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.

No. 3. March 2022

Special issue: European Libraries response to the war in Ukraine

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1. Editorial

With a joint Press Release dated 24 February 2022, EBLIDA, NAPLE and Public Libraries 2030 expressed their support to the Ukrainian library association and all libraries are now being mobilised to support Ukrainian refugees.

As in 2015, EBLIDA is now re-opening a webpage for refugees – an action we hoped never to repeat. We do it in collaboration with NAPLE and PL2030.
We urge libraries all over Europe to fight against misinformation about war in Ukraine and to welcome refugees and to provide a warm and safe shelter away from their temporary housing, also providing access to library's collections and services. As far as possible, libraries may help to continue and facilitate the education and literacy of refugees, especially that of children and young people, and organise courses and trainings to help acquire first elements of the language of the host countries. We also urge libraries to connect with national and local organisations that provide assistance (Sanctuary cities, Sant'Egidio community, etc.).

As a library hub, EBLIDA has opened a webpage for exchange and we invite all library initiatives of intending to monitor information on the war in Ukraine and of initiatives for refugees to link with us in order to share ideas, good practices or ask questions.

Ton van Vlimmeren, President EBLIDA
Stuart Hamilton, Chair NAPLE
Marie Østergaard, Chair, Public Libraries 2030

24 February 2022

2. The Ukrainian request for help

Address of the Presidium of the Ukrainian Library Association to the Library Community of Ukraine dated February 23, 2022

Dear library community!

We are at the forefront of the fight against fakes, misinformation and cyber threats!

Libraries are educational spaces where everyone has the opportunity to gain new knowledge and skills. Librarians teach and help hundreds of thousands of people every day to master the skills to live in the digital world and have a safe cyberspace for themselves and their loved ones. Every day, librarians work so that people, communities and society can distinguish true information from lies and resist information and psychological manipulation.

Libraries are places of security and freedom, where everyone who needs it will have free access to information, the Internet, psychological support, and help in solving their life difficulties.

Libraries are places of power where people find themselves. In daily communication, librarians do their best to make everyone who comes to the library love books, love their language, love Ukraine.

Libraries are a strategic weapon of the state in the hybrid war waged by the Russian Federation for many years!

The relevance of libraries in overcoming the challenges facing people, the community and society in Ukraine has become apparent during the last eight years of Russian aggression.
We support each other! We know that together we will overcome everything!

We support our friends and colleagues from Luhansk and Donetsk regions!

We believe in and support the Armed Forces of Ukraine!

Keep calm! We love our readers, libraries and Ukraine!

We do where we are, everything we have to do!

Glory to Ukraine!

From the Presidium of the Ukrainian Library Association

The official document is here

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3. The EBLIDA – NAPLE – PL2030 European Declaration
(24 February 2022)

In response to the appeal launched by the Ukrainian Library Association, EBLIDA, NAPLE and Public Libraries 2030 urge libraries all over Europe to mobilise in favour of accurate information to be spread on the conflict as a means to support democracy and freedom of expression.

Libraries are also urged to support any Ukrainian refugees, in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organisations (for instance, Sanctuary cities, Sant’Egidio community, etc.). We should be ready to find practical solutions and be prepared to provide Ukrainians with assistance and services as needed.

Translations:

- Призив на ББИА (BG)
- Starptautiskās bibliotēku organizācijas nosoda Krievijas karu Ukrainā (LV)

Notes to editor:

EBLIDA is the community and networking hub for all library, information and documentation associations and institutions in Europe striving towards a sustainable, democratic and equitable society.
strategies for public library policies.

PL2030 is a Brussels-based organisation working for over seven years to build connections between innovative library practice and build recognition of the contribution of the library sector in EU institutions.

For more information:

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**NAPLE**: Stuart Hamilton, President of the board of NAPLE: shamilton at lgma.ie

**PL2030**: Ilona Kish, Director of Public Libraries 2030: ilona at pl2030.eu

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4. The Council of Europe suspension of Russia from its rights of representation

In line with the Statute of the Council of Europe, the Committee of Ministers has today decided to suspend the Russian Federation from its rights of representation in the Committee of Ministers and in the Parliamentary Assembly with immediate effect as a result of the Russian Federation’s armed attack on Ukraine.

The decision adopted on 25 February means that the Russian Federation remains a member of the Council of Europe and party to the relevant Council of Europe conventions, including the European Convention on Human Rights.

The judge elected to the European Court of Human Rights in respect of the Russian Federation also remains a member of the Court, and applications introduced against the Russian Federation will continue to be examined and decided by the Court. Suspension is not a final measure but a temporary one, leaving channels of communication open.

The decision was taken following an exchange of views with the Parliamentary Assembly in the Joint Committee.

*Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 25 February 2022*

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5. Statements/Appeals made by library associations concerning the war in Ukraine

Europe is a continent that is diverse in cultures, languages and religions, but they are all united when fundamental rights and European values are under attack.
Statements and Declarations made by EBLIDA Member Associations and Institutions as well as other statements coming to the EBLIDA desk.

(In chronological order - when available)

**ICOMOS Statement on Ukraine (Paris, 24 February 2022)** (Int. Organization)
*ICOMOS deplores the lives already lost and threatened by the deterioration of the situation in the Ukrainian territory. ICOMOS also fears that serious threats weigh on Ukraine’s heritage.*

**Solidarietà al popolo ucraino dall’AIB** (IT)
*Assistiamo con sgomento e preoccupazione al precipitare degli eventi in Ucraina. Come bibliotecari osserviamo quanto sia ancora lontanissima la prospettiva di una pace perpetua tra i popoli che è alla base della Dichiarazione dei diritti umani del 1948.*

**Statement by the Blue Shield on the situation in Ukraine** (Int. Organization)
*The Blue Shield is extremely concerned regarding the escalating conflict in Ukraine. We ask all those involved to obey all relevant international law and to protect the civilian population wherever and whenever possible.*

**Ukraine Crisis: Statement of the Four Bars - Law Library** (IE)
*Ukraine Invasion: The Bar of Ireland joins with colleagues in condemnation #StandWithUkraine, Romanian Library Association*

**#StandWithUkraine, Romanian Library Association** (RO)
*We, the Romanian Library Association, stand with you in this troubling conflict you are facing, stating that we do not encourage this kind of aggression for resolving any kind of problem that can be solved in a peaceful way.*

**Statement of the Library Association of Latvia to Ukrainian librarians and citizens** (LV, LT, EE)
*The Library Association of Latvia and all Latvian librarians express our strongest support to you in your work and to each of you personally. [Lithuanian and Estonian Librarians Associations and Lithuanian and Estonian librarians have also joined the Statement of the Library Association of Latvia.]*

**Asociația Națională a Bibliotecarilor și Bibliotecilor Publice din România (ANBPR) / The National Association of Public Librarians and Libraries in Romania** (RO)
*Urmărim cu mare îngrijorare evenimentele tragice prin care trece poporul ucrainean în aceste zile.*

**The Appeal of the Ukrainian Library Association to IFLA President and Governing Board and IFLA Members** (UA)
*We therefore appeal to IFLA President and Governing Board to support Ukrainian librarians and exclude the Russian Library Association and all institutions of the aggressor country Russia from IFLA members, and their representatives from all IFLA governing bodies.*

**Baltic national libraries want Russia suspended from international library associations / Baltimaade rahvusraamatukogud kutsuvad peatama Venemaa liikmelisust erialüüdenduestes** (EE, LV, LT)
*The national library communities of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have made a public appeal to the world’s library community to unequivocally condemn the Russian aggression*
Call of Bulgarian Library and Information Association (BLIA) / Призив на Българска библиотечно-информационнa асоциация (ББИА) (BG)
Ние се обявяваме против тази ужасна война и искаме незабавното ѝ спиране!

Czech Librarians Are With You, Association of Library and Information Professionals of the Czech Republic (CZ)
On behalf of the Association of Library and Information Professionals of the Czech Republic, representing over 1,800 libraries and librarians from our country, we wish to let you know that you are not alone. We stand by you in your fight for freedom and regaining your nation’s true independence.

CILIP Statement of solidarity with librarians, archivists and information professionals in Ukraine (UK)
We the undersigned, representing the UK community of librarians, archivists and information professionals, wish to extend our solidarity and support for our professional colleagues in Ukraine during the current military action by Russia.

Public Appeal to the World Community of Libraries Regarding the Solidarity Initiatives with the People of Ukraine | National Library of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania (LV, EE, LT)
The communities of the national libraries of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia resolutely condemn the attacks on Ukraine and stand in solidarity with the aspiration of the Ukrainian people to live in a free, independent and democratic Ukrainian state, guided by European fundamental values.

International Publishers Association (IPA) Response to Ukrainian Publishers and Booksellers Association (International Org.)
We condemn this criminal Russian invasion in the strongest possible terms.

Society of College, National and University Libraries (SCONUL) Statement of Solidarity With Library Professionals in Ukraine (UK)
We the undersigned, representing the UK community of librarians, archivists and information professionals, wish to extend our solidarity and support for our professional colleagues in Ukraine during the current military action by Russia.

Dutch libraries concerned about the consequences of the Russian invasion of Ukraine / Nederlandse bibliotheken bezorgd over gevolgen Russische inval Oekraïne - VOB, SPN, FOBID and KB (NL)
We zijn geschokt door de Russische inval in Oekraïne en hoe de situatie zich ontwikkelt. We leven mee met iedereen die de gevolgen ervaart van deze oorlog

Solidarité avec l’Ukraine, soutenons la démocratie et la liberté d’expression, Association des bibliothécaires de France (ABF) (FR)
Nous assistons tous et toutes avec inquiétude et sentiment d’impuissance à l’invasion militaire en Ukraine. À notre niveau nous ne pouvons qu’exprimer notre solidarité aux collègues et à l’ensemble des Ukrainiens. Nous soutenons et relayons le communiqué de la fédération européenne des associations de bibliothécaires.

The Polish Librarians’ Association’s (SBP) appeal to help Ukraine / Apel SBP w sprawie pomocy dla Ukrainy (PL)
Stowarzyszenie Bibliotekarzy Polskich solidaryzuje się z narodem ukraińskim w walce z agresorem, który niszczy kraj, dorobek pokoleń, zabija niewinnych ludzi.

The Wiener Holocaust Library’s Statement on Ukraine (UK)
The Wiener Holocaust Library condemns both Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and the
Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) statement on Ukraine (International Org.)
We condemn the current military aggression against Ukraine, which threatens this heritage as surely as it threatens Ukrainian lives and communities.

Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche – Association of European Research Libraries (LIBER) Statement on Ukraine (International Org.)
We express our solidarity with the Ukrainian people, and colleagues of the Ukrainian scientific, academic and student communities.

Solidarity with Ukraine, National Library of Poland (PL)
The National Library of Poland supports the appeal made by the national libraries of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia regarding solidarity initiatives with the people of Ukraine.

Statement of solidarity with Ukraine | Nordic National Libraries (FI, SE, DK, NO, IS)
The Nordic National Libraries want to express our solidarity with our friends and colleagues in the besieged Ukraine. Our hearts and minds are with you and the Ukrainian people.

Latvijas kulturas mantojuma organizāciju aicinājums izteikt atbalstu Ukrainai, Latvian Museums Association (LMA) (LV)
Latvijas kultūras mantojuma organizāciju aicinājums izteikt atbalstu Ukrainai

Solidarnost s Ukrajinom! Croatian Library Association (HR)
Hrvatsko knjižničarsko društvo izražava solidarnost s Ukrajinom i ukrajinskim narodom te osuđuje vojnu agresiju Ruske Federacije na neovisnost ove europske države.

Response of the Italian Library Association to the National Libraries of Baltic states (IT)
Sentiamo di dover esprimere il nostro totale dissenso rispetto ad alcuni appelli circolati ultimamente, come quello delle Biblioteche nazionali dei paesi baltici (Estonia, Lettonia, Lituania) e dell’Associazione delle biblioteche ucraine a espellere l’Associazione dei bibliotecari russi da IFLA, o quello dell’Ukrainian Book Institute a boicottare i libri in lingua russa.

Solidarity with Ukraine / Solidarnost z Ukrajino, Slovenian Library Association (SI)
Solidarnost z Ukrajino!

Plea to the European governments: support Ukrainian students and academics! Erasmus Student Network (ESN) (International Org.)
The current circumstances call for solidarity with and immediate support for the Ukrainian Students and the academic community

Federation of European Publishers (FEP) Condemns Russia’s Attack on Ukraine (International Org.)
The Federation of European Publishers condemns Russia’s attack on Ukraine.

In response to the call, Rodina Library - Stara Zagora / В отговор на призива! Библиотека Родина - Стара Загора (BG)
В отговор на призива!

Libraries helping Ukraine, COSEELIS – Council for Slavonic and East European Library and Information Services (International Org.)
Putin’s invasion of Ukraine has shaken us all to the core. The COSEELIS Committee confirms our support for Ukraine and Ukrainians, those in the country and the diaspora and those who are currently seeking refuge elsewhere.
The Library Association of Ireland (LAI) condemns the Russian invasion of Ukraine and we extend our deepest sympathy at this most difficult time to all of our Ukrainian colleagues.

Nordic library associations condemn war in Ukraine (FI, SE, DK, NO, IS)
The Nordic library associations resolutely condemn the war Russia has started against Ukraine and stand in solidarity with the aspiration of the Ukrainian people to live in a free, independent and democratic state of Ukraine, guided by European fundamental values.

EADH statement on Ukraine invasion EADH statement on Ukraine invasion (International Org.)
The European Association for Digital Humanities wishes to express its full solidarity with the Ukrainian nation. We staunchly support the sovereignty of Ukraine.

Standing with Ukraine / Potpora Ukrajini | National and University Library in Zagreb (HR)
Potpora Ukrajini!

Joining EBLIDA!

Join EBLIDA

We are a not-for-profit organisation and we provide our products and our resources free of charge to the community of the European Librarians.

We rely on membership fees to support our work for them, therefore your Membership Matters.

Please fill out the Membership Enquiry Form or simply contact the Secretariat by email: eblida@eblida.org

Events and Dates

8-10 March
Open Science Conference 2022
Place: Online Event
Organizer: Leibniz Research Alliance Open Science

10-11 March
Convegno Stelline
Place: Milano, Italy
Organizer: Associazione Biblioteche oggi

14-16 March
RLUK22: Mapping the new open for research libraries
21-24 March
59th Bologna Children’s Book Fair (BCBF)
Place: Bologna, Italy
Organizer: Organizing Committee

28-30 March
UKSG 45th Annual Conference 2022
Place: Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom & Online (hybrid event)
Organizer: UKSG (formerly UK Serials Group)

31 March
Priorities for tackling fake news and improving media literacy
Place: Online Event
Organizer: Westminster Media Forum

About the Newsletter

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