibition
Place: Glasgow, Scotland
Sponsor/Organizer: UKSG
URL: http://www.uksg.org/event/conference15