Bulgaria has the honor of holding the EU Presidency during the first half of 2018. The presidential themes include a local issue the Western Balkans, always actual question of the Future of Europe and Young People, increasingly actual problems of Security and Stability, and, last but not least, the Digital Economy.

Those issues are pretty much on the agenda of EBLIDA as well.

We are concerned about the Security and Stability of our continent, and we believe sincerely that by investing in the literacy of our population we can increase mutual understanding and are able to build up a more socially sustainable European society.

We think, that these issues are critical, in regard to the Future of Europe and Young People. A more literate and a higher educated generation will cope better with issues my generation is going to leave behind. Our Digital Economy, based on high level skills of the labour, and highly unpredictable influences of the development of the
artificial intelligence, will turn out to be a social success only, if European democracy stays strong. And to keep it up, we need a more literate and better educated young generation.

As the themes of the Bulgarian presidency coincide so beautifully with our own goals, we decided to land on the Western Balkans. The next meeting of the Executive Committee of Eblida will take place in Sofia, Bulgaria, in February.

So stay tuned, Sofia, we are coming!

And the rest of you, have a good 2018. May it give us a copyright exception.

Yours sincerely,

Jukka Relander
EBLIDA President

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Guest Article

Open Science, All The Way: Open Knowledge Maps

By Peter Kraker, founder and chairman of Open Knowledge Maps.

Peter is a long-time open science advocate, a community coordinator of the Open Science Working Group of Open Knowledge Austria and member of the core team of the Open Access Network Austria.

Science and research are more productive than ever. Every year, an increasing amount of research articles are published, currently around 2.5 million. Apart from the written outcomes of scientific studies, more and more data, methods and
scientific outputs on the web.

We have made great strides with respect to accessibility; but what about discoverability? After all, this enormous amount of knowledge is only of use to us, if it reaches the people that need it, and if it is reused as a basis for further research or transferred to practice. Here we can see a big gap. Depending on the discipline, 12% to 82% of all scientific publications are never cited. With respect to datasets, uncitedness is as high as 85%. This means that most likely these publications and datasets do not serve as a basis for further research. When talking about transfer to practice, the gap is even wider: even in application-oriented disciplines, only a small percentage of research findings ever influence practice – and even if they do so, often with a considerable delay.

One reason for this situation is that the tools and practices for exploration and discovery of scientific knowledge are seriously lacking. Search engines are still the most widely used tool for this task. They work very well when the information need is clearly defined. However, if one wants to get an overview of an unknown scientific field, the list-based representation with the usual 10 non-clustered results per page is not sufficient. With search engines, it takes weeks or months before you know the main areas in a field, along with the most important findings, authors and resources. This is time that many people do not have. For example, in the recent Zika virus outbreak, it was crucial to get an overview of an until then obscure research topic, which only few experts were familiar with.

To summarize: there are many people out there that could benefit from scientific knowledge, if there were better tools for discovering research results.

At Open Knowledge Maps, our aim is to close this gap, to provide the missing link between accessibility and discoverability. Instead of lists, we use knowledge maps for discovery. Knowledge maps show the main areas of a field at a glance. Relevant publications are already attached to each area. This enables users to get a quick overview of a field.
The sub-areas also make you aware of the terminology in a field. This information alone may take weeks to find out. How much time have you already lost to searching without knowing the best search terms? In addition, the knowledge map enables users to separate the wheat from the chaff with respect to their current information need. For an ambiguous search term for example, the different meanings are sorted into separate areas.

On our website, we are offering an openly accessible service, which allows you to create a knowledge map for any search term. Users can choose between two databases: Bielefeld Academic Search Engine (BASE) with more than 115 million scientific documents from all disciplines, and PubMed, the large biomedical database with 26 million reference. As a base for our knowledge maps, we use the 100 most relevant results for a search term as reported by the respective database. The ordination and the determination of the areas is based on textual similarity of the metadata of the results. This means: the more words two documents have in common in either title, abstract, authors or journal name, the closer they are positioned on the map and the more likely they are placed in the same area. For everyone who would like to dive deeper into the algorithms used to create the map, please refer to our paper in 027.7: Open Knowledge Maps: Creating a Visual Interface to the World’s Scientific Knowledge Based on Natural Language Processing.

See below for an example map of “digital education”. As described above, the bubbles represent the sub-areas. If you click on one of the bubbles, you are presented with papers related to this area. Open access articles are clearly marked and can be read within the interface. The idea is that you do not need to leave the browser tab while searching for literature. Go to https://openknowledgemaps.org to
We have received a lot of positive feedback on this service from the community. We are honored and humbled by hundreds of enthusiastic posts in blogs, and on Facebook and Twitter. The service has also been featured on the front pages of reddit and HackerNews, and recently, we won the Open Minds Award, the Austrian Open Source Award. Since the first launch of the service in May 2016, we have had more than 250,000 visits on Open Knowledge Maps. Currently, more than 30,000 users leverage Open Knowledge Maps for their research, work, and studies per month.

The “Open” in Open Knowledge Maps does not only stand for open access articles – we want to go the whole way of open science and create a public good.

This means that all of our software is developed open source. You can also find our development roadmap on Github and leave comments by opening an issue. The knowledge maps themselves are licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution license and can be freely shared and modified. We will also openly share the underlying data, for example as Linked Open Data. This way, we want to contribute to the open science ecosystem that our partners, including rOpenSci, ContentMine, the Internet Archive Labs, Open Knowledge Austria and Wikimedia are creating.
We see libraries as important collaboration partners. We cooperate with the libraries of University of Bielefeld and the Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW). In a joint project with the OeAW and the Austrian Centre for Digital Humanities, we will create a discovery interface for their world-renowned proceedings, many of which made the history of science, including Schrödinger's first paper and Doppler's defense of his theory on the Doppler effect. ZBW are also using software from Open Knowledge Maps in a joint project with Know-Center to visualize trends based on lending data. These collaborations are a win for both sides: Open Knowledge Maps is a stable, user friendly system, which enables libraries to visualize their collections and improve discoverability of their documents. On the other hand, improvements from these project are fed back into the software of Open Knowledge Maps, improving the system for all users.

In the future, we want to enable collaborative literature research in Open Knowledge Maps. At the moment, most people are tackling discovery on their own. But usually someone has already walked this way before you. Unfortunately, the knowledge gained during discovery remains in people’s heads. We want to further develop Open Knowledge Maps so that maps can be modified, extended and shared again - so that we can build on top of each other's’ knowledge. We have created a short video to illustrate this idea, see https://vimeo.com/188647919.

We see libraries and librarians as central to this vision. A collaborative system cannot work without experts on knowledge curation and structuring. Together with the other stakeholders from research and society, including researchers, students, journalists, citizen scientists and many more, we want to create system that enables us to create pathways through science for each other. So that we can all benefit from this unique knowledge.
BULGARIA EU PRESIDENCY…

For the first time since the country joined the European Union in 2007, Bulgaria is now running the Presidency of the Council of the EU from 1st January to 30 June 2018.

Bulgaria is the in-between country in the Presidency trio, formed together with Estonia (who ran the Presidency from July to December) and Austria who will lead from July to December 2018.

Bulgaria’s priorities are highlighted on the Presidency website and include 4 main parts:

- Future of Europe and Young People,
- Western Balkans,
- Security and Stability,
- Digital Economy.

EBLIDA together with IFLA and PL2020 is pleased to welcome Bulgaria’s first EU Presidency ever with the release of an Open Letter putting libraries on the agenda.

... Libraries Promote Culture, Social Cohesion, Digital Empowerment: Open Letter to the Bulgarian EU Presidency

In line with the Presidency priorities, the letter underlines the roles libraries play in:

- Building social cohesion,
- Realising the potential of digital,
- Promoting Culture for all.

Recognising the importance of the European Year of Cultural Heritage, celebrating the library’s role and mission of advancing knowledge for all in Europe, the letter also highlights the opportunities the European Union has to improve the situation for libraries:

- by ensuring our institutions are reflected in future budget planning,
- by passing modern copyright reforms,
- by helping libraries access funding for promoting WiFi connectivity, and
- by placing them at the heart of efforts to build a Europe of culture and education.

See our Press release here and download the letter here.
Copyright reform – what's to come after the holiday break?

As you may have noticed from the JURI Committee Agenda of meetings scheduled for 24 and 25 January, the date of vote for the Copyright in the DSM directive has simply disappeared. Without any further deadline yet provided, the only information we can announce is that it has been postponed to a later date in the year. The EBLIDA Copyright Reform webpage has been updated accordingly.

Now that Bulgaria has taken over from Estonia’s Presidency of the Council of the EU, we will try to know how the new Presidency wants to move forward on this dossier. It is more likely that Bulgaria would like to close it under its Presidency, but in only 6 months, and with lots of other important issues at stake, it might well be that copyright could still run for a longer period.

Anyway, in the coming weeks there will be an interesting event hosted by the European Internet Foundation in the European Parliament on 23rd January. It will kind of officially resume the copyright track for 2018.

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**Public Consultation on Europeana open until 14 January 2018**

Europeana is Europe’s digital platform for cultural heritage. It currently provides access to over 53 million items, (including image, text, sound, video and 3D material) from the collections of over 3,700 libraries, archives, museums, galleries and audio-visual collections across Europe.

The European Commission has launched a public consultation to hear opinions from culture, education, research and creative sectors, as well as citizens from across Members States. The Commission would particularly like to hear the experiences and expectations of those who have already used (or could benefit from using) Europeana as a platform for sharing or re-using cultural heritage material.

The consultation will run until **14 January 2018**. The results will help direct the future development of Europeana.

You are kindly requested to:
Share the link through your communication channels with your network of stakeholders and anyone you think might have an interest to express their opinion. Please encourage your network to also promote the link through their own means to their audiences.

More information on the public consultation at the following link.

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Inside EBLIDA

**EBLIDA welcome a new full member**

We are delighted to introduce our latest new member who joined us in 2017 and are now a Full Member of EBLIDA:

![ADBGV logo]

The ADBGV, *Association des Directrices et directeurs de Bibliothèques municipales et des Groupements intercommunaux des Villes de France (ADBGV)*, or Association of Directors of Public libraries of Intermunicipal Syndicates and Cities of France. Please check in next month for further information on the ADBGV.

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**EBLIDA Conference reminder**

We remind you that registration for our next Council and Conference "Libraries Bridging Borders" is open!

Check [here](#)!

26th EBLIDA Annual Council  
30 May 2018  
EBLIDA-NAPLE Conference, 30 and 31 May 2018 "Libraries Bridging Borders"

Conference Concept:

Europe is at a crossroads in its history. Over the past couple of years, political
tensions have risen among the citizens of Europe and globally. Governments throughout Europe have been taking various steps and measures to open or close down their borders to refugees. Meanwhile, terrorism has had a huge impact throughout the continent, challenging the free circulation of people in the EU.

At the same time, the mass digitisation of our world, and the advancement of the sharing economy is impacting the way citizens access culture and challenges the notion of borders itself.

There is a strong global demand from citizens for access to content anywhere any time.

As Prime Minister Jüri Ratas (Estonia) mentioned in a declaration in February 2017 before Estonia took over the Presidency of the Council of the EU, “Striving towards a seamless physical and digital connectivity is in the interest of the whole European Union as economic success cannot be separated from the free movement of goods, services, people, capital, and knowledge”.

Libraries and librarians are increasingly working in a cross-border environment, be it related to countries, disciplines, preservation, knowledge, copyright or any of the issues in relation to free access to information. For free movement of knowledge to happen, we need libraries bridging borders.

NOTE: Because the conference will be hosted at the same time as a European Parliament Plenary Session, we recommend that you book your hotel room as soon as possible.
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 now!