The President’s Editorial

Klaus-Peter Böttger
EBLIDA President

Dear EBLIDA members, dear colleagues,

I am very pleased to reiterate here that registration for the upcoming EBLIDA Conference, Building a Europe of Readers, is open. The conference programme is moving forward, and I am delighted to announce that we have received confirmation from Inese Vaidere, a Latvian Member of the European Parliament, about her participation in the first session, and of the confirmation that Sylvie Guillaume (French), Vice-President of the European Parliament accepted to deliver a video message for the opening of the conference.
I would like you to look carefully at the programme update further on in the Newsletter.

Again, I would emphasise that it’s important that you register as soon as possible and also to please arrange your hotel booking. During the EU Presidency in Riga, Latvia, demand for hotel rooms is very high.

EBLIDA Director Vincent Bonnet has requested that I should answer 3 questions about my experience as EBLIDA President.

I would like to state here that being the President of EBLIDA is both an honour and hard work. I meet both library friends and those who don’t understand what a library means in the digital age. But one learns a lot and I will miss the close relationship with the director and EBLIDA office as well as the support from colleagues. So being EBLIDA President is a great experience and a wonderful, but also challenging job.

Regarding working at a national level, I would like to sincerely thank all the national associations for their trust and support. But of course in your own home country this position and European task strengthens the connection between the different levels from local to international and raises awareness on Europe and European library matters.

As outgoing President, I would advise my successor not to try to understand the EU, the Commissions’ work and all the procedures on the European level in one day. Take time to let it all sink in. It is an exciting process which gives you a lot of networking opportunities, as well as giving you experience and the certainty that you will be able to put the fight for libraries on the European agenda.

In the previous newsletter, you were informed about my participation in a roundtable discussion with Günther H. Oettinger, European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society. During the discussion, I called for an update of the European Copyright Acquis to deliver fair access to information for European libraries and their patrons (see here). My call was seconded by Paul Ayris, former LIBER President, who argued the case for a mandatory pan-European Exception for Text and Data Mining, which could not be overridden by contracts (see here).

The discussions are quite intense in Brussels about Julia Reda’s report (see further down in this newsletter). I would like to state here that EBLIDA supports her report and her proposals together with consumer associations and a lot of other organisations. In particular, we support her call “for the harmonization of copyright terms and exceptions across Europe, new exceptions for emerging use cases like audio-visual quotation, e-lending and text and data mining, as well as the adoption of an open norm to “allow for the adaptation to unanticipated new forms of cultural expression”. It recommends “exempting works produced by the public sector […] from copyright protection” and demands that “exercise of exceptions or limitations […] should not be hindered by technological measures”.

We believe that there is a need to find balanced solutions for all including libraries.
Now that the Court of Justice of the European Union has ruled that France and Luxembourg cannot apply a reduced rate of VAT to the supply of electronic books contrary to paper books and considering that the court case between VOB and Leenrecht on e-book lending has not been yet ruled by the same court, we may be facing new question mark on the e-lending issue. I hope to come up with more information on e-lending in our next issue, but in the meantime you can rest assured that we are actively partnering with our colleagues on this issue.

This gives me the opportunity to highlight that library representation is stronger when we join forces. By participating together in the events mentioned above and by carefully following-up on the activities at both Parliament and Commission level, we can make the case for greater recognition of library missions.

Enjoy reading!

Klaus-Peter Böttger
EBLIDA President

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EU News

Did you say Copyright Reform?


If you missed previous instalments of this passionate debate, Julia Reda's report has opened a strong debate among MEPs with very diverse opinions.

(2014/2256) and her reflection on the recent debate on her draft Report, more specifically on the ongoing focus on geo-blocking, Julia Read created a FAQ document. Several Committees gave their opinions on the report such as:

- EP CULT Committee. See the draft Opinion on the implementation of the InfoSoc Directive and the published Amendments (121). The Opinion was drafted by Rapporteur MEP Isabella Adinolfi (EFDD, Italy).
- The EP JURI Committee. See the draft Report on the implementation of the InfoSoc Directive (2014/2256) and the published amendments (556) (N.B. at the time of publication, amendments are still in their original language. Translation will be available at a later stage). The Report was drafted by Rapporteur MEP Julia Reda (Greens/EFA, Germany).
- EP IMCO Committee. See the draft Opinion on the implementation of the InfoSoc Directive and the Amendments. The consideration of the Amendments is scheduled for 16-17 March and the IMCO Committee vote is scheduled for 24 March. The Opinion was drafted by Rapporteur MEP Catherine Stihler (S&D, UK).

We can see a strong push from rights-holders groups to avoid any European copyright reform and a strong will to leave the system as is. And the question of e-lending is clearly at the core of the debates.

Follow-up of the Meeting on 12 February of the Working Group on Intellectual Property Rights and Copyright Reform

On 12 February 2015, Frédéric Blin (BNU Strasbourg) Member of the IFLA GB and representative of EBLIDA at his meeting, presented the point of view of the public libraries on publishing and copyright issues in the digital environment to the Working group on Intellectual Property Rights and Copyright Reform in the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

His speech is published in French on the Parliament website here and his translation in English is published on the EBLIDA website here.

Reduced VAT on e-books

http://us9.campaign-archive1.com/?u=e892b03e1c5beec6e43581dd&id=2c21647e32&e=[UNIQID]
On 5 March, the Court of Justice of the European Union in its judgments in Cases C-479/13 and C-502/13 Commission vs France and Commission vs Luxembourg of Court of Justice of the European Union, ruled that France and Luxembourg cannot apply a reduced rate of VAT to the supply of electronic books contrary to paper books.

Specifically, the Court highlights that “the VAT Directive excludes any possibility of a reduced VAT rate being applied to ‘electronically supplied services’. The Court holds that the supply of electronic books is such a service. The court rejects the argument that the supply of electronic books constitutes a supply of goods (and not a supply of services). Only the physical support enabling an electronic book to be read could qualify as ‘tangible property’ but such support is not part of the supply of electronic books.”


In reaction to this judgement, the Federation of European Publishers (FEP), together with the European Writers’ Council (EWC) and the European and International Booksellers Federation (EIBF), addressed an open letter to the Presidents of the European Parliament, European Council and European Commission urging “the Commission to take swift action to amend the relevant legislation to ensure it reflects technological progress and remove a serious hindrance to the development of the e-book market. This will fit neatly into its Work Programme, which states that "Barriers to digital are barriers to jobs, prosperity and progress".


Information for EBLIDA Members

RIGA - 2015

Council Meeting 7th May: New time 13.00-18.00

As mentioned in the editorial, there have been a few notable changes for the 7th of May. First of all, the timing of the Council meeting has been extended by one hour. The time of the Council meeting on 7th of May will now be from 13h00 – 18h00, not ending at 17h00 as previously announced. This information has been circulated by e-mail to members on Tuesday 10th March.
**Off-Conference Cancelled**

The other change to the day programme of 7th of May is that the Off-Conference will now no longer take place.

During discussions with NAPLE, we discovered that the format of the workshop organised by NAPLE, EAEA and PL2020 is too close to the planned agenda of the Off-Conference we discussed with NAPLE earlier on and would have a lot of overlap.

By now most of our members will have received the Draft Council Meeting Agenda and Invitation, as well as the papers for the Elections. If you haven’t received these, please contact our offices as soon as possible.

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**REMINDER**

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 a maximum of two terms.

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.

The EBLIDA Secretariat has invited members of the Association to nominate, in writing, their representatives for election of a new President and the EBLIDA Executive Committee.

You are requested 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, has been 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

A word from current EC Members

Erna Winters
EC Member 2009-2012, Treasurer 2012-2015

What does it mean to be an EC member?

One has to be able to balance finances with the strategy of the EBLIDA. A treasurer needs to be able to discuss with the director which decisions should be put to the EC and what decision should be taken. The treasurer needs to be able to balance the needs of EBLIDA as an organisation, it’s strategy and the needs of the employees and the members.

How does it helps with the articulation of actions at national level?
A clear strategy of EBLIDA is followed by a clear financial translation of the strategy. If
the strategy is clear enough and results are visible, members should be convinced that
the membership fee is worth their money.

**If you are an outgoing EC member, what advice would you give to a potential candidate?**

To make a strategic plan for the next year, together with the chair, how to move
forward with finances. And to make a plan for the financial governance of the organization.

**Ulrika Domellof-Mattsson**

EC Member 2012-2015

Working in the Executive Committee (EC) of Eblida is a great
way to work with questions essential for the future of libraries.
As copyright. I have had the pleasure to work both in the EC and
as chair of the Expert Group on Information Law (EGIL).
I think a strength of EBLIDA is that we represent all types of
libraries and work with questions relevant to all of us. EGIL is an
important group of experts giving advice to the EC and preparing
relevant papers. Working on European level gives an insight in what is going on in
Brussels and a possibility to find relevant issues to work with on national level.
It has been marvellous to meet interesting people from the Library-world of Europe and
to learn about differences, similarities and how to join forces.

**Latest News on the Conference programme**

07 May - 08 May 2015, Riga, Latvia

We take great pleasure in announcing that two members of the European Parliament
have confirmed their participation in the EBLIDA Conference.
Ms Sylvie Guillaume (France, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats), Vice-President of the European Parliament agreed to send a video message for the opening of the EBLIDA-NAPLE conference to highlight the importance of libraries in reading development.

The video message should be recorded during the visit to the Lyon Public Library scheduled in April.

Ms Isene Vaidere (Latvia, Group of the European People’s Party), will deliver a keynote-speech and should take part to the round-table session afterwards.

Ms Isene Vaidere is a substitute in the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee (IMCO) that recently published its Opinion on the implementation of the InfoSoc Directive and the Amendments.

In the next newsletter, you will read more about the moderator Kate Russell and the speaker in charge of wrap up of the event, Ryan Heath.
Meanwhile, please go to the Conference website to learn more about it.

ELINET - European Literacy Policy Network

ELINET is moving forward with the preparation of the Budapest conference (20-22 April 2015)

In light of the coming convening of ELINET members in Budapest (Hungary), the new website has just been launched (read the press release here).

As active contributor to the ELINET project, EBLIDA is looking forward to greater public information availability through the website.

Literacy is becoming a very important issue at European level and acknowledging its
importance will pave the way to supporting improving development of literacy programme.
At EBLIDA we believe that Libraries are a real asset for the development of literacy (in all forms).

In that context, the EBLIDA Expert Group on Culture and the Information Society (EGCIS) issued a public statement that you can read here.

As the statement highlights, about 70,000 libraries in Europe employing more than 215,000 dedicated staff are ready to help improve the development of literacy. EBLIDA highlights that we wish to:

- Actively participate in ELINET
- Provide strong support to Literacy for All – the European Library Network
- Share good practices across the European library network
- Raise awareness amongst MEPs
- Meet and talk to European Union and Council of Europe officials about the role of libraries in literacy development

#Digital4EU Stakeholder Forum

On 24 February, EBLIDA Director participated in the #Digital4EU Stakeholder Forum on Europe’s New Digital Priorities. The Forum gathered more than 400 participants in Brussels and even more people through the live streaming.

Robert Madelin, Director General, European Commission, DG Connect, opened the forum by welcoming participants and giving the floor to Andrus Ansip, Vice President of the European Commission responsible for Digital Single Market for his keynote speech. Mr Ansip reiterated regarding the issues EU citizens face with geo-blocking, and his wish to work towards a balanced copyright reform.

In the afternoon, the keynote speaker was Günther H. Oettinger, Commissioner for Digital Economy & Society, European Commission. Mr Oettinger talked about digitisation as a new revolution. His view is that the European Digital Union should abolish digital fragmentation. Mr Oettinger also claimed for a balance between the owners of content and those accessing content, emphasising the need for intermediaries.

The most interesting panel was the third one: Digital Technology and Copyright
Welcomes. Though nothing really substantial was mentioned, and an overreliance on licensing solutions was presented as the panacea, it was interesting to listen to the speakers, and especially to Roberto Viola (Deputy Director General, DG CONNECT, European Commission) who sees the main challenges in the promotion of creation protecting authors without discouraging consumers and users. Mr Viola acknowledged the need for copyright reform, because current blockage (for instance access to broadcasting programmes of another EU country) can be easily circumvented by using a VPN. This is widespread in the EU population, so it would be better to change this unless Europe wants to keep territorial obstacles to be circumvented by individual users. His key priority is to be able to collect the "collective wisdom".

Other panellists were Angela Mills-Wade (European Publishers Council), Vivian Chan (Sparrho) and Alan Graham (One Click License).


News round-up

Libraries and literacy - An EBLIDA statement
EBLIDA calls on the European Commission to acknowledge the role of libraries in promoting literacy.

Read more>

Next Library Festival 12-15 September 2015
International opening of Dokk1 – the new library in Aarhus/Denmark.
Registration for Next Library Festival 2015 is open! Register directly here and catch the early bird low registration fee!

Read more>

Follow-up of the Meeting of 12 February of the Working Group on Intellectual Property Rights and Copyright Reform
On behalf of European libraries and their users, Frédéric Blin's (IFLA & EBLIDA) presented his point of view of the public libraries on publishing and copyright issues in
Meeting with EU Commissioner for Digital Economy & Society

EBLIDA President Klaus-Peter Böttger attended a high-level meeting with EU Commissioner for Digital Economy & Society Günther H. Oettinger on copyright reform.

Copyright Reform – C4C Supports the Balanced Approach

Copyright for Creativity - C4C - published a statement regarding MEP Julia Reda’s draft Report.

Ask Ansip & Ask Oettinger

EC Vice-President Andrus Ansip and Commissioner Günther H. Oettinger want to hear your views, ideas, suggestions on two hot digital topics.

Dates & Events

March

March 12, Libraries and privacy in the digital age
Place: London, UK
Sponsor/Organizer: IFLA Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) Committee
URL: http://www.ifla.org/node/9342

March 12 – 13, Conference of the Bells (Convegno delle Stelline) - Italian Conference for libraries and librarians
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/

Place: Oxford, UK
Sponsor/Organizer: UK Academy for Information Systems (UKAIS)
URL: http://www.ukais2015.org/

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

March 20 – 23, Paris Book Fair
Place: Paris, France
Sponsor/Organizer: Reed Expositions France
URL: www.salondulivreparis.com

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 26 – 28, 3rd International Conference on E-Technologies and Business on the Web
Place: Paris, France
Sponsor/Organizer: Society of Digital Information and Wireless Communications (SDIWC)
URL: http://sdiwc.net/conferences/ebw2015/

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
April 2015

April 1, Bibliometrics, Scientometrics and alternative metrics: which tools for which strategies?
Place: Paris, France
Sponsor/Organizer: Association of academic Libraries and Frameworks IST (ADBU)

April 8 – 10, Librarians’ Information Literacy Annual Conference (LILAC) 2015
Place: Newcastle, UK
Sponsor/Organizer: CILIP Information Literacy Group

April 8 – 10, CILIP Ireland/Library Association of Ireland Annual Joint Conference 2015: "Collaborate, Evaluate, Evolve"
Place: Belfast, Northern Ireland
Sponsor/Organizer: CILIP Ireland/ Library Association of Ireland

April 13, Publishing for Digital Minds Conference
Place: London, UK
Sponsor/Organizer: London Book Fair
URL: [http://www.publishingfordigitalminds.co.uk/](http://www.publishingfordigitalminds.co.uk/)

April 14, International Newspaper Archiving and Digitization Summit
Place: Stockholm, Sweden
Sponsor/Organizer: Center for Research Libraries

April 14 – 16, London Book Fair 2015
Place: London, UK
Sponsor/Organizer: Reed Expositions, Ltd.
URL: [http://www.londonbookfair.co.uk/Home/](http://www.londonbookfair.co.uk/Home/)

April 15 – 16, 2015 IFLA International News Media Conference: “Transformation of the online news media: implications for preservation and access”
Place: Stockholm, Sweden
Sponsor/Organizer: Center for Research Libraries, IFLA News Media (Newspapers) Section, and IFLA Audiovisual and Multimedia Section

http://us9.campaign-archive1.com/?u=e89f2b03e1c5beec6e43581dd&id=2c21647e32&e=[UNIQID]
April 15 – 16, Joint SPARC-COAR Conference: "Connecting research results, bridging communities, opening scholarship"
Place: Porto, Portugal
Sponsor/Organizer: SPARC and Collaboration of Open Access Repositories (COAR)
URL: http://www.sparc.arl.org/events/joint-sparc-coar-conference

April 15 – 17, Annual Meeting of the Danish Library Association
Place: Aarhus, Denmark
Sponsor/Organizer: Danish Library Association (DLA)
URL: http://www.ifla.org/node/9139

April 19 – 24, International Workshop on Knowledge Extraction and Semantic Annotation (KESA 2015)
Place: Barcelona, Spain
Sponsor/Organizer: International Academy, Research, and Industry Association (IARIA)
URL: http://www.iaria.org/conferences2015/KESA.html

April 20 – 22, Emerging Technologies in Academic Libraries 2015 (EMTACL15)
Place: Trondheim, Norway
Sponsor/Organizer: Organizing Committee
URL: http://emtacl.com/

April 23 – 26, 22nd International Book Festival Budapest
Place: Budapest, Hungary
Sponsor/Organizer: Hungarian Publishers’ and Booksellers’ Association
URL: http://www.bookfestival.hu/angol.html

April 29 – 30, Lithuanian Librarians Association conference: "Library: Information, Knowledge and Data – for everyone"
Place: Vilnius, Lithuania
Sponsor/Organizer: Lithuanian Librarians Association
URL: http://www.ifla.org/node/9220

April 29 – May 3, Geneva Book & Press Fair
Place: Geneva, Switzerland
Sponsor/Organizer: Geneva Palexpo
URL: http://www.salondulivre.ch/en/

April 30, ALPSP Training Course: Understanding eJournal Technology
Place: London, UK
Sponsor/Organizer: Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP)