The President’s Editorial

Jukka Relander

*EBLIDA President*

Dear EBLIDA members, dear colleagues,

I am still learning how to be President of Eblida. The first course was given in Milan in May, at a conference I was invited to give a speech. So I did! The most important experience in Milan was of course the dinner at La Dolce Vita hosted by wonderful Aldo Pirola and his successor as the head of the Milano city library, the one and only
Stefano Parise. But we had some interesting discussions, too. I spoke about the changing role of libraries in contemporary society. It was a good discussion. My point was that as the material gets more and more digital, libraries' role as facilitators of the civil society will increase.

And with this increase, libraries will face new challenges: in addition to issues such as the copyright, we will be speaking more and more about freedom of speech, content of democracy, and politics. Libraries will still be about books to a great extent, but the space they provide will increasingly be open to events, discussions, panels and other activities of civil society.

The EBLIDA Executive Committee will hold its first official meeting in September. I am very much looking forward to it. The EC is a perfect combination of young enthusiasm and experience. There will be a whole lot of action going on.

However, as I cannot wait that long, I invited those who could make it to Helsinki, at the end of June, for a preliminary meeting, for two reasons: Firstly, I need some briefing. EBLIDA's Director, Vincent Bonnet, suggested to me as soon as I got elected that we should get together and go through the core issues of the organisation. That is what we will do over here. Secondly, we have some urgent issues at EBLIDA, which need taking care of urgently.

I am talking about the finances. We need to do our best to lobby for resources at the EU. At the same time, however, we have to look at other directions. We need to think about different ways of funding our activities. I would very much like to have more public funding, but at the moment it seems that there will be less public money available rather than more. So we need to look at the options of public-private partnerships.

That is why I invited a couple of companies to join our unofficial meeting in Helsinki. I am not expecting to get a solution for our financial challenges at once, but we have to be open to new types of models of cooperation. I hope, that we can find new ways of working for libraries together with private sector actors.

Yours Sincerely,

Jukka Relander
EBLIDA President

Inside Brussels
EBLIDA’s amendments to the JURI Committee vote on the report of INFOSOC

Ahead of the vote by the JURI committee on the amendments to the report on the implementation of the INFOSOC due 16 June, EBLIDA communicated its views to JURI Committee members.

Out of the 556 amendments with some added to weaken the report, EBLIDA focused its view on 285 amendments related to libraries.

Libraries represent the interests of the public and their access to information. They are neutral partners and don’t have a commercial interest in the ongoing battle around copyright. At the same time, libraries are a crucial asset to the research, culture and education sectors.

The library is a pillar of the knowledge and democracy society.

Ask your MEP in the JURI Committee to support EBLIDA recommendations

The JURI Committee includes representatives from 19 out of the 28 EU member-states. EBLIDA activated its network in 14 countries to support its amendments. Act now and support EBLIDA’s amendments.

Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom are the countries with at least one representative in the Committee on Legal Affairs, JURI, of the European Parliament.

With the upcoming vote due next Tuesday 16 June 2015 in the morning, EBLIDA is asking our members from these specific countries to contact their MEPs and to inform them of the need to vote for the amendments proposed by EBLIDA.

An email containing detailed information and a plan of action will be circulated to EBLIDA members in order to ensure the best possible outreach. We are thankful for our members’ support.
Digital Single Market Strategy / EBLIDA’s Comments

EBLIDA publishes its position on the Digital Single Market Strategy of the European Commission, highlighting the importance to achieve copyright reform while addressing the need to support literacy programme.

On 6 May in Brussels, the European Commission launched its official Digital Single Market Strategy see here.

Following an internal consultation with our experts and approval from the EBLIDA Executive Committee, EBLIDA reiterates the need for copyright reform since...

“[…] Market-led solutions have proven ineffective over the past years and often lead to a licence paralysis that need to be overcome[...].” Meanwhile EBLIDA also strongly believes that there is a need to tackle the literacy issue because “[...]the shift towards the digital world is challenging the way citizens access information. The low skilled, especially those with literacy problems, have lost out badly in the recession and as the digital world becomes ever more pervasive their exclusion from society risks becoming more deeply embedded.

Never before has literacy been so important to the well-being of individuals, communities or nations [...]”.

EBLIDA concludes that “for the Digital Single Market to offer real opportunities to EU citizens, it will need to rely on the existing network and experience of libraries and their staff”.

It is important to note that multiple committees will be involved as opinion committees on specific issues linked to their expertise, for instance, Intellectual Property Rights and Copyright for the Legal Affairs (JURI) Committee, privacy and e-privacy for the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) Committee.

The full paper is accessible here.

European Commission Adopts Better
Regulation Package

On 19 May, the European Commission adopted its Better Regulation Package with the aim to:

- boost openness and transparency in the EU decision-making process;
- improve the quality of new laws through better impact assessments of draft legislation and amendments; and,
- promote constant and consistent review of existing EU laws

More information on Communication [here](#), other key documents [here](#), press release [here](#), and FAQ [here](#).

The Commission wants to update its law-making practices to ensure that they meet with modern requirements and citizens' expectations for maximum transparency and wide consultation. The Better Regulation Package will be directly implemented by the Commission in its own preparation and evaluation of legislation and through cooperation with the European Parliament and Council. To this end, the Commission will now enter into negotiations with the Parliament and Council over a new Inter-institutional Agreement (IIA) on Better Law-Making.

**More Transparency and Consultation**

*Public Consultations*

The Commission will provide a web portal where initiatives can be tracked and new public consultations will be announced. The update of the existing online platforms and creation of new websites will be completed by the end of 2015.

Stakeholders will have opportunities to comment throughout the entire policy lifecycle, from the initial roadmap to the final Commission proposal. After the Commission has adopted a proposal, stakeholders will have 8 weeks to provide feedback or suggestions, which will then feed into the legislative debate before Parliament and Council.

*Delegating and Implementing Acts*

Draft measures which amend or supplement existing legislation, or which set out specific technical provisions (i.e. delegated and implementing acts), will be made public for 4 weeks before adoption, allowing stakeholder to comment prior to their adoption by
the Commission or Member State experts.

**Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT)**

The Commission intends to make the REFIT (Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme), assesses the existing stock of EU legislation, more targeted, looking at the most serious sources of inefficiency and unnecessary burden, and it will also quantify the costs and benefits of actions wherever possible. The REFIT will now become a fundamental part of the Commission's Annual Work Programme and of the Commission's political dialogue with the other institutions.

The Commission will establish a permanent and inclusive platform for dialogue with stakeholders and Member States on how to improve EU laws in the context of REFIT. This REFIT platform will collect suggestions from the ground for reducing regulatory and administrative burden and bring forward concrete ideas. The Commission will react to all of them and systematically explain how it intends to follow up.

The Commission is also engaged to listen more to the views of any stakeholder at any time, and intends to do so via an online tool called "Lighten the Load – Have Your Say".

**Better Impact Assessments and Quality Control**

The Commission's Impact Assessment Board will be transformed into an Independent Regulatory Scrutiny Board. Its members will have a more independent status and half of them will be recruited from outside the Commission. Recruitment for the external members of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board and the REFIT Platform will be launched by the end of June. The board will have an expanded role in checking the quality of impact assessments of new proposals as well as fitness checks and evaluations of existing legislation.

The Commission also proposes that impact assessments are conducted throughout the legislative process, not just when the Commission prepares its proposal. We call on the Parliament and Council to carry out impact assessments of any substantial amendments they propose during the legislative process. An ad hoc and independent technical panel can be set up upon request of the Parliament, Council or Commission to analyse whether an amended proposal is practical to implement, creates understandable rights and obligations for the interested parties, and avoids disproportionate costs. Its assessment should be finalised and made public within a reasonable amount of time to inform the political decision-making process.

**A New IIA for a shared commitment by EU institutions**
The Commission today submits a proposal for a new Inter-institutional Agreement (IIA) on Better Law-Making to the Parliament and Council, aiming for agreement before the end of 2015. The draft new IIA proposes:

- a common commitment to the REFIT programme;
- impact assessment throughout the legislative process;
- continuous monitoring of the performance of EU regulation and more thorough evaluations;
- coordinated annual and multi-annual planning, including consultation on the Commission Work Programme;
- greater transparency on trilateral negotiations; and,
- joint efforts to reduce unjustified "gold-plating" of EU legislation by Member States.

Thanks to C4C for the article.

Council of the European Union Move Forward on Marrakesh Treaty

Further to its meeting on 19 May 2015, the Council of the EU “adopted a decision requesting the Commission to submit a legislative proposal with a view to amending the EU’s legal framework so that it complies with the Marrakesh Treaty to facilitate access to published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled.”

As mentioned in the minutes: “Such a legislative proposal is necessary to ensure compliance of the European legal order with international obligations from the time of the conclusion of the Marrakesh Treaty, and its speedy implementation and application in EU member states. The Council is committed to the rapid entry into force of the Treaty.

The EU, which signed the Marrakesh Treaty on 30 April 2014, requires its legal framework to be amended to comply with it.”

Read the minutes.
Culture Action Europe and Agenda 21 for Culture Project: Deadline 19 June

Culture Action Europe (CAE) and Agenda 21 for Culture, the Cultural Committee of UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments) has developed a project dedicated to European local governments and municipalities for the period 2015-2017.

Culture Action Europe has recently strengthened its collaboration with Agenda 21 for Culture, the Cultural Committee of UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments).

They believe societal transformation happens through collaboration at different levels and scale: this can be one of these transformative opportunities.

The programme aims to offer local governments (and their cultural and civil society communities) an opportunity to start a journey towards sustainable development in cities with culture at its core. In a nutshell, this programme is a learning process that will be jointly developed by A21C and CAE, and that is based on the document "Culture 21 Actions" elaborated by A21C and reviewed by CAE.

It is composed of different steps, with direct involvement of local cultural players, activists and citizens, and includes a "peer learning" process between participating cities.

The race is now open and local governments have time till June 19 to express their interest.

A limited set of cities will be chosen by Agenda21 and CAE.

Should you be interested, do not hesitate to inform and engage with your local administrator to participate to this programme.

Find more about the programme in the attachment.

More information on Culture Action Europe in the next Newsletter.
Let’s know each-others: Author’s rights and access to knowledge

Stefano Parise (EBLIDA EC Member) and Rosa Maiello (EGIL Group) took part in the conference Facciamo conoscenza: diritto d’autore e accesso ai saperi (Let’s know each-others: Author’s rights and access to knowledge), Naples, May 19, 2015, organised by the Italian Library Association (AIB), the Italian Association of Multimedia Libraries (AVI) and the National Library of Naples: a public dialogue, chaired by the Ministry of Culture - DG Libraries and Cultural Institutions Mrs Rossana Rummo, between representatives of libraries, scholars, copyright industry, legal experts, to understand the needs and challenges in the evolving EU copyright framework, and to stimulate balanced solutions to enable libraries to fulfil their mission in the digital environment.

Inside EBLIDA

E-lending and Copyright: Act Now!

In light of the recent consultation process launched by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) towards EU Member States governments, EBLIDA outlined its position by answering 4 questions of the CJEU.

The CJEU asks “whether “lending” in the Directive includes making digital copies of various books available for users to download in such a way that the downloaded copy becomes unusable after a certain period and during that period the original copy cannot be downloaded by others”.

EBLIDA coordinated its answer with its members in the different EU member-states. Contact has been taken individually with all copyright offices, and representatives of national association are following-up with the offices involved.
By answering this question, EBLIDA supports the action undertaken by the Vereniging van Openbare Bibliotheek (VOB) a few months ago, where it attempted to obtain the guarantee that e-lending is applicable under the current copyright regime.

**EBLIDA Press Release**

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**ELINET Next Steps**

ELINET is gaining momentum and a lot is happening on the project. Following the second ELINET Conference, the website is now live and the first literacy week is scheduled for the beginning of September.

Further to the second meeting held in Budapest (read the report), the website is not ‘for members only’ anymore but open to all. It is an important step for all ELINET members, and EBLIDA, as it reflects the work done since the launch of the project in February 2014.

In less than a year and a half, about 78 partners have gathered information and developed common tools, recommendations and guidelines to help fight against illiteracy and to further develop literacy skills among the population in Europe. Enriched by its geographic and cultural diversity, the ELINET network combines a large spectrum of expertise, a great offer of pilot countries to test the projects live, and a strong commitment from all.

The [website](#) is organized into 5 main headings covering the broad spectrum of areas ELINET is dealing with:

- **About us** contains all the necessary information about the network itself, i.e. teams and composition, key figures on literacy, news, events and not the least, partners involved in the project.
- **Good Practice** will show examples of good practice in the field. You can also find a document called “European Framework of Good Practices” here, describing definitions of good practice, very well worth a look.
- **Awareness Raising** outlines existing case studies via a search engine, offers the possibility to submit a case, gives tips on raising awareness and access to resources and website.
- **Fundraising** offers the same structure as above on the question of fundraising.
Research contains reports that give a complete overview of the literacy situation in each country. It also links to other complementary resources.

The actual available content represents part of the data collected and work achieved and will be progressively updated with additional resources.

ELINET has also officially launched the Literacy Week that will be held from 8 to 17 September 2015. The week starts with the International Day on September 8 and will conclude 10 days later on 17 September with a special event in Brussels.

The website will soon be updated, but any interested organisations can contribute to events organised during that time, and advertise about actions on literacy held during that week.

Global Coalition Petition

On 22 May 2015, EBLIDA’s President, Jukka Relander signed a Statement against Elsevier’s new sharing policy that impedes open access and sharing.

Following the first Executive Committee meeting that took place on 7 May, 2015 after the Council, the Vice-President and Treasurer were appointed.

Inforum 2015, Brussels (Belgium), a report from Jean-Marie Reding, EC member
Jean-Marie Reding, recently elected member of the EBLIDA Executive Committee, from ALBAD, Luxembourg, (Luxembourghish Association of Librarians and Documentalists) attended the Belgian Congress and reports on the discussion held.

The most important day of our Belgian member ABD/BVD (Association Belge de Documentation / Belgische Vereniging voor Documentatie) is called "Inforum" and takes normally place in the Royal Library of Belgium in Brussels. This time, the 4th of June, the topic was "The I&D puzzle: new pieces to solve it", which delivered insight into various aspects of librarianship, archiving and documentation.

Resuming very briefly the five contributions the following statements were interesting: Michael Day, digital preservation manager in the British Library, mentioned that it is not possible in the digital age to collect and preserve everything. You have to make choices and take the archival value in consideration. A twitter message from a politician might be more interesting to preserve for the future than that from a chimney sweep.

Filip Callewaert, information and record manager of the Port Authority of Antwerp, presented new ways of collaborative work in an enterprise, where everyone is more
engaged by commenting during the idea process and so contributes actively to new projects. After questions from the audience Callewaert said that it is not possible in firms where management are control freaks.

**Paul Nieuwenhuysen**, professor of the Free University of Brussels, pointed out, that web search with Google pictures is really good, semantically remarkably related, and shall be more promoted. Example: you are looking for a person knowing the first, but not the last name, it can be found if first name and job description are used. Where are the limits of pictures search? If they are part of PDF, Word documents or databases. So put your pictures in the html-world - if you want to be found of course.

Finally **Béatrice Foenix-Riou**, founder and manager of BFR Consultants (France), after a fast overview of the history of all social network tools in the web, found a nice memory hook, in French, to help distinguish Web 1.0 and 2.0: in Web 1.0 humans were "utilisateurs" (users), in Web 2.0 they are "utilisacteurs" (users and stakeholders). And what will be Web 3.0? Apparently the intelligent Web.

Let's see!

*J-M Reding*

[Photos courtesy Jean-Marie Reding]

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**In our next issue**

- Results of the vote of JURI Committee on 16 June. What’s next;
- EBLIDA Director’s and EC members participation in the French Librarian Congress in Strasbourg, France, 11-13 June;
- Brief report on the EBLIDA Open meeting with partners in Porvoo and Helsinki on 25-26 June;
- EBLIDA participation at WIPO, Geneva (Switzerland) 30 June to 2 July.

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**Events and Dates**

**JUNE**
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<td>05 June to 09 July 2015</td>
<td>Hannover, Germany</td>
<td>36th Annual IATUL Conference 2015</td>
<td>TIB - German National Library of Science and Technology</td>
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<td>08 June to 10 June 2015</td>
<td>Aarhus, Denmark</td>
<td>Web Archives as Scholarly Sources: Issues, Practices and Perspectives</td>
<td>RESAW, a Research Infrastructure for the Study of Archived Web Materials</td>
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<td>09 June to 12 June 2015</td>
<td>Maribor, Slovenia</td>
<td>25th International Conference on Information Modelling and Knowledge Bases: EJC 2015</td>
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<td>11 June to 13 June 2015</td>
<td>Strasbourg, France</td>
<td>61e congrès de l’ABF à Strasbourg du 11 au 13 juin 2015</td>
<td>ABF - Association des Bibliothécaires de France</td>
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<td>17 June to 17 June 2015</td>
<td>Online Event</td>
<td>The Eternal To-Do: Making Ebooks Work in Libraries (NISO Virtual Conference)</td>
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<td>17 June to 19 June 2015</td>
<td>Geneva, Switzerland</td>
<td>OA19 Workshop on Current Developments in Scholarly Communications</td>
<td>CERN</td>
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<td>23 June to 23 June 2015</td>
<td>London, United Kingdom</td>
<td>The Eternal To-Do: Making Ebooks Work in Libraries (NISO Virtual Conference)</td>
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<td>24 June to 26 June 2015</td>
<td>Liverpool, United Kingdom</td>
<td>2015 Business Librarians Association (BLA) Conference</td>
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<td>26 June to 26 June 2015</td>
<td>London, United Kingdom</td>
<td>The Written Heritage of Mankind in Peril: Theft, Retrieval, Sale and Restitution of rare books, maps and manuscripts</td>
<td>UIA, the British Library and the Institute of Art and Law</td>
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<td>28 June to 02 July 2015</td>
<td>Maastricht, Netherlands</td>
<td>44th Annual International Conference &amp; 17th International Forum on Research in School</td>
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<td>29 June to 03 July 2015</td>
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<td>Librarianship (IASL 2015)</td>
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<td>UMAP 2015: 23rd Conference on User Modeling, Adaptation and Personalization</td>
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<td>Tallinn, Estonia</td>
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<td>11th Northumbria International Conference on Performance Measurement in Libraries and Information Services</td>
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