The President’s Editorial

Dear all,

Welcome to the April issue of the EBLIDA newsletter that is exceptionally published a week ahead of the usual time.

I am thrilled with our upcoming annual Council and Conference that are a stones throw from now on 9 and 10 May in The Hague (The Netherlands). As you know, the theme is “Empowering Europe! Libraries opening up new perspectives”. I know, it sounds a bit like one of those IFLA presidential themes. But we are serious about this.

I also am very honoured to welcome our second keynote Speaker, Karel Bartak, Head of the Creative Europe Coordination Unit within the Directorate General for Education and Culture at the European Commission. An excellent opportunity for all librarians
attending to learn about this programme and how libraries could make use of it.

There are lots of new things going on in the libraries, and yes, libraries do empower Europe in every city and town - even villages have their own libraries, and library buses and boats (there is one in Finland!) reach the remote corners. We have 70,000+ of them, all over this exciting and heterogeneous continent. On average, there is a library for each 6000 Europeans. With few exceptions, we are proud to declare that every European citizen has access to a library.

And not only European citizens! European libraries have reacted very positively to the acute refugee crisis. To be honest, I am not sure if it is crisis, or just a new situation we are facing, but in any case, there are more than one million guests from the Middle East trying to find their place among us. And libraries have been lending a helping hand.

Just a year ago I translated Tim Huzar’s article *Neoliberalism, Democracy and the Library as a Radically Inclusive Space* into Finnish. That is pretty much the same paper he presented at the IFLA conference in Lyon in 2014, in which he argues that the radical potential of libraries is in their capability of inclusion. According to Huzar, libraries should not target their services to a given group, but more openly, to the clients in general. In regard to minorities, Huzar argues, ”libraries should include them on the basis that they have to include everyone”. Few months passed, and Huzar’s article popped to my mind as I learned that every refugee in Finland can get a library card as soon as they get an ID card from their reception centre, as it goes in many other European countries, too. I think that is simply fantastic. And now we have to bear in mind the differentiation of Huzar: instead of having a male white middle class librarian paying symbolic attention to given harmless marginals, we should bear in mind the radical potential of libraries to include everyone.

That is, a library should be a place, where I, as an inner-circle library politician and a Syrian refugee escaping the horrors of wars should feel equally at home. Think about that. We can have a homeless and country less refugee feel like home, feel like he or she belongs to somewhere, just by giving a simple card inviting to use the services of the library with equal rights, the same as everyone else. Is there any other institution that say they do the same? I doubt it.

Libraries are simply unique in this respect. Our efforts in Europe have provoked some interest across the Atlantic, too. I was delighted to accept the invitation from Loida Garcia-Febo, a member of IFLA Governing Board and the Executive Board of the American Library Association, to join in an IFLA Webinar on 31st March about library services for immigrants and refugees. Loida has dedicated much of her time to the topics of integrating minorities and expanding the library services to their reach. She thought the European example inspiring, and I have to say, I agree with her.

Our libraries have been doing a wonderful job with people who do not feel at home
anywhere else. There is more to come, and lots of other issues coming up.

So stay tuned, and I hope to see as many of you as possible in Den Haag. See you!

Yours Sincerely,

Jukka Relander
EBLIDA President

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**INSIDE BRUSSELS**

**Copyright Reform package postponed until after the Summer break**

Monday 14 March 2016, at the High-Level Roundtable organised by the Lisbon Council Think Tank on *Media in the Digital Age: Innovation and New Business Models*, Andrus Ansip, Vice President of the EU Commission announced that the legislative copyright package will be delivered after the Summer break.

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**Meeting with Commission DG CONNECT on 22 March**

In order to collect more information on the copyright reform package and have a better overview of the timeline and content proposed, EBLIDA Director met with representatives of DG CONNECT Copyright Unit.

The process in relation to the copyright reform package is broadly aligned with the content of Commission’s Communication *Towards a modern, more European copyright framework* from December, and the draft legislative proposal is expected to come only
by the end of September 2016.

However, since it has become an highly sensitive issue, we need to keep a close eye on all the Commission’s actions and ensure that we are not going towards a modern, more restrictive European copyright framework that will be further delayed.

New Consultation from the EU Commission

Meanwhile, on 23rd March, the European Commission DG CONNECT launched an additional Public consultation on the role of publishers in the copyright value chain and on the ‘panorama exception.’

This consultation is lasting from 23 March until 15 June and as highlighted on the EC website “it will serve to gather views in particular on the impact that granting an EU neighbouring right to publishers could have on the publishing sector, on citizens and creative industries and as to whether the need (or not) for intervention is different in the press as compared to other publishing sectors. The consultation will also serve to collect input for the Commission’s analysis of the current legislative framework of the ‘panorama exception’.

Despite information requested to the European Commission DG CONNECT, it is not yet clear whether this consultation will be included in the copyright reform package or not.

Nevertheless, EBLIDA is closely following-up on this issue and will keep EBLIDA members posted of further developments and recommendations.

Open Letter on Copyright Reform
For that very reason, and because EBLIDA together with many other organisations wants to ensure that the EU Commission will “(...) deliver an ambitious reform that is fit for purpose in the digital environment and that upholds and strengthens fundamental principles such as the limitation of intermediaries’ liability, rights of citizens to freedom of communication and access to knowledge”.

Indeed, “(...) we are concerned that these objectives could be seriously jeopardised if the rules on responsibility and liability of intermediaries are tightened. Amending the definition of the rights of “communication to the public” and of “making available” in the way advocated by certain rights holders would destroy the Internet as we know it”.

In conclusion, the letter states that “Our laws should allow companies to do business across the EU, give individuals the possibility to access and use cultural goods, enable researchers to collaborate across borders using the latest technologies and help creators make a living from their work and contribute to Europe’s rich cultural heritage”.

Find the complete text of the letter at: http://www.eblida.org/news/reforming-copyright-law.html

Meetings with Commission DG EAC on 21 and 23 March 2016

EBLIDA Director also met with representatives of three Units of the EU Commission Directorate General Education and Culture. The Unit for Cultural Diversity and Innovation, the Unit for Higher Education Unit, and the Unit for Creative Europe Programme.

Those meetings gave the opportunity to discuss copyright issues of course, as it is one element in the debate about cultural diversity and innovation, but also other topics such as the role of libraries in supporting higher education, or in welcoming refugees.

Demonstrating the libraries’ evolving role in the 21st Century and providing facts figures
and stories about libraries is of interest to the staff of the Commission’s where demand for such information is high. This was also a good opportunity to hear about call for application for projects under the Creative Europe Programme where libraries could fit in. More information will be delivered in the coming months, but below you can already see an interesting call in which you could take part.

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**Call for Proposals: Support to refugee Integration Projects (open until 28 April 2016 12.00 CET)**

Since September, EBLIDA published information in relation to library projects helping refugees with their integration into European culture. We have a dedicated webpage that we kept updated when we were informed by libraries or library associations about actions undertaken on this topic.

With the objective to **support cultural, audio-visual and cross-sectorial projects that aim to facilitate the integration of refugees into European communities** by fostering respect and understanding for diversity, **democratic values and citizenship, intercultural dialogue, tolerance and respect for other cultures** the EU Commission launched on 09 March 2016 a call for proposal at the address below:


Please note that the call is open until only 28 April 2016 12:00 (CET/CEST, Brussels time)

This project fits with the library’s missions and EBLIDA is encouraging all its members already dealing with refugee projects to respond to this specific call. As far as we know, no library or library organisation has yet applied.

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**INSIDE EUROPE**
Council of Europe report *The libraries and museums of Europe in times of change*

Council of Europe's Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media just released its report on *The libraries and museums of Europe in times of change* under the supervision of the rapporteur Lady Diana Eccles, Member of the House of Lords, European Conservatives Group, United Kingdom.

The summary on COE website reads:

*With the growing importance of the knowledge economy in Europe, libraries and museums act as a resource for human development and lifelong learning. They also provide safe and dynamic meeting places for the local community. In addition, they can be instrumental in creating jobs, attracting businesses and supporting the overall investment climate. In view of their cultural, social and economic importance, governments should protect libraries and museums for the benefit of future generations.*

*Notwithstanding the importance and relevance of the big libraries and museums, the report focuses on smaller public institutions which play a crucial role in their local community and are under pressure today to reduce their public service or even to close. Public funding in this sector should be regarded as an investment that can generate return in the form of social benefits and economic growth. Even in difficult economic circumstances, relationships between governments and cultural institutions should have a firm base in mutual understanding and trust. One of the principles underlying such trust is guaranteeing the institutions’ freedom to take strategic decisions, to define priorities and to choose how they operate, in order to adjust and develop in times of change.*

*The Council of Europe member States should develop strategic thinking at national level to reform, wherever necessary, the library and museum sectors. The process should pool wide expertise and consultation with a view to improving leadership and staffing, diversifying sources of funding to enable greater financial resilience, strengthening partnerships and networks and promoting the use of digital technology and creative media.*

Download the full report [here](#).

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**SPARC Europe's new strategy: Making Open**
Following consultation of different stakeholders in 2015, Sparc Europe has created its strategy 2016-2020: Making Open the default.

The scope of SPARC Europe is to promote and work for “Open Scholarship in Europe. This includes Open Access to Publications, Open Peer Review, Open Data, Open Educational Resources, as well as Research Evaluation, and Research Integrity” while its vision is “Driving to make more research accessible to all, and striving to make Open the default in Europe: For the academic community, education, industry, and for the society”.

Their goals are:

1. To support pan-European and national Open Scholarship agendas in the areas of Open Access to publications, Open Peer Review, Open Data, and OER, as well as research evaluation, and research integrity.
2. To provide leadership across Europe for Open Scholarship in the longer term leveraging strong contacts with policy makers and Europe’s research institutions across Europe.
3. To reinforce Open Scholarship work across Europe for a more unified approach through increased collaboration with organisations, projects, and initiatives such as the Open Science Policy Platform, EARMA, LIBER, EIFL, EuroCRIS, Science Europe, EUA, Knowledge Exchange and others by:
   - seeking synergies, and
   - acting as a connector, facilitator and broker to Open Scholarship organisations to create change.
4. To encourage new norms and practice for cultural change in academia in the area of scholarly communication – making Open the default.

Read the complete strategic plan here.

Public Libraries 2020 launches a newsletter

Our partner Public Libraries just launched its first Newsletter on Wednesday 6 April 2016.

Read it here.
EBLIDA participated at a round table with MEP Catherine Stilher in The Hague, on 21st March.

On the invitation from our partner LIBER, Catherine Stihler visited the National Library of The Hague.

Catherine Stihler is from Scotland (Labour party) and a member of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats group in the European Parliament where she is Vice Chair of the European Parliament Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO), a member of the Parliament’s Digital Agenda Intergroup and the Working Group on Intellectual Property Rights and Copyright Reform as well as being Rector of St Andrews University.

As stated on the LIBER website, Catherine Stihler is “(...) a passionate advocate for libraries, regularly speaking out for her political group on the issues of copyright, accessibility and content mining(...)”.

The round table offers an excellent opportunity for the different organisations LIBER, EBLIDA, IFLA, Europeana and Public Libraries 2020 to show their Unity in Diversity, to paraphrase the European Union motto. They are united in their alignment to move forward EU copyright reform and to work towards further harmonization as well as putting libraries and cultural heritage institutions on the forefront of the European agenda. There is diversity in the topics they respectively focus on, be it exceptions and limitations to copyright, cross-border access to content, e-lending, Text and Data Mining (TDM), orphan works, out of commerce work, large scale digitations, etc.

We would like to thank Catherine Stihler for her genuine participation and LIBER for having organised this round table.

Read also the article on the LIBER website.
As you might have seen from our previous newsletter and our Conference programme, we will present some results of the Library Advocacy 4 EU programme at the upcoming EBLIDA conference on 10 May.

During the work session *The butterfly effect: library advocacy (from country specific to global level)*, Kristīne Pabērza (President of the Library Association of Latvia) will shed some light on why national-European cooperation is key for library advocacy, and how we can collect data for advocacy use on the specific topic of non-formal and informal learning.

All over Europe libraries informally offer non-formal and informal learning services and tend to have developed expertise in these matters, though the topic has not been studied in depth yet.

While the European Commission is developing interest in these questions related to learning outside of traditional curricula, linking national pilot survey to the European scale could be a way forward in having libraries recognised as central places on those matters, in addition to their other proven and recognised abilities of access to information and knowledge.

Indeed, demonstrating that the local library offers lots of different services all over the Continent for the communities is an interesting means to put libraries on the political agenda both at local level and at the European level.

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**24th EBLIDA Annual Council and Conference**

**REMEMBER - Save the Date:**

24th EBLIDA Annual Council and EBLIDA-NAPLE Conference
The Hague, Netherlands
9 - 10 May 2016

Early bird rate is no longer available, but I still

▶▶▶ want to register now!
Programme Overview

Day 1 – Monday May 9th 2016

EBLIDA Council Meeting (for EBLIDA members only)
Time: 13.30 – 16.30 hrs. (incl. coffee); welcome 13.00 hrs.
Venue: The Hague Public Library, Haagse Lobby, 10th floor

NAPLE General Assembly (for NAPLE members only)
Time: 09.30 – 16.30 hrs. (incl. coffee)
Venue: National Library of the Netherlands, room B

Reception offered by the city of The Hague
Time: 17.00 – 18.30

Conference Dinner on the beach of Scheveningen
Optional – Fee: € 40

Day 2 – Tuesday May 10th 2016

2016 Conference:
“Empowering Europe! Libraries opening up new perspectives”

Conference registration: 9.00 – 9.30*
Conference: 9.30 – 16.00* (lunch/coffee included)
Place: National Library of The Netherlands
* time subject to change
**Standard registration fee** (from 1st April):
- EBLIDA or NAPLE members: € 75
- non members: € 85
- students: € 35

More information on the detailed programme are available on the Conference website.

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**Second keynote speaker announced for the 24th EBLIDA Annual Council and EBLIDA-NAPLE Conference**

**Keynote Speaker: Karel Bartak**

Karel Bartak will speak about *Creative Europe, an opportunity for libraries to empower Europe?*

**About Karel Bartak**

Karel Bartak (Czech Republic) is currently the Head of the Creative Europe Coordination Unit within the Directorate General for Education and Culture at the European Commission, which includes the responsibility for European awards, including the EUPL, and other activities like the European Capitals of Culture. He started his career with the Czech News Agency and has worked in various media, also working as a correspondent in Moscow and Paris. He then became Chief Correspondent of the Czech News Agency in Brussels, where he was also a reporter for various other media. He joined the European Commission in 2006 as Head of Unit for Youth Policy within the Directorate General for Education and Culture; between 2007-2013 he was in charge of the communication department.

More information on the detailed programme are available on the Conference website.
EBLIDA-LIST is a general mailing list intended to foster communications between EBLIDA, its membership and members of the European library community. The goal is to facilitate information exchange as well as professional communication and development within the EBLIDA community. Subscribe today!

Events and Dates

April

April 7 – 8, International Conference on Intellectual Property and Development
Place: Geneva, Switzerland
Sponsor/Organizer: World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

April 9 – 12, 31st International Publishers Congress
Place: London, UK
Sponsor/Organizer: International Publishers Association
URL: [http://www.ipacongress.com/](http://www.ipacongress.com/)

April 11 – 13, UKSG 39th Annual Conference and Exhibition
Place: Bournemouth, UK
Sponsor/Organizer: United Kingdom Serials Group (UKSG)
URL: [http://www.uksg.org/event/conference16](http://www.uksg.org/event/conference16)

April 12 – 13, 21st UK Academy for Information Systems (UKAIS) Conference on Information Systems: "UKAIS Comes of Age: 21 years of IS, looking back to look forward"
Place: Oxford, UK
Sponsor/Organizer: UK Academy for Information Systems (UKAIS)
URL: http://dwastell.org/UKAIS2016/

April 12 – 15, Alabama Library Association (ALLA) 2016 Annual Convention
Place: Gadsden, AL
Sponsor/Organizer: Alabama Library Association (ALLA)

April 12 – 15, London Book Fair
Place: London, UK
Sponsor/Organizer: Reed Exhibition Companies
URL: http://www.londonbookfair.co.uk/

April 18 – 20, Twitter for Research conference
Place: Galway, Ireland
Sponsor/Organizer: Organizing Committee
URL: http://www.conftwitter2016.org/

April 19 – 20, International Conference on Economics and Business Information (INCOMECS)
Place: Berlin, Germany
Sponsor/Organizer: Leibniz Information Centre for Economics (ZBW)
URL: http://www.inconecss.eu/index.html

April 19 – 20, 7th Open Educational Resources Conference, OER16: Open Culture
Place: Edinburgh Scotland, UK
Sponsor/Organizer: Association for Learning Technology
URL: https://oer16.oerconf.org/

April 20, Introduction to Journals Marketing
Place: London, UK
Sponsor/Organizer: Association of Learned & Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP)

April 20, 2nd Twitter for Research conference
Place: Galway, Ireland
Sponsor/Organizer: Organizing Committee
URL: http://www.conftwitter2016.org/call_for_abstracts.html

April 20, Justifying the Library - Using Assessment to Justify Library Investments (NISO Virtual Conference)
Place: Online only
Sponsor/Organizer: National Information Standards Organization (NISO)
URL: http://www.niso.org/news/events/2016/virtual_conference/apr20_virtualconf/
April 20 – 22, IFLA International News Media Conference 2016: "Reviving the past and keeping up with the future – the libraries’ role in preserving and providing access to newspapers and news media"
Place: Hamburg, Germany
Sponsor/Organizer: IFLA News Media Section
URL: http://blogs.sub.uni-hamburg.de/ifla-newsmedia/

April 20 – 22, 2016 IFLA News Media Conference: "Reviving the past and keeping up with the future – the libraries’ role in preserving and providing access to newspapers and news media"
Place: Hamburg, Germany
Sponsor/Organizer: IFLA News Media Section
URL: http://www.ifla.org/node/9874

April 21, Local content in the wider media landscape - trends, market dynamics and distribution
Place: London, UK
Sponsor/Organizer: Westminster Media Forum
URL: http://www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/forums/event.php?eid=1149

April 21, The UK local media sector - audience growth, partnerships and policy priorities
Place: London, UK
Sponsor/Organizer: Westminster Forum
URL: http://www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/forums/event.php?eid=1149

April 22 – 24, International Conference on Complex Information Systems (COMPLEXIS 2016)
Place: Rome, Italy
Sponsor/Organizer: Institute for Systems and Technologies of Information, Control and Communication (INSTICC)
URL: http://www.complexis.org/

April 23 – 25, 12th International Conference on Web Information Systems and Technologies (WEBIST)
Place: Rome, Italy
Sponsor/Organizer: Institute for Systems and Technologies of Information, Control and Communication (INSTICC)
URL: http://www.webist.org/

April 25 – 28, 18th International Conference on Enterprise Information Systems (ICEIS 2016)
Place: Rome, Italy
Sponsor/Organizer: ICEIS Secretariat
URL: http://www.iceis.org/Home.aspx
April 26 – 27, 2nd International Conference on Geographical Information Systems Theory, Applications and Management (GISTAM 2016)
Place: Rome, Italy
Sponsor/Organizer: GISTAM Secretariat
URL: http://www.gistam.org/

April 26 – 27, Mötesplats Open Access 2016 (MOA)
Place: Stockholm, Sweden
Sponsor/Organizer: National Library of Sweden
URL: http://www.kb.se/openaccess/Motesplats-Open-Access/2016/

April 27, Indexing and retrieval of non-textual information
Place: Online only
Sponsor/Organizer: ASIS&T Special Interest Group on Arts and Humanities (SIG-AH)
URL: http://www.asis.org/SIG/SIGAH/2016/01/15/2016-cfsp/

April 27 – May 1, 30th Geneva Book and Press Fair
Place: Geneva, Switzerland
Sponsor/Organizer: Geneva Palexpo
URL: http://www.salondulivre.ch/en/