The President’s Editorial

If you want a well-organised event, consult the Bulgarians!

The Executive Committee of EBLIDA had our Winter meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria. And it really was a Winter meeting. The capital of this southern country was covered in 25 cm of snow, as was most of Europe during the cold wave of late February.

I was really happy we could visit the country, as including the Balkans has been one of my goals as president of EBLIDA. Old EU countries are always well represented in conferences, meetings and talks, but note to self: if you want good contacts with decision makers, go East.

We had a video address from the Bulgarian EU-commissioner Mariya Gabriel, and a panel discussion together with a Bulgarian MEP and MP. This would not happen in a bigger EU country.
somewhere in between the Christmas dinner and a murder attempt. Surviving Bulgaria demands self-discipline. Second, everything that can be organised, is organised brilliantly, as if the Bulgarians were acting out the reputation of the Germans, and doing it successfully.

We had our meetings with the regular organisational and budgetary stuff, and of course some chats about the C-issues and forthcoming challenges. The final vote on copyright reform seems to be postponed to Autumn, so there is still time to act, and after that it is time to focus on the forthcoming euro-election in 2019. We still have more than a year to turn libraries into a hot political topic throughout the union. You have been forewarned.

Our next milestone is the EBLIDA annual conference in May, this time in Strasbourg. We are delighted to announce that our keynote speaker is a former librarian, Prof. Chris Welch, from the International Space University. Unsurprisingly, one of the challenges of the spacecrafts has turned out to be in combining the databases. They are everywhere, now also in the space.

Back at EBLIDA, there are elections coming up! Ever dreamt of joining the EBLIDA Executive Committee? Your chance is now. Become a candidate, win some support, and make your dream come true.

See you in Strasbourg. It will be fun!

Jukka Relander
EBLIDA President

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GUEST ARTICLE

Library Ranking Europe – a project to rank European public libraries from a customer perspective

We are proposing a ranking system that stimulates benchmarking and strengthens the citizen and customer perspective in developing European public libraries. Our pilot project, Library Ranking Europe (LRE), is based on the perspective and the needs of the citizen and customer.

This assessment, this ranking, is based on the Nordic public library tradition and
social development. Services free of charge are essential.

LRE’s ambition is to visit, review and rank European public libraries - no town or city is too small. We are using the method of mystery shopping, anonymous visits. Aspects we especially investigate are access to information about the respective library, location and the customer service. Site, visibility and accessibility are of main importance including public transport, accessibility for the disabled and opening hours. Services and supplies that are included in the surveys are for example media and fees, cafés, lavatories and identifiable staff. Architecture, aesthetics and premises, the standard of lighting and facilities for children and youth are also observed. Service to immigrants is important. The diversity of the library regarding the supply of media and the presence of controversial titles and authors are also evaluated, of course.

The LRE scale generates a ranking system that categorises libraries based on how they score on each domain of service provision. These categories will be designated stars from one (lowest service provision) to six (highest service provision). LRE can offer feedback on how libraries might improve and score more stars in the future.

With Library Ranking Europe we want to introduce a brand new tool to stimulate benchmarking and the improvement of quality among European public libraries. The European Union could be an important agent in the work to enhance cooperation and development in the library sector.

Libraries are vital for democracy and development, significant objectives for EU.

We regard LRE as a project that can illustrate the possibilities connected to ranking. During the next couple of years our ambition is to evaluate and to rank a selection of public libraries in a limited number of countries in Europe. So far more than 40 libraries in eleven countries are evaluated.

We want to test this tool and the method that we have developed and strengthen the possibilities for a European library discussion over national borders and together with European politicians and institutions, for example EBLIDA.

Cooperation is important. All Europe’s public library units also deserve a joint symbol, a logotype. To not have a shared trademark for libraries within the EU is both short-sighted and defensive. Public libraries have everything to gain if they stick
Simply to decide on, and introduce, a joint symbol for Europe’s public libraries would make them dramatically more visible. But most important is the development of quality and usefulness for the citizen. Mystery shopping from a customer perspective and ranking can be new tools in this ambition.

More information: http://libraryranking.com

By Maija Berndtson, Helsinki and Mats Öström, Stockholm (Library Ranking Europe).
Photos: Andreas Denk

INSIDE BRUSSELS

Copyright reform – a round-up of information

Several copyright related events have been organised in February with a special focus on Text and Data Mining (TDM).

On 20 February, a breakfast debate on TDM co-hosted by LIBER, the association of European Research Libraries and Science Europe under the auspices of MEPs Michal Boni (EPP), Julia Reda (Greens/EFA), and Marietje Schaake (ALDE) was organised in the European Parliament just 2 days before a JURI workshop on the issue.

The programme featured 4 speakers from different backgrounds and representing different views on the topic:

- Ari Asmi, Researcher at the University of Helsinki;
- Adriana Honolova, Freelance Data journalist;
- Philipp-Andreas Schmidt, Government Affairs Manager, Bayer AG;
- Alan Akbib, Reaseracher, Zalando Research Lab.

While this time there has been little progress from the JURI Committee on the discussion related to the different articles of interests to libraries and heritage institutions, a series of events organised by different partners will take place in Brussels during week 12 (from 19 to 23 March) to fix copyright.
convene in Brussels to discuss with policy makers and advocate for a meaningful reform and raise awareness to the dangers of the current measures.

You can read more at: https://www.communia-association.org/

EBLIDA is among the participants and will ensure the voice of librarians is duly represented.

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**EBLIDA response to EU Public Consultation on Fake News and Online Disinformation**

On 21 February, EBLIDA published its response to the EU Public consultation on Fake News and Online Disinformation.

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**EUROPE AND WORLDWIDE**

**Copyright Round Table in Sofia, Monday 26 February**

On Monday 26th February, EBLIDA together with the Bulgarian Library and Information Association, and with the support of the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture as well as participation from IFLA, organised a round-table discussion on Copyright and libraries. The event was organised in the House of Europe in Sofia.

In the framework of the current discussions on the proposals for a copyright directive in the Digital Single Market, the round table aimed at raising awareness among library professionals in the country, as well as among policy-makers at all levels.

The round-table opened with a video message of **Ms. Mariya Gabriel**, Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society who supported the work of libraries and the importance of free access to information. She underlined the need for reform
She acknowledged the role of Cultural Heritage as a driving force for integration, especially since 2018 is the European Year of Cultural Heritage. She stressed the importance for libraries to use new opportunities for funding (such as WIFI4EU, and mentioned the key importance of access to work in libraries.

Commissioner Gabriel is mindful of the increased content sharing of copyrighted material and hopes that the Directive proposal will be a positive contribution to the European acquis for citizens. She emphasised the fact that libraries are key to the successful implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty in Europe to end the book famine for print disabled people. She concluded by thanking libraries and their professionals for their work and noting that everything important in life starts with a book.

The first panel discussion Libraries and the copyright debate: from local to global welcome 4 panelists: 3 library representatives and MEP Emil Radev, member of the JURI Committee of the European Parliament.

Ms. Tereza Trencheva (ULSIT) presented a short overview on Bulgarian Copyright and related rights law by underlining the new copyright law in Bulgarian, its basics and how it impacts on libraries.

Mr. Vincent Bonnet (EBLIDA Director) presented the importance of copyright for libraries and how they could benefit from the current Copyright reform if it goes in the right direction through Seven Ways to Promote Innovation, Creativity and Heritage.

Mr. Stephen Wyber (IFLA Manager Policy and Advocacy) talked the audience through the role of Libraries in promoting Culture, Social Cohesion, Digital Empowerment notably by highlighting the issues still on the table such as the preservation gap, the access gap and the cohesion gaps.

Mr. Emil Radev, MEP and member of the JURI Committee on the DSM Directive presented his views and explained the tensions on the text discussed in the Parliament and the difficulty in reaching a compromise.

Unfortunately, the view of the Commission, represented by Mr. Manuel Mateo Goyet (Advisor to the European Commissioner Gabriel) took place after the panel discussion because of flight delay. However, the panel discussion with the audience was rich in questions and the full room took an active part in a lively debate.

The second panel discussion Library Professionals and Copyright literacy, best practices in Bulgaria and Europe moderated by Ms. Tereza Trencheva (ULSIT) featured presentations from:

Ms. Tania Todorova (ULSIT) on A multinational study on Copyright literacy of specialists from libraries and other cultural institutions.

It was followed by a video message of Ms. Jane Secker and Mr. Chris Morrison (UK) on their work on UK Copyright literacy and the role for library and information
hold at the upcoming EBLIDA conference in Strasbourg, 31st May.
The last presentation from Ms. Marian Encheva (ULSIT) talked the audience through Information literacy of humanities students in Europe: a game-based learning approach for avoiding fake content (NAVIGATE project).

All three presentations underlined the increasing importance of copyright literacy for library professionals as part of a life-long learning process in differing environments from local to international.

Sofia Declaration

In conclusion to the round table discussion, EBLIDA Director Vincent Bonnet released the Sofia Declaration Europe Needs its Libraries: Heritage and Knowledge for a Stronger EU signed by EBLIDA, BLIA and IFLA.

The Sofia Declaration identifies three areas where the European Union and the Member-States can help and calls on them to:

- embed culture in the next Multiannual Financial Framework, ensuring that preservation and promotion of documentary cultural heritage, in analogue and digital form, is duly supported through both budgets and laws.
- pass a copyright reform that is fit for the modern age, which supports learners, creators and innovators of the future, not the market failures of the past. It must promote innovative, community-focused library services which enables all to benefit from access to information.
- recognise the potential of libraries as skills providers, notably concerning digital, media and information literacy, and ensure that they participate fully and effectively in European social and regional development initiatives.

Marrakesh Treaty

Find below two paragraphs containing information related to the Marrakesh Treaty in Europe excerpted from the EIFL Newsletter of 1st February 2018 (source here):

In Moldova, on 12 January 2018, a new law approving accession to the Marrakesh Treaty was published in the Official Gazette. The new law, signed by the President of the Republic of Moldova on 28 December 2017, commits
Integration will prepare and deposit the instrument of accession at WIPO.

In Strasbourg, on 18 January 2018, adoption of a legislative resolution by the European Parliament cleared the way for the European Council, made up of heads of government, to join the Marrakesh Treaty on behalf of the European Union and its 28 member states. Therefore, when the EU deposits its instrument of ratification at WIPO, expected to coincide around the deadline for national implementation of the EU’s Marrakesh Directive (11 October 2018), the Treaty goes ‘live’ in the 28 member states of the EU. Read or watch the European Parliament debate online.

Inside EBLIDA

EBLIDA President Jukka Relander granted a badge of honor from ULSIT

Rector Prof. Stoyan Denchev invited the EBLIDA Executive Committee members for a reception at the University of Library Studies and Information Technologies (ULSIT).

During the official reception, EC members got acquainted with the structure and the goals of the ULSIT – the librarian university of Bulgaria.

The ceremony reached its highest point when EBLIDA President Mr Jukka Relander received a certificate of merit for the development of contacts in the European library field by Rector Prof. Stoyan Denchev presented Jukka Relander with the Apple of Wisdom and Knowledge.

EBLIDA Executive Committee meeting in Sofia, 26-27 February

EBLIDA Executive Committee members and staff would like to thank all the Bulgarian Colleagues who made the EC meeting and public events a success. The series of events hosted under the EU Presidency of the Council gave a unique opportunity to meet with Bulgarian librarians and policy-makers, and discover the wonderful traditions of the host country.
Bulgarian colleagues and we were pleased to be among the organisers of the round table on Copyright and libraries, as we believe it raised awareness among library and science professionals, as well as catching the attention of the EU Presidency of Bulgaria, MEPs and other policy makers.

Executive Committee members felt at home in the Sofia Public Library and enjoyed meeting there.

The social programme of visiting the Bulgarian National Library was appreciated as was the reception at the University of Library, Science and Information Technologies (ULSIT).

The EBLIDA Executive Committee members would like to extend our special thanks to Snejanka Ianeva (BLIA President) for her dedicated commitment and support in organising the meetings and putting everything together and to Vasil Zagorov for having initiated the invitation last year in Aarhus by suggesting we hold our next meeting in Bulgaria.

A big thanks also to Global Libraries Bulgaria who were instrumental in the success too.

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**EBLIDA-NAPLE 2018**

**Prof. Chris Welch is our Keynote Speaker**

We are happy and thrilled to announce that Prof. Chris Welch from the International Space University (ISU) in Strasbourg will be the keynote speaker and will participate at the panel debate in session 1.

Prof. Welch will talk the audience through an inspiring speech with an unexpected perspective on the issue of Libraries Bridging Borders through his speech *Bridging beyond borders - the Moon as a future location for archiving and preserving human data indefinitely?*

Prof. Welch has kindly accepted an interview on the reasons for such a speech at a librarian conference. Read below:

*EBLIDA: Any reasons to give a keynote speech*
engage with people outside my immediate discipline. I find that interactions of this type are usually very stimulating and an excellent way to generate new ideas. Also, I very much like talking about space to anyone who will listen!

**EBLIDA: How could reflecting on international space activities help rethink international librarianship?**

**Prof. Welch:** One of the common aspects to both is, I think, interfaces. Whether the issue joining spacecraft from two different countries or connecting databases with different origins, the people involved on each side have to interface at a personal and professional level as well as ensuring the systems that they are responsible for also work well together. This requires good understanding by each of the other as well as great attention to detail. Both sides could surely learn from each other.

**EBLIDA: What memories do you have from your experience as a librarian in secondary school?**

**Prof. Welch:** The library was a long rectangular room with the shelves facing the library desk, one beyond the other. This created many hidden areas where miscreants could get up to no good. One of my strongest memories is the decision to move all the shelves so that they were edge on and there were no hiding places. Over the course of a week, we student librarians moved all the stock and the shelves. It was great deal of work, but very satisfying.

**EBLIDA: Why did you become a librarian then?**

**Prof. Welch:** I learned to read at a young age and read a very great deal. I've always loved books both as sources of information and stories and, by extension, loved libraries and bookshops and museums. When, at school, I found that I could work in - and later run - a library, it was a natural place for me to spend a lot of time.

**EBLIDA: How is the library and staff of the library of the International Space University an asset to the ISU?**

**Prof. Welch:** ISU is an interdisciplinary institution so we need information on a wide range of space topics, not just space science and engineering. A dedicated library and librarian is essential to us and we have one of the best general space collections in Europe and an excellent librarian. In addition, the ISU library is one of the nicest spaces in our building.

**EBLIDA: Why is the circulation of information and knowledge key for space studies?**

**Prof. Welch:** Space is an increasingly fast developing field. If it is to develop effectively it is essential that information/knowledge from all the different disciplines is easily available. This is especially true where interdisciplinary links between subjects are concerned.

**EBLIDA: Last but not at least, did libraries matter at some point in your life?**

**Prof. Welch:** When I was a child, I would visit the local library on Saturday afternoon
was the high up in the stacks, surrounded by leather-bound journals from the 18th century. One of my most favorite author's is Jorge Luis Borges and one his stories that I like most is The Library of Babel. Libraries have always mattered to me and I think they always will.

To learn more about Prof Welch’s biography, see here: Chris Welch is Professor of Space Engineering at the International Space University in Strasbourg, France, where he is also Director of Masters Programs. Dr Welch is a Vice President of International Astronautical Federation and a member of European Commission H2020 Space Advisory Committee. His research interests are in space propulsion, microgravity science and planetary exploration. He has extensive media experience and a significant track record in both space education and outreach and higher education, receiving the 2009 Sir Arthur Clarke Award for Space Education and 2015 IAF Distinguished Service Award. Dr Welch is a former Vice-President of the British Interplanetary Society, of which he is a Fellow, and is also a Fellow of the UK Royal Aeronautical Society and UK Royal Astronomical Society. He sits on a number of boards including the Arts Catalyst and the Initiative for Interstellar Studies and is Vice Chair of the World Space Week Association. He has PhD in Spacecraft Engineering (Cranfield University), an MSc in Experimental Space Physics (University of Leicester) and a BSc in Physics (Cardiff University). Forty years ago he was head student librarian at his secondary school and always enjoys interacting with librarians, archivists and curators.

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**EBLIDA-NAPLE 2018 - Programme Updates**

Find below an outline of the programme for 30 and 31st of May

**30 May – EBLIDA Annual Council meeting and NAPLE General Assembly**

Time: 10.30 – 15.00
Location: Council of Europe

_N.B.: between 15.00 and 16.30, the time is booked for accessing the European Parliament by foot and passing the security checkpoints._

**30 May – Reception at the European Parliament**

Time: 16.30 – 18.00
Location: European Parliament, Strasbourg

**30 May – Conference dinner**

Time: 20.00 – 22.00
Location: Restaurant de la Victoire, Strasbourg

**31 May – EBLIDA Conference**
Programme outline in English and French

08.30 – 09.00 Conference Registration / Inscription à la conférence

09.00 - 09.20 Official Opening / Ouverture officielle
Speakers soon to be announced / Intervenant.e.s en attente de confirmation
Conference moderation by Lee Hibbard, Council of Europe / Modération de la conférence par Lee Hibbard, Conseil de l'Europe

09.20 - 10.30: Conference Session 1 / Session 1 de la Conférence
• Bridging beyond borders - the Moon as a future location for archiving and preserving human data indefinitely? Keynote speech by / Discours liminaire de Prof. Chris Welch (International Space University)
Interactive Panel discussion / Table ronde interactive with Prof. Chris Welch (International Space University), Jukka Relander (outgoing EBLIDA President/Président sortant) and Tine Vind (NAPLE Chair/Présidente)

10.30 - 11.00 - Coffee break / Pause-café

11.00 - 12.30 Conference Session 2.
Working across border, practitioners’ point of view / Session 2. Travailler à travers les frontières, le point de vue des praticiens

Presentation on Italian ebooks across Europe by Nicola Cavalli (Media Library On Line, MLOL) / Présentation Livres numériques italiens à travers l'Europe par Nicola Cavalli (MLOL)
Presentations and panel discussion with / Présentation et table ronde avec
• Anna Marcuzzi (Director, Strasbourg Public Library/ Directrice des bibliothèques de Strasbourg),
• Catherine Storne (Director, Mulhouse Public Library/Directrice des bibliothèques de Mulhouse),
• Janosch Nieden (Eucor Director / Directeur d'EUCOR)
• Chrisophe Didier (Delegate for Scientific Policy and International Relations, BnU / Délégué aux relations internationales et à la politique scientifique, BnU)

12.30 - 14.00 - Lunch on site / Déjeuner sur place

14.00 - 15.30 Your turn to practice - workshops / À vous de jouer - ateliers
• Regional collaboration driving global visibility to a worldwide audience (OCLC) /
• Une collaboration régionale pour une visibilité planétaire auprès d'un public mondial (OCLC)
• Copyright Literacy in a cross-border environment, a workshop to build Copyright Literacy in European libraries /
• La littératie en matière de droits d'auteur dans un environnement transfrontalier, un atelier pour développer la culture du droit d'auteur dans les bibliothèques européennes

Chris Morrison (Copyright, Software Licensing and IS Policy Manager at the University of Kent) - video message (tbc)
Dr. Jane Secker (Senior Lecturer in Educational Development at City, University of London / Maître de conférence en développement éducatif à City, Université de Londres).

• The Multicultural Library, a model for Europe, an Erasmus + strategic partnership workshop to exchange practices and ideas /
• La bibliothèque multiculturelle, un modèle pour l'Europe, un atelier de partenariat stratégique Erasmus + pour échanger pratiques et idées

Magdalena Krasowska-Igras (Project Coordinator / Coordinatrice de projet, Information Society Development Foundation)
Hannah Thominet (Project Officer / Chargée de projet, Public Libraries 2020)

15.30 - 16.00 - Closing session / Session de clôture

1. Wrap up of parallel sessions / Résumé des sessions parallèles
2. Announcement of next conference / Annonce de la prochaine conférence

16.00 - 16.30 - Farewell coffee / Café d'adieu

Hotel accommodation • book your Strasbourg hotel as soon as possible!

We would like to issue an urgent message to those who intend to travel to Strasbourg in May. Some people have already registered online for the Conference and we would like to encourage early registration please.

However, what’s even more pressing at this time, are hotel bookings. We have received a notification from Strasbourg about the lack of bookings so far. As we have informed you previously, you can book through the platform below by clicking on the image or by booking directly with independent hotels.

EBLIDA has pre-booked a certain number of hotel rooms against specific deadlines but won’t be able to maintain those pre-booking beyond the deadlines. With the European Plenary sessions happening at the same time, hotels are filling-up quickly!
So, please don’t wait any longer – go ahead and book!

(ranging from 2* to 4* hotels)
Note:

- Room availability is subject to availability at the time of booking;
- The language is automatically in English for connection outside France, and in French for connection within France;
- Booking dates are set automatically for the night between 30 and 31st May. Guests wishing to book another date may change the date of stay at the top of the page.

INDEPENDENT HOTELS with EBLIDA pre-booking

Le Lodge Hotel - Brithotel Strasbourg ***

10 RUE Paul ELUARD – 67 200 STRASBOURG
Single room: € 139 per night (breakfast included)
Offer available until 15 March 2018
Upon booking, please use booking ID: EBLIDA
Maximum number of pre-booked rooms: 20.

Upon booking, please use booking ID: EBLIDA

Distance – 30 min (tram + by foot) from the Conference venue (BNU).
Location on the map

Hotel Victoria**

9 Rue du Maire Kuss, – 67 000 STRASBOURG
Single room: € 70 per night (2 rooms available)
Double twin room standard: € 96 per night (1 room available)
Double twin superior: € 102 per night (2 rooms available)
Buffet breakfast (7 to 10 ): € 9

Distance - 11 min. by tram and by foot from the Conference venue (BNU) (or 20 min by foot).
Location on the map

OTHER HOTELS CLOSE TO THE CONFERENCE VENUE

4****
15 Rue du Fossé des Treize, 67000 Strasbourg
Double room: starting at € 212,50 per night

*Distance - 9 min. by foot (900 m /985 yards) from the Conference venue (BNU)*
Location on the map

Régent Contades, BW Premier Collection****
8 Avenue de la Liberté, 67000 Strasbourg
Double room: starting at € 190,50 per night

*Distance - 4 min. by foot (300 m /328 yards) from the Conference venue (BNU)*
Location on the map here.

3***

Hotel Au Couvent du Franciscain***
18 Rue du Faubourg-de-Pierre, 67000 Strasbourg,Hotel Au Couvent
Single room: starting at € 123 per night / double room starting at € 128 per night

*Distance - 11 min. by foot (850m / 929 yards) from the Conference venue (BNU)*
Location on the map

Le grand Hotel***
12 Place de la Gare, 67000 Strasbourg,
Double room: starting at € 160 per night

*Distance - 21 min. by foot from the Conference venue (BNU) (13 min with tram)*
Location on the map.
Events and Dates

March

13 -14 March  Berlin, Germany  Open Science Conference 2018
14 -16 March  Basel, Switzerland  6th Kuopio Conference
25-28 March  Sheffield, United Kingdom  Online Journal Discovery and Delivery: Working with libraries and industry intermediaries to maximise readership (ALPSP Training Course)
26 March  Paris, France  Study morning Restitution of the study on key indicators of academic libraries in Europe
28 March  Grenoble, France  7th International Workshop on Bibliometric-enhanced Information Retrieval (BIR 2018)

EBLIDA-LIST is a general mailing list intended to foster communications between EBLIDA, its membership and members of the European library community. The goal