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. 6. June 2022
Special EBLIDA Conference issue

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5. Background paper 2: EBLIDA First Overview of e-lending in European public libraries

1. President’s Editorial

With a number of attendants close to 120-130 from more than 25 countries, the EBLIDA Conference in Athens on 15-16 June 2022 is going to be one of the most, if not the most successful Conference in the EBLIDA history. 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; their approach will be practical, often focused on local experience, but always framed in a European context.

I would like to recall the six reasons why this is a must-do Conference:

1. For the first time, EBLIDA allies NAPLE and Public Libraries 2030 in organising a joint event.

2. 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.

3. Two EBLIDA new products will be presented on the occasion of the Conference:
   - 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 new version has practically been re-written from scratch (see article below);
   - the first EBLIDA Overview on e-lending, from the public library perspective – an assessment of e-lending in nine European countries.

4. Many opportunities to contact other libraries for joint initiatives and opportunities for common projects.

5. An extraordinary venue - the Goethe-Institut in Athens – in the unique atmosphere of the city of Athens – the cradle of democracy. (Check out the 360° Virtual Tour at the Goethe-Institut Athens)

6. 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.

And finally, as EBLIDA President, let me add another reason. EBLIDA is launching a new Strategic Plan 2022-2025.

The Conference will also check whether the proposed action lines –
   a) sustainable development,
   b) democracy in libraries through appropriate library legislations and policies and
   c) equal access to information through e-lending – are the horizon EBLIDA should confront in the years to come.

Have a good conference!
Yours sincerely,

Ton van Vlimmeren
EBLIDA President

2. EBLIDA Conference Athens 15-16th June 2022
Programme updated with important logistical information

All logistical information with regards to the EBLIDA conference has now been updated on our website. Please check our online programme to find out what takes place where.
We are also requesting that all delegates register in advance for workshops, as places are limited. Everyone who has registered received information on how to register for events that require pre-registration.


Conferences are not only pedagogic exercises; they are meeting opportunities as well as occasions for creating fruitful partnerships and preparing for the future of the library.

In order to make the most out of the EBLIDA conference we must know about library priorities in the medium term.

They can be listed as follows:

- Information provision in digital form is becoming very expensive for public libraries – new e-lending models have to be found which take into account that the book trade is different from scholarly communication;
- Sustainable development as a new framework for library operation is an extraordinary opportunity for all libraries if they are able to go beyond their traditional cultural and educational / research frameworks;
- New library policies are needed as instruments of soft law alternative to “hard” library legislation; therefore, it is crucial to understand the library policies that can be developed at national and local levels and how library governance can change in a sustainable development environment.

Apart from tools and reports already available to the library community - two European reports on SDGs and libraries; a Guide and a Tutorial focused on the European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027 as possible funding sources; two constantly updated EBLIDA tools: the EBLIDA Matrix, which aims to identify SDG-relevant EU programmes and how library projects can meet SDGs, and the EBLIDA SDG-KIC, where SDG-oriented library policies at national level are identified and described – EBLIDA produced two background papers to the Conference: they are the draft Council of Europe / EBLIDA Guidelines on Library Legislation and Policy in Europe, and the First European Overview of e-lending in public libraries.

These two background papers are discussed in the following paragraphs.

In 2000, the Council of Europe, in collaboration with EBLIDA drafted the Council of Europe / EBLIDA Guidelines on Library Legislation and Policy in Europe. These Guidelines have been highly influential in shaping policies and inspiring library-related legislation throughout the Council of Europe Member States. They are a frame of reference for individual libraries working in often challenging local situations, as well as for regional and municipal administrators willing to restructure local library systems.

While the original Guidelines are still solid, cultural and societal changes on the one hand, and technological developments on the other, are challenging libraries in new ways. In the last two decades, libraries have developed as an enriching space for human interaction, knowledge creation and civic engagement. In several Council of Europe states, library legislation already reflects these new concepts and roles in line and in compliance with a good number of Council of Europe and European Union documents and recommendations.

The task of revising the Council of Europe / EBLIDA Guidelines in the library field was assigned to the EBLIDA LIBLEG (library legislation) Working Group. LIBLEG Members of the Group felt that, after twenty years, the Guidelines should be re-written from scratch to reinforce the Europe-wide effort to strive towards a well-informed, inclusive and democratic society.

The draft Council of Europe / EBLIDA Guidelines on Library Legislation and Policy in Europe are a good example of EBLIDA commitment towards a democratic society.

They are divided into five separate headings:
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;
IV. Digital transformation and the promotion of a sustainable, reliable and inclusive library ecosystem;
V. Copyright and the protection of library heritage.

I. Freedom of expression, free access to information and democratic participation

Public libraries are a municipal undertaking: mayors and the city council set up major finalities, adjust the general objectives of public libraries to the specific goals of local communities and, first and foremost, mayors and the city council hold the purse strings. Ideological or illiberal political parties may decide that, since they fund public libraries, they should also dictate the requirements for collection development. This first chapter provides guidelines on how librarians can act if they find themselves in this uncomfortable position.

Let’s set the record straight. If librarians are working in a totalitarian state, very little can be done to set up an open policy. Under dictatorship, professionalism is often met with suspicion and every Faust can easily become an ideological Mephistopheles. Libraries may well be vibrant institutions providing unhindered access to information in democracies; under autocratic, paranoid regimes however, libraries are often transmission belts of the ruling ideology and turn into instruments of propaganda.

If librarians are instead working in a democratic environment, they can use these guidelines to
legally enforced; nevertheless, they may be an instrument of moral suasion to strike a balance between political orientations and professional standards. The first section of the Guidelines focus on Open Access to information and the development of a democratic society, principles for collection development, principles for access to digital content, and promotion of democratic participation.

II. Libraries within the framework of the European agenda on sustainable development

This section of the Guidelines has not changed much in relation to the 2020 Guidelines. They still concern traditional methods of library governance under the mode of:

- devolution, or “autonomy” - a centralised power attributes to a subordinate entity the powers that are needed to manage a given cultural asset along the lines of intervention that are singled out by the same local body;
- decentralisation, when governments single out goals to be reached through administrative actions and entrust local bodies to carry them out, also providing the means to implement these goals;
- privatisation, when part of the budget allocated to libraries comes from public grants, and that libraries have to find other sources of funding in order to carry out their public mission.

What has changed, however, is the framework in which libraries operate, which rests no longer with cultural and educational authorities, but embraces a much wider circle of entities, going from social affairs to economics, and from health and labour authorities.

This section of the Guidelines includes articles related to library governance, services and performance indicators, library financing, and education and training.

III. Global and local threats and library operations

This part of the Guidelines was not present in the 2000 version; they were drafted in light of the Covid pandemic, when libraries were considered essential in some European countries and not in others. As with all cultural institutions, libraries are vulnerable organisations, but have showed a great deal of flexibility and resilience during the pandemic crisis. National and local authorities should therefore recognise their role as essential services for the resilience of the communities to which they refer to.

IV. Digital transformation and the promotion of a sustainable, reliable and inclusive library ecosystem

This chapter is linked with the technological revolution but they go well beyond technology management. Libraries play an important role in the book and information chains; national authorities should adopt plans to implement the latest technologies. National and local authorities should also ensure that algorithmic systems applied in libraries do not create disparities or discriminations and comply with provisions intended to respect fundamental rights.

An important part of the Guidelines is dedicated to the issue of digital literacy. Being the ideal place to host and/or provide media and information literacy courses, libraries should promote the fight against disinformation and misinformation and be a gathering place to promote democracy and fundamental rights also in the digital field.

V. Copyright and the protection of library heritage

Copyright has been a dividing issue in the book and information domains until the European Union Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market was approved in 2019. In compliance with article 5 of the Directive, the Council of Europe / EBLIDA Guidelines encourage libraries to fully benefit from the exception to the exclusive right of reproduction or communication to the
A set of articles in the Guidelines promote e-lending in all forms and try to put limits to publishing policies and practices intending to restrict access to information in libraries in the form of embargoes or explicit vetoes to library acquisitions. In any case, when dealing with copyright and neighbouring rights libraries should be recognised as organisations having a public function with a view to facilitating the availability and the use of information.

Legal deposit is the main instrument implemented by libraries for the conservation of a national collection for heritage purposes. While pointing out to the high cost of preservation programmes and the need to avoid overlapping policies linked to the legal deposit of sound, audio-visual, film, and electronic material, the Guidelines strongly promote web archiving through harvesting techniques.

Finally, some articles of the Guidelines deal with the transfrontier transfer of written heritage. When dealing with contentious issues, libraries should refer to internationally recognised agreements - such as the UNIDROIT Convention of 1995 on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, or the Directives of the European Council - which regulate the transfrontier movement of cultural goods.

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5. Background paper 2:
EBLIDA First Overview of e-lending in European public libraries

The “First European overview on e-lending in public libraries” has the general objective to lay the foundation of “sustainable copyright” in public libraries through the examination of three particular aspects:

- The dependence of the e-book library trade and library acquisitions on national economic factors, legal constraints and institutional requirements (number of users, percentage of publications available in a digital format, purchasing power of libraries, the role of intermediate layers negotiating with publishers on behalf of libraries);
- The role played by national and local public authorities in the choice of an e-lending model;
- The potential strength of a networked system where library demand is aggregated, with an active cultural policy carried out by libraries, alongside and beyond solutions focused on open access practices.

The “First European overview on e-lending in public libraries” has been carried out by the EBLIDA EGIL (Expert Group on Information Law) Group. It is based on a questionnaire that was prepared by EGIL Members and transmitted to a network of experts including both EGIL members and experts suggested by NAPLE and the EBLIDA Executive Committee.

The geographic scope of the study is restricted to nine countries. These countries were selected in accordance to several criteria: a prosperous book trade and e-book trade (Germany, France, Spain, Italy), a limited book trade with high level of digital literacy (e.g. Nordic countries), and countries where an e-book trade has never really taken off (Romania or Greece).
There are 80,000 titles available and 7,8 million e-lending transactions (2021) in Danish public libraries, which represents 20% of the total number of lending transactions, with some small municipalities having a few thousand transactions annually and some others like Copenhagen reaching over 500,000 transactions annually. More detailed statistics, as for instance patrons’ preferences, are difficult or unavailable because they may use sensitive social security numbers of patrons.

The legal act regulating e-lending is The Danish Act Regarding Library Services, which was approved in 2000. E-lending is implemented through the “eReolen” and administered by the association “The Digital Public Library” composed of all 98 Danish municipalities, Greenland, The Faroe Islands and Slesvig. The Digital Public Library association enters into collaborations with technical intermediaries and negotiates prices and terms & conditions with publishers.

In Denmark e-lending used to be a bone of contention between Danish publishers (with major players like Gyldendal, Lindhardt & Ringhof, and Politiken) and eReolen, Denmark’s only digital public library, to the point that major publishers withdrew cooperation at certain stages of the process (2012 and 2016). In 2018, however, eReolen settled terms with Danish publishers, in a country where the number of people are 5.8 million people and 96% of households having internet access.

eReolen uses different lending models and one of them is the one-copy-one-user model, while the remaining transactions are regulated through bilateral pricing agreements with publishers. The country that is the cradle of public lending right - the first PLR programme in Denmark was initiated in 1941 – started remunerating authors for digital books in 2018. Denmark was the first country in the world to include digital audiobooks in e-lending schemes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>E book loans</th>
<th>Cost (ebooks)</th>
<th>Audiobook loans</th>
<th>Cost (audiobook)</th>
<th>All costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>640,629</td>
<td>Kr 8 300 659 €1 115 680</td>
<td>545.391</td>
<td>Kr 9 271 657 €1 246 190</td>
<td>Kr 17,572,317 €2,361,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>598,168</td>
<td>Kr 7 485 853 €1 006 163</td>
<td>716.607</td>
<td>Kr 12 182 319 €1 637 408</td>
<td>Kr 19,668,172 €2,643,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1,165,910</td>
<td>Kr 14 026 069 €1 885 224</td>
<td>1,381.478</td>
<td>Kr 20 484 675 €2 753 316</td>
<td>Kr 34,510,745 €4,638,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>996,834</td>
<td>Kr 11 047 420 €1 484 868</td>
<td>1,534.664</td>
<td>Kr 19 298 887 €2 593 936</td>
<td>Kr 30,346,307 €4,078,804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1,108,361</td>
<td>Kr 12 661 965 €1 701 877</td>
<td>1,771.200</td>
<td>Kr 24 860 800 €3 341 505</td>
<td>Kr 37,522,765 €5,043,382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1,396,575</td>
<td>Kr 17 613 241 €2 367 371</td>
<td>2,225.155</td>
<td>Kr 27 221 191 €3 658 762</td>
<td>Kr 44,834,432 €6,026,133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>1,950,365</td>
<td>Kr 22 660 099 €3 045 712</td>
<td>2,879.106</td>
<td>Kr 34 202 669 €4 597 132</td>
<td>Kr 56,862,769 €7,642,845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2,629,292</td>
<td>Kr 27 756 885 €3 730 764</td>
<td>3,871.602</td>
<td>Kr 43 609 681 €5 861 516</td>
<td>Kr 71,366,566 €9,592,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>2,826,785</td>
<td>Kr 32 922 352 €4 425 047</td>
<td>4,595.317</td>
<td>Kr 53 092 863 €7 136 137</td>
<td>Kr 86,015,215 €11,561,184</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Moreover, these are e-lending transactions directly from data bases:

**International ebook & audiobook databases:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ProQuest (Ebook Central)</td>
<td>321,449</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EBSCO (Ebook Collection)</td>
<td>384</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overdrive</td>
<td>402,969</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books 24x7</td>
<td>1,645</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Internship opportunity in the European Parliament Library:

2 in Brussels;
1 in Luxembourg.

Graduates holding an undergraduate or postgraduate qualification in librarianship or information science are encouraged to apply for three internships (traineeships) in the European Parliament Library (2 in Brussels; 1 in Luxembourg). Internships are paid and last 5 months, starting on 1 March and 1 October each year.

The work undertaken by an intern in the Library would comprise a mixture of tasks, including the following:
- duties on the information desk in the Reading Room
- basic enquiry work
- management of electronic resources
- cataloguing and indexing
- contributing to the organisation of events in the Library

Interns receive appropriate training and supervision throughout their time here.

For further information, potential candidates should consult the webpage on the Traineeships Scheme in the European Parliament: https://ep-stages.gestmax.eu/website/homepage

The vacancy notices for the three Library internships:

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

Events and Dates

June 1-3
European Association for Health Information and Libraries (EAHIL) 2022 Conference
Place: Rotterdam, Netherlands
Organizer: EAHIL
June 7-8
Annual Conference of Czech Librarians Association
Place: Ostrava, Czechia
Organizer: SKIP - Domů Svaz knihovníků a informačních pracovníků ČR

June 14-16
30th EBLIDA Annual Council Meeting & Conference
Place: Athens, Greece
Organizer: EBLIDA, Association of Greek Librarians and Information Scientists (AGLIS), Goethe Institut, Athens, Greece

June 15
Ukrainian Libraries during the Ongoing Russian-Ukrainian War
Place: Online
Organizer: iSchool

June 19-21
CENL Annual General Meeting
Place: Ankara, Turkey
Organizer: CENL - The Conference of European National Librarians

About the Newsletter

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