The EBLIDA Newsletter is published monthly on European library & information society issues, programmes, news and events of interest to the library, archive and cultural heritage community.

Issue No. 4. April 2022

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1. President's Editorial

The EBLIDA Annual Council and Conference (14-16 June 2022) is obviously the most important EBLIDA event in the year, for institutional, professional and communication purposes.

In this issue, the first article will give you seven good reasons why EBLIDA is a must-do Conference.

The programme is compulsory background for librarians focused on issues such as sustainable
It is also the first time EBLIDA can show the fruits of its cooperation with NAPLE and PL2030. For years the three organisations have informally cooperated; now it was time to align programmes with shared information and common projects. The EBLIDA-NAPLE-PL2030 common action on Ukraine is a perfect example of how quickly results can be turned around when we put our heads together and cooperate towards common goals.

A short digression on Ukraine. We would never have wished to see another war in Europe, in flagrant contradiction with the basic principles of a sustainable, democratic and equitable society. We would have never expected to launch the 24th February EBLIDA-NAPLE-PL2030 Press Release condemning the barbaric attack of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. And we would never have thought that we would be urging European libraries to mobilise in order to support Ukrainian refugees.

We would never have wanted to, but we had to, because libraries are at the front line of human rights, democracy and the rule of law and because they hold high the flag of the 2030 Agenda on sustainable development; not least when it comes to the right to access (validated) information.

The fact that three organisations are now working together to face the ever biggest emergency in Europe since the 2nd World War shows what libraries can do when they fully exploit what is their biggest asset: cooperation. On our website and on the joint website we share information on the roles libraries play in supporting refugees in different countries. Once more, it reminds us of pandemic times, when we were struck by the passion, flexibility and creativity librarians demonstrate in picking up these roles and developing activities and new services.

Readers of our Newsletter should also be updated on internal changes within EBLIDA. EBLIDA Expert Group on Information Law (EGIL) has been an Expert Group for decades and we wish to thank Ulrika Domellöf Mattsson, who helped EBLIDA revitalise EGIL after it had been dormant for almost a year.

Ulrika was designated for an important position within the Swedish library world and she had to resign as Chair of EGIL. A role we are very grateful she fulfilled with so much expertise.

We welcome Valérie Bouissou who accepted to take over and orient the work of this important group. Congratulations, Valérie!

Continuing on personal developments we wish to congratulate Barbara Lison, longtime active in EBLIDA and currently in IFLA, who was awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Next, we would like to inform you about an important follow up to the EBLIDA initiative "Think The Unthinkable: a post-Covid European library agenda meeting Sustainable Development Goals to be funded through European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027". Following a meeting on this topic organised under the French EU presidency, a meeting is being organised by the Bibliothèque publique d’Information and the City of Strasbourg in France on 5th May.

And finally, this Newsletter hosts a timely report from Greece, on how university libraries can play a role in creating awareness on SDGs and develop related training.

This is only a part of EBLIDA’s agenda. More in the pipeline…
2. EBLIDA Annual Council and Conference “Ready to take off: libraries commitment towards a sustainable, democratic and equitable society”
Athens, 14-16 June 2022

Seven good reasons why EBLIDA is a must-do Conference! Register now!
The Conference is open to all professionals, librarians and non-librarians, whose activity is connected, in one way or another, to the library world.

This year’s EBLIDA Conference is unprecedented for at least seven reasons:

1. Thirty speakers / Chairs, among the most prominent and vibrant initiators of leading library initiatives in Europe, have been selected. They cover a broad geographic area and their approach will be practical, often focused on local experience, but always framed in a European context.

2. For the first time, EBLIDA allies NAPLE and PL2030 in organising a joint event, as a follow-up to the joint venture of the three organisations (see press release 24th February 2022); for this reason, the Annual Council and Conference will take place over three days, and not two, with the following programme:
   - 14th June: Executive Committee meeting and Annual Council;
   - 15th June: EBLIDA Conference;
   - 16th June: Joint EBLIDA-NAPLE-PL2030 event.

3. Are Sustainable Development Goals exclusively a public library business? Certainly not, as the EBLIDA Second Report on sustainable development and European Libraries clearly shows. During the Conference, a unique Workshop will be dedicated to the implementation of SDGs in university libraries, with activities aimed to develop citizens science, gender equality, creation of scientific networks, SDG education, and open access / open science.

4. Two EBLIDA new products will be presented on the occasion of the Conference:

   a.) The revised text of the “draft Council of Europe / EBLIDA Guidelines on Library Legislation and Policy in Europe”. The first text was approved in 2000 at the Council of Europe.

   The Guidelines were practically re-written from scratch and are now including five sections:
   I. Freedom of expression, free access to information and democratic participation;
   II. Libraries within the framework of the European agenda on sustainable development;
   III. Global and local threats and library operations;
b.) A European Report on e-lending, from the library perspective. The Report includes the library assessment of e-lending in nine European countries. It is an analysis of the e-lending processes and how they impact on the authors/publishers/libraries interaction in the book trade.

The Report shows that, under an apparent similarity of business models of e-lending (pay-per loan, license, one copy – one users models), the situation is very much dependent on public library policy paradigms in Europe.

5. Many opportunities to contact other libraries for joint initiatives and opportunities for common projects. We are in the early stages of European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027; this EBLIDA Conference is an occasion for sharing views and tips on how to present proposals within this framework.

6. An extraordinary venue - the Goethe-Institut in Athens – in the unique atmosphere of the city of Athens – the cradle of democracy. The work of architects Thomas Greve and Michalis Athanasiadis, the Goethe-Institut in Athens is a beautiful and unique venue with multiple spaces facilitating “agoras” – still today, the most productive way of running democratic debates and changing human mindsets.

7. The first post-Covid in-presence EBLIDA conference, an opportunity to celebrate our 30th birthday! With a historical hindsight, it will be easier for anyone, and in particular EBLIDA Members, to assess EBLIDA’s current state of affairs.

3. EBLIDA-NAPLE-PL2030 programme now finalised
Athens, 16th June 2022
Open to all!

There is a long tradition of EBLIDA-NAPLE conferences; it will be the first time PL2030 joins in a programme whose format – lightning talks, table talks - is designed to encourage exchange of views and common proposals from members of the three organisations.

At the same time, focus will also be placed on cooperative activities already in place.

9:00 - 9:45 Welcome and framing of the day by Barbara Schleihagen (NAPLE), Marie Østergård (Chair PL2030) and Ton van Vlimmeren (EBLIDA President)

After having worked together on an informal basis for years, on 24th February 2022 EBLIDA – NAPLE and Public Libraries 2030 announced a pooling of resources and efforts to strengthen library work in Europe.

This initiative brings together over 60 European library services and 68 national library bodies to create a stronger presence for European libraries and closer cooperation in a Europe that is now more connected than ever.
The joint EBLIDA-NAPLE-PL2030 initiative for Ukraine started on 24th February with a statement condemning the barbaric attack of the Russian federation against Ukraine. The most immediate follow up was the initiative Libraries for Refugees (see announcement on 12th April 2022) with an emphasis of services performed by libraries for Ukrainian refugees.

A series of lightning talks will ignite the debate around the responsibility of libraries in providing services for refugees and important, sometimes uncomfortable issues concerning war, misinformation and librarians’ attitudes.

Conclusions: Ilona Kish

10:30 - 11:00 Break

11:00 - 12:30 Parallel tracks
EBLIDA group - First meeting of EBLIDA Expert Groups in person. Getting to know one another and catching up - what the EBLIDA Conference and the EBLIDA-NAPLE-PL2030 joint venture are bringing to Expert Groups.
NAPLE session – Preparing NAPLE future activities

12:30 - 13:30 Lunch break

13:30 - 15:00 Parallel tracks (continues)

15:00 - 16:00 Table talk 2: Library advocacy
There are several library organisations active at European level, each with their own identity and objectives. We wish to open a permanent Forum in order to show that specific policies and objectives, even when not perfectly aligned, are contributing to the prosperity and the vitality of the Library construction in Europe.
With a series of lightning talks library advocacy in Europe will examine how we can build up a methodology based on cooperation and a savvy repartition of their tasks that can be proposed to other European organisations.

Conclusions: Barbara Schleihagen

16.00-16.30: Moving ahead Barbara Schleihagen (Chair, NAPLE), Marie Østergård (Chair PL2030) and Ton van Vlimmeren (EBLIDA President)

4. EBLIDA – NAPLE - PL2030: library networking and cooperation

Having worked together informally for years, EBLIDA, NAPLE and PL2030 have now moved closer for new opportunities of cooperation. Europe is more connected than ever; small organisations will join forces in order to face such complexity. And the library’s greatest asset is : cooperation on a level playing field.
In addition to 120+ EBLIDA Members, this initiative will bring together over 60 European library services and 68 national library bodies to create a stronger presence for European libraries. A few words of presentation of the two partner organisations.

Public Libraries 2030 is a relatively recent organisation, born in 2014. PL2030 sees libraries as a dynamic and inclusive space accessible to all that connects with local citizens and global concerns. Keywords for PL2030 are: Innovation, advocacy and networking and, on these issues, they have built up numerous library-oriented projects in collaboration with non-library organisations.

NAPLE Forum was founded on October 4, 2002. It is an international non-governmental association pursuing the interests of the national library authorities in Europe. Its main aim is to promote principles and strategies for public library policies. Membership of NAPLE is open to all national public library authorities or the nearest equivalent to such a policy making institution with national responsibilities for public library services, or, within a federal system, assuming the appropriate level of such responsibilities.

Follow the video announcing the EBLIDA-NAPLE-PL2030 new venture!

5. EBLIDA – NAPLE - PL2030: library networking and cooperation in Ukraine

EBLIDA, NAPLE and PL2030 did not wait long to experiment with the solidity of their willingness to cooperate. Not even eight hours after they announced the intention to cooperate, war in Ukraine broke out with its usual complement of brutality and despair.

The three organisations jointly released a statement in which unambiguously denounced the barbaric attack of the Russian Federation and urged European libraries to mobilise in order to provide a safe haven and a warm welcome to refugees and to fight disinformation and misinformation.

Here is the European Declaration.

Shortly afterwards, statements from library associations all over Europe condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine were collected in the March issue of the EBLIDA Newsletter.

EBLIDA, NAPLE and PL2030 felt the need to go beyond declarations, to be attentive to library needs and do something concrete for displaced Ukrainians. EBLIDA sent out a form to our members, asking for information about existing initiatives in favour of Ukrainian refugees and the response was very positive. After EBLIDA opened a webpage on the EBLIDA website, we considered that the importance and the gravity of the situation once more required a joint effort. Once more, a joint cooperation again with NAPLE and PL2030 was started.

EBLIDA, NAPLE and PL2030 jointly decided on a logo identifying the “Libraries for Refugees” network and of a website open to all organisations performing services to displaced people.

The logo is inspired by the rapeseed fields of which Ukraine is rich which have turned now into...
6. Zooming in on EGIL, the EBLIDA Expert group on Information Law

EGIL (Expert Group on Information Law) has gone through all EBLIDA seasons. Initially focusing on lending right and its effects (EU Directives of rental right and lending right of 1992 and 2006), this evolved into the two EU Directives on copyright (in the information society of 2001 and in the digital single market of 2019), EGIL also dealt with the 2012 Directive on certain uses of orphan works and on the 1995 general data protection directive.

EGIL plays a big part in EBLIDA historical legacy and has included the most brilliant experts on information laws and policies applied to libraries.

Ulrika Domellöf Mattsson has acted as EGIL chair from 2012-2015 and has worked tirelessly on copyright and intellectual property rights, as well as being influential in the lobbying work done for the Marrakesh Treaty and instrumental in the EBLIDA Key Principles on the acquisition of and access to E-books by libraries. In 2021 Ulrika Domellöf Mattsson helped EBLIDA revitalise EGIL after it had been dormant for almost a year. EGIL was particularly busy during this time, with Ms. Domellöf Mattsson providing advice on e-lending projects. After one year, Ms. Domellöf Mattsson fulfilled an important position in the Swedish public administration and therefore was no longer available for EBLIDA.

Valérie Bouissou took over and was officially designated Chair, EGIL during the EC meeting in January 2022. With more than thirty-year experience in the library field, Valérie Bouissou has been Director of Libraries in Nîmes since 2019. She has a long ministerial experience at the Ministry of Culture, France, where she was Deputy-Head of the Library Department in the Book and Reading Service. At the Ministry of Culture, Valérie dealt with the reform of the library
7. Europe and libraries: what source of funding?
French workshop, Strasbourg – 5 May 2022

The European Union is deploying a budget for the period 2021-2027 to address the consequences of the health crisis. The political priorities set out in this budget are in sync with many of the missions and concerns of libraries, from social inclusion to digital support to the ecological transition.

These priorities are also very present in the United Nations (UN) Agenda 2030 and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as highlighted by EBLIDA’s work to encourage libraries to develop an SDG-based funding strategy in libraries.

These policy priorities are also reflected in national and regional strategies, so it is essential to understand them and identify the actors who are pivotal in their implementation. It is therefore important to include libraries in this dynamics.

People in charge of the European Funds in the Grand Est region will present the financing axes retained for this new period; people in charge of public libraries will give feedback on the financing they have already obtained.

A great opportunity for French libraries as well as for libraries bordering France to have an insight of funding opportunities for their SDG-oriented projects.

More information: https://pro.bpi.fr/leurope-et-les-bibliotheques-quels-financements/

8. International design competition for the building of the new Central Library of Milan
The City of Milan has launched an international design competition for the new Central Library, with a budget of 115 million euros. Competitors must submit a design proposal by 22 June 2022, which will be assessed by a panel of experts. The winner of the competition will be announced by July 2022 and will receive a prize of €476,531.63, as well as the task of developing the final and executive design of the library.

The competition notice, the preliminary design document and all the information to participate can be downloaded here: https://www.nuovabeic.concorrimi.it; follow the link: Competition Notice.pdf (application/pdf)

The City of Milan urges the European library community to give the widest possible diffusion of this information in order to encourage the widest and most qualified participation.

9. Barbara Lison, President IFLA, is honoured with the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany

The German Cross of Rewards is awarded for special achievements in political, economic, cultural, intellectual or honorary fields. This year, Barbara Lison was among the few people who was awarded this high-level recognition of the Federal Republic of Germany. Our congratulations to Barbara for having deserved this special acknowledgement!

Barbara was EBLIDA EC member from 2012 to 2015 and Vice President from 2015 to 2018.

10. SDGs literacy for students promoted in Greek university libraries

The role of higher education as the major stakeholder, has been recognised at the same time that SDGs were adapted by UN. Furthermore, the significance of transversal skills has been
Universities will not only educate the students of today to acquire transversal skills and transform them as competencies but also to teach them about SDGs. Depending of the faculty a lot of discussion has arisen. For example, business schools are examining what will be the profile of new leaders to implement the Agenda 2030. Engineering schools are reconsidering the curricula of their schools, transforming these in a sustainable way. Initiatives such as transdisciplinary research focused on social needs, knowledge transfer, or the use of teaching methodologies such as service learning can be examples of this transformative university.

**Defining transversal skills:**

- **Critical and innovative thinking:** problem solving, creativity, conscientiousness, entrepreneurship, ability to learn (Key Skills).
- **Inter-personal skills,** such as: presentation and communication skills; both in mother tongue and in foreign language (the specification from Key Skills): organizational skills, teamwork.
- **Intra-personal skills,** such as: self-discipline, perseverance self-motivation.
- **Global citizenship,** such as: tolerance, openness, respect for diversity, intercultural understanding, cultural expression and intercultural, social and civic competence (Key Skills).
- **Media and information processing/literacy** such as: the ability to locate and access information, the ability to analyze and evaluate media content, the ability to understand and analyze numerical and statistical information, digital competence (Key Skills).

A large amount of research has been developed to figure out how university students realize and have knowledge about SDGs. Previous research revealed that there was a limited knowledge about SDGs and there is lot to do, to succeed a satisfying knowledge.

The empirical research at the University of Macedonia revealed encouraging results. 3 of 8 departments have embedded the teaching of SDGs in their curriculum. Those are the Department of International & European Studies, the Department of Educational & Social Studies as obligatory course and the Department of Business Administration as a mandatory course. Those departments could co-ordinate the other departments to enhance the knowledge inside the University, to succeed the development of these competencies throughout the whole curriculum.

The notion of “sustainability” includes 3 pillars: social, economic and environmental. Within this quest for global sustainable development, the Library & Information Centre and the Environmental Management Office should be key-partners and active contributors. To be recognised as such stakeholders, the library needs to promote libraries’ role as development agents not only by gathering evidences and evaluating their contribution to SDGs implementation but also by transforming its structure into sustainable organisation.

The Environmental Management Office except of raising the University's awareness of environmental responsibility but also creating the infrastructure to implement its energy reduction. The library is the appropriate agent for pillar “social, economic” and the Environmental Management Office for pillar “environment.”

**Practices that academic libraries are implementing and contributing into the Sustainable Human Development:**
However, there are some initiatives such as the ranking promoted by Times Higher Education entitled “University Impact Ranking”. This ranking analyses the degree of commitment of university education institutions to the Sustainable Development Goals.

In conclusion there is much to be done at university level to create sustainable human development starting with embedding SDGs into the curriculum of each department of the University the training about SDGs. Next step is the University’s employee (professors & staff) engagement. A final step is to fully comply (commitment and assessment) with Sustainable Development.

Please look at the Four good reasons to become EBLIDA member and at the membership fee which varies according to the organisation’s turnover and the status of the organisation wishing to join EBLIDA: Full or Associate Member.

For the registration form please fill out the Membership Enquiry Form or contact the Secretariat: eblida@eblida.org

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Events and Dates

**April 25-29**

**The Web Conference 2022**

**Place:** Lyon, France

**Organizer:** International World Wide Web Conference Committee

**April 25-29**

**2nd International Workshop on Scientific Knowledge: Representation, Discovery, and Assessment**

**Place:** Online event

**Organizer:** Sci-K

**May 16**

**Assemblée générale du Cfibd**

**Place:** Paris, France

**Organizer:** CFIBD - Comité français international bibliothèques et documentation

**May 16**

**67e congrès - ABF: Les bibliothèques sont-elles indispensables?**

**Place:** Metz, France
May 16-18
DTCE 22 – 2nd International Online Conference on Digital Transformation in Culture and Education
Place: Online event
Organizer: Serbian Library Association Section for Digital Transformation

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About the Newsletter

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Editors: Unless otherwise specified, all articles are written by the EBLIDA Secretariat.

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