Dear colleagues,

In December we tend to look back as well as look forward.

This year we finally saw some developments in the copyright legislation in Brussels; a main topic concerning free access to information. We did not completely get what we really wanted, but results from our efforts and those of our partners were visible. The book is not closed yet and the work will continue next year.

We look back on a great EBLIDA conference in Strasbourg this year with many inspired and inspiring colleagues. We expect to welcome even more in June 2019 in Ireland for our next conference and we are happy and honoured that our friends in Ireland, Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) have offered to host our events! Please see further down for more detailed information on our events.

Our past director, Vincent Bonnet, ventured off to new horizons. In January our new director, Giuseppe Vitiello, will start his work. He brings a lot of experience in libraries,
We work on strengthening our partnerships to be more efficient and effective in the interest of our members. LIBER is one of them. We will align our strategy and activities with IFLA. We have worked closely with PL2020 over the past five years, both on EU advocacy in Brussels and on various events and initiatives across Europe. As the project moves into its next phase of development next year, we are excited to renew our close collaboration with the team in Brussels. More news on that to follow early in the new year! Watch this space, it's an exciting development!

We see that public institutes such as libraries and archives are more important than ever providing access to information in an era of fake news, offering learning opportunities to all and being a safe place in an individualising society.

We look forward to meeting with all of you in the next year and working together on these goals.

I thank you, especially those who invested in our working groups, for your cooperation and wish you wonderful holidays and a good start in 2019!

Yours sincerely,

Ton van Vlimmeren
EBLIDA President
We are very happy to announce to you our big news: the 27th EBLIDA Council and EBLIDA-NAPLE Conference are taking place in Dublin, Ireland on Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th of June, 2019.

Our events will kindly be hosted by Ireland’s Local Government Management Agency (LGMA).

We are very grateful for this support and cooperation and of course we cannot wait to welcome you there in June. ‘Libraries Development’ is integrated into the LGMA, working with local authorities and the Department of the Housing, Planning and Local Government in the development of public library services in Ireland. If you’re curious and would like to learn more about LGMA, please feel free to visit their website https://lgma.ie/en/about-us/libraries-development/.

Let’s hope for a fine few days, including the weather!

The venue for all the EBLIDA and NAPLE meetings, conference and workshops on both dates will be No 6 Kildare Street.

No.6 Kildare Street has been the home of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland since 1864. It is located beside the National Library of Ireland on Dublin’s Kildare Street in the city centre. No.6 also houses an eclectic collection of artifacts and antiques reflecting the antiquity of the college. The main rooms of the building remain much as they were in 1864 when the building was opened.

The rooms which we will be using for the EBLIDA and NAPLE meetings are:

- Dun’s Library
Incidentally, LIBER, with whom we have much in common, will also hold their annual Conference in Dublin just after ours, from Wednesday 26\textsuperscript{th} to Friday 28\textsuperscript{th} of June, see here for more details: https://liberconference.eu/dublin2019/.

You could visit both Conferences in one week in the same City!

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**NEXT Library 2019, 2- 4 June, Aarhus**

We are going to be a partner at the 2019 Next Library Festival!

NEXT LIBRARY® will return home to Dokk1, Aarhus in Denmark: 2 - 4 June 2019.

The **four themes for Next Library 2019** are:

- Libraries in Times of Social Crisis
- Civic Media and Data Democracy
- Temporary Spaces
- Game Changing Tech & Emerging Trends

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**From our friends at the Bulgarian Library and Information Association**

The Bulgarian Library and Information Association participates in a fundraising campaign with its project "Stimulating Early Childhood Reading in Bulgaria".

The project will bring to children in the 1 – 6 years age group in low-income and underserved neighborhoods about 850 media items (books, games, videos.)

Those items will enrich the collections of 10 active libraries in small towns and villages and help them develop programs to stimulate early childhood reading; organize reading of children's books to both children and their parents; educate parents about the benefits of early childhood reading and train them how to read to their children at
More information about the project and how you can donate until December 31, 2018 can be found on the GlobalGiving website (https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/stimulating-early-childhood-reading-in-bulgaria/).

Support our project by donating your desired amount or by sharing this information among your network of friends and colleagues.

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**Understand politics - a short introduction in public policy analysis**

by Jean-Marie Reding, EBLIDA correspondent, not so far from Brussels

We heard rumours from Brussels, spread through the Ardennes to some country, which inspired the famous US-American film-comedy "The mouse that roared" (1959), that Public Libraries 2020 (PL2020) was to be transformed into … Shhhh! We don't want to reveal too much and we will let the new independent organisation present itself in a next EBLIDA newsletter. We can confirm: there is a future for PL2020!

If political science had a scheme to understand political processes in an easy way and if we could assign PL2020 to a certain stage of a policy making model, wouldn't this be of interest for librarians? The author of this article, who's mission as EBLIDA's volunteer interim secretary for four months (Sept.-Dec. 2018) is to be part of the newsletter content providers, thinks: Yes, why not!?

Is there a framework for a serious policy analysis?

Yes, there is, especially for public policy. What is "public policy"? Definition: "Anything a government chooses to do or not to." (Dye, Thomas R.: Understanding public policy, 1972). What is the name of the framework for the "public policy analysis" (German: Politikfeldanalyse / French: Analyse séquentielle)? It's simply called the "policy cycle" or "stages model". First developed by Harold Lasswell/Daniel Lerner in the USA in 1951, it got several developments, but especially slight variations, until today.

Hoping to make it appear less confusing and more comprehensible, we present this illustration:
Let us try to understand this cycle, thinking about an international organisation, dealing with an international example:

**Stage 1: Problem definition and agenda setting** = problem recognition & definition; Selection and definition of those social phenomena that are considered by the political system as "problems" to be dealt with.

**Example**: Books have to be "good" for every citizen, wherever he accesses them from. Citizens have to be protected against "bad" books by their government for moral and public order reasons. Especially pornography is against morality. Do not forget to
Stage 2: Policy formulation = proposal and choice of solution. A process in which political goals are formulated, alternative options for action are developed and chosen as a binding commitment.

Example: How to fight against pornography? Forbid all production and distribution of obscene publications. However, books and serials can easily cross any border. There is a need for a prohibition of obscene publications on an international level.

Stage 3: Policy implementation = putting solution into effect. It's the implementation of a policy, generally with the help of the political-administrative apparatus; application of laws, etc.


Stage 4: Policy evaluation = monitoring results. Review of the direct effects (impact) and indirect effects (outcome) of public activities.

Until now two protocols for amendments were needed: the Protocol to amend the Convention for the suppression of the circulation of, and trafficking of, obscene publications, concluded at Geneva on 12 September 1923, Lake Success, New York,

Stage 5: Policy termination or Problem re-definition

For print media the international prohibition never really succeeded. The development of the Internet made it even more complicated to protect citizens against the danger of pornography. It seems that there can be no policy termination. A problem re-definition could point in the direction of even more repression and penalties.

N.B. Public libraries, of course, are safe places, where all collections and services – even for adults - are politically correct and filtered by specialised people, called librarians, aren't they?

Conclusion

Inside this stages model what is the role of an organisation like Public Libraries 2020? The focus of PL2020 especially lies on putting public libraries on an international (here: European Union) agenda, which corresponds to stage 1, Agenda setting. At stage 2, a proposal can be made by PL2020, but the choice of a solution is belongs to the European Parliament.

Talking about agenda setting: Some librarians perhaps remember IFLA President Claudia Lux's (2007-2009) motto: Libraries on the agenda! Well, it's the same approach and spirit.

It's possible that librarians, with the help of PL2020 and EBLIDA, are invited to contribute to stage 2 (policy formulation). Unfortunately, they often do not surpass the counsellor status; even as experts they are not actively involved in the legislation process.

After stage 2, librarians can only watch and evaluate. Librarians rarely consider the evaluation as perfect. Therefore, instead of being entirely satisfied, they try to get their requests into stage 1 (problem re-definition) again. On the European level, this will require the help of organisations like PL2020 – and EBLIDA of course – to get it on the agenda again and again and again ... You need a lot of patience in politics.

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Trailer of the film "The Mouse that roared" (with Peter Sellers & Jean Seberg).

"The Mouse that roared", a satire of 1950s geopolitics, was written by Leonard [Patrick O'Connor] Wibberley (1915-1983), an Irish-American journalist and writer, in 1955. The book was "dedicated to all the little nations who over the centuries have done what they could to attain and preserve their freedom. It is from one of them that I am sprung."

Wibberley was born in Dublin, Ireland, on 09.04.1915, which should remind you: SAVE
Season’s Greetings and EBLIDA office closure during Christmas and New Year

We wish you all season’s greetings and look forward to working with you again in 2019.

During the Christmas and new year period, from 24th of December until 6th January, the EBLIDA office in The Hague will be closed, however, e-mails will be read intermittently by staff members, Sophie Felfoldi and Majella Cunnane.

Events and Dates

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<th>December</th>
<th>11 - 16</th>
<th>Groningen, Netherlands</th>
<th>31st international conference on Legal Knowledge and Information Systems (JURIX 2018)</th>
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<td></td>
<td>12 - 14</td>
<td>Belgarde, Serbia</td>
<td>15th Conference of the Serbian Library Association</td>
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<td>January</td>
<td>15 -16</td>
<td>Berlin, Germany</td>
<td>Academic Publishing in Europe Nr. 14 (APE 2019)</td>
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<td>22-24</td>
<td>Osijek, Croatia</td>
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<td>31-01 February</td>
<td>Pisa, Italy</td>
<td>15th Italian Research Conference on Digital Libraries: on supporting Open Science</td>
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Stay informed, sign up today!

**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!](#)