



## **EBLIDA Annual Report 2007-2008**

The annual report 2007-2008 has been approved by the EBLIDA Council.

### **Lobby Issues**

With the launch of the European Commission's i2010 initiative and the establishment of the European Digital Library / Europeana it became clear that the paradigm shift from analogue to digital content and dissemination within the cultural sector had been placed on the European Union agenda, incorporating a number of issues of relevance to the library and information sector. In order to be able to influence policy, encourage debate among the EBLIDA membership and encourage stakeholder participation EBLIDA has launched 4 new expert groups, along with the existing expert group on information law, to advise the EBLIDA Executive Committee, to involve experts from all over Europe in developing policy and to collect information of relevance to the library sector in Europe. In line with the overall strategy of EBLIDA the expert groups will advise on:

- § Information law (Chair: Toby Bainton)
- § Digitisation and online access (Chair: Bas Savenije)
- § Culture and information society (Chair: Barbara Lison)
- § Education and lifelong learning (Chair: Pernille Drost)
- § Professional Library and Information Science education (Chair: Jill Martin)

Together these five areas make up the central elements of the European agenda on libraries and will provide EBLIDA with a broad platform to lobby the European institutions on these issues. EBLIDA has a proven track record on influencing policy on issues of copyright and IPR and this should be also be the perspective of all the expert groups.

### **EBLIDA Expert Groups**

#### **Expert Group on Information Law (EGIL)**

The expert group has held two meetings since the last Annual Council Meeting in 2007 – in Vienna in November 2007 and in Paris April 2008. Over the last year focus has continued to be on the issues of orphan works and solutions for projects of mass digitization. EBLIDA has been represented on the European Commission's High Level Expert Group – Subgroup on copyright and in sector specific working groups concerned with drafting guidelines for diligent searches. For the European Digital Library to deliver its ambitious ideas this is a major challenge, where all parties are still working to find workable and viable solutions. Contentious issues like the use of technical protection measures (TPMs), the relationship between copyright and user rights as defined by legislation and free trade agreements with severe copyright implications remain on the agenda.

Radical changes to European copyright legislation seem unlikely in the near future, but EBLIDA has continued to draw attention to the need for change in certain areas. EBLIDA



has reacted to a recent announcement from the European Commission concerning a term extension for performance rights (from 50 to 95 years).

Many members of the EGIL also attended the copyright symposium in Amsterdam in April 2008 organised by the Dutch Publishers Association (Nederlands Uitgeversverbond, NUV) the Dutch Writers Guild (Vereniging van Letterkundigen, VvL), the Netherlands Library Forum (FOBID), and the Dutch Foundation for Copyright Promotion (Stichting Auteursrechtmanifestaties, STAM).

### **Joint Expert Group on Digitisation and online access (JEGDO)**

This expert group has been established in cooperation with the European Research Library Association, LIBER, and has held two meetings in London in January 2008 and in Copenhagen in April 2008. JEGDO will concentrate on many aspects of digitization and access in Europe, but special attention will be placed on Open Access, institutional repositories, web harvesting, the EDL, legal deposit of digital material, new business models and funding and last, but not least, national policies for digitization. LIBER and EBLIDA also co-hosted a workshop on digitization in Europe in 2007 (see EBLIDA conferences and workshops).

### **Expert Group on Culture and information society**

This group held its first meeting in Berlin in April 2008 to define the remit of the group and address the issues that are on the European agenda, including the role of libraries in a multi-ethnic society, free and equitable access to information, the dissemination of culture and libraries as cultural platforms.

### **Expert Group on Education and lifelong learning**

This group will investigate the role of libraries and other cultural institutions in relation to education and lifelong learning – prerequisites for a successful and vibrant European knowledge economy. These issues are at the forefront of the European agenda and it is imperative for the European library sector and its associations to define how and to what extent libraries can help to facilitate education and lifelong learning at all stages of both formal and non-formal learning.

### **Expert Group on Professional LIS education**

In order for libraries to deliver the optimal services at the European level it is essential to develop and maintain a high level of professionalism and qualification within the LIS sector. The harmonization of higher education within the EU and the Bologna process are critical for the development of higher education and this expert group will monitor LIS curriculum activities and support mobility and flexibility within the sector in Europe.

### **EBLIDA Knowledge and information Centre (KIC)**

At its meeting in Tallinn in October 2007 the EBLIDA executive committee decided to investigate the establishment of a knowledge and information centre to collect, edit and disseminate information about the library, information and documentation sector in Europe, covering the strategic areas as defined by the 5 expert groups, but also bringing information



from all the members states of the European Union (e.g. statistical information, legislative information, funding etc). A working group met in Copenhagen in December 2007 to further discuss the framework of the knowledge and information centre and the outline of a preliminary roadmap of activities. Members of this working group also met in Berlin to discuss the feasibility of establishing the knowledge centre as a European funded project and the director also attended a meeting in Brussels in January 2008 regarding information about various funding possibilities under the EU lifelong programmes. The EBLIDA knowledge centre and the 5 expert groups are closely linked as the expertise of the groups is the basis of the professional profile of the KIC.

## **EBLIDA Communication**

The launch of EBLIDA News to replace Hot News from January 2007 has been a success and has cut printing and distribution costs for the organization and at the same time has been a more relevant publication for the EBLIDA membership. In 2007 EBLIDA News was published twice a month, but at its first meeting in 2008 the EBLIDA executive committee decided to change the publication frequency to monthly as this was viewed as a more natural publication schedule for an organization such as EBLIDA.

Development of the website has included the setting up of “closed” working areas for the executive committee and the five expert groups, where meeting agendas, meeting minutes and various documents will be uploaded and saved. This will help the work of the committee and expert groups and provide a useful tool for communication and mean that all documents will be archived centrally and accessible for the EC and members of the expert groups.

A brochure outlining the main areas of focus of EBLIDA has been produced in cooperation with a Danish design company, 4plus4, and will be presented at the EBLIDA Annual Meeting, sent to all our members and a number of other library institutions and organizations in Europe. The brochure gives a brief outline of the EBLIDA strategy in the coming years.

## **EBLIDA Annual Council Meeting**

In May 2007 the EBLIDA annual council meeting took place in Reykjavík at the kind invitation of Upplysing, the Icelandic Library Association. Gerald Leitner from the Austrian Library Association was elected as the new president of EBLIDA for the term 2007-2009. The following were elected to the EBLIDA Executive Committee:

- § Pernille Drost (Denmark)
- § Barbara Lison (Germany)
- § Karin Iko Åström (Sweden)
- § Toby Bainton (United Kingdom)
- § Jill Martin (United Kingdom)
- § Pedro Hípola (Spain)
- § Helena Patricio (Portugal)
- § Bas Savenije (The Netherlands)
- § Carla Sotgiu (Italy)
- § Saara Ihamäki (Finland)



The new Executive Committee elected Barbara Lison as its vice-president and Bas Savenije as treasurer.

As of March 2008 Antonio Jose Pina Falçao replaced Helena Patricio as the representative of the BAD. As of April 2008 Gloria Perez-Salmeron replaced Pedro Hípola as the representative of FESABID.

The Council approved and adopted a new strategy for the period 2007-2010.

## **EBLIDA workshops and conferences**

In 2007 EBLIDA, EUCLID and BAD (the Portuguese Library Association) held a joint conference in Lisbon from the 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> September entitled “Librarian @2010 – Educating for the future” addressing the issue of the interaction between academia and practice within the LIS sector in Europe. The conference attracted some 50 delegates from Europe and included key note speakers from the United Kingdom, Denmark and the USA. A selection of the papers from the conference was chosen for publication in the journal *Education for Information* to be published in 2008.

In October 2007 LIBER and EBLIDA held a joint workshop in Copenhagen looking at digitization policy in Europe and the challenges faced by libraries in the wake of the launch of the European Digital Library project. The workshop attracted over 90 delegates and also representatives from the European Commission. A number of issues were identified as important and these formed the framework for a set of recommendations that LIBER and EBLIDA sent to Commissioner Reding and which will form the basis of a meeting with representatives from the Commission in mid- 2008.

Both events resulted in a financial surplus for the organizations involved.

## **European Projects**

EBLIDA has committed to two new European projects since the last Council Meeting – the COMMUNIA project and the ENTITLE project.

The COMMUNIA Thematic Network aims at becoming a European point of reference for theoretical analysis and strategic policy discussion of existing and emerging issues concerning the public domain in the digital environment - as well as related topics, including, but not limited to, alternative forms of licensing for creative material; open access to scientific publications and research results; management of works whose authors are unknown (i.e. orphan works).

ENTITLE is a multilateral project designed to support and extend the progress made to date by Europe’s public libraries in supporting learning for all age groups and sections of society, by disseminating, consolidating and enhancing the work of key existing networks, projects and initiatives in this area.

It will focus on the contribution to be made through informal learning settings in libraries to lifelong learning, combating digital illiteracy and social exclusion, paying special attention to gains achieved through the applications of ICT.



Both projects are in line with the overall strategy of EBLIDA and will bring useful knowledge and experience to the organisation.

## **Cooperation with other organizations**

EBLIDA continues to prioritize cooperation with other organizations working within the field of libraries and archives. The establishment of a joint expert group and the workshop have strengthened ties with LIBER and the research library community in Europe.

EBLIDA president Gerald Leitner and Director Andrew Cranfield both attended the IFLA World Congress in Durban (with Andrew Cranfield attending the two business meetings of IFLA/CLM) and the NAPLE Assembly in Madrid in 2007 and we hope to work more closely with NAPLE for the advancement of library policy in Europe.

EBLIDA remains a member of the Frankfurt Group, which brings together stakeholders from collecting societies, publishers, libraries and library associations. The Group has campaigned on the issue of VAT because we see the high rate of Value Added Tax on electronic publications as an active hindrance for a more speedy transition from traditional publishing to electronic publishing.

Representatives of EBLIDA met with the board of the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL) in January 2008 to discuss, among other items, the important issue of finding solutions for mass digitization and orphan works.

EBLIDA continues to hold meetings with the Federation of European Publishers (Amsterdam 2007 and Brussels 2008) in attempts to find common ground and mutual understanding.

In November 2007 Andrew Cranfield attended a seminar in Bergen arranged by the Norwegian Library Association, the Norwegian Library Union and the Norwegian Research Library Association and talked about competencies for librarians in the future.

In December 2007 Andrew Cranfield attended 7th Round Table on Free Access to Information, held by the Croatian Library Association and the University of Zagreb and gave a paper entitled "Copyright, EBLIDA and the challenges ahead".

