



EBLIDA Annual Report 2008-2009

(Approved by Council, Vienna 2009)

The Annual Report covers the period from 1st May 2008 to 30th April 2009

Lobby Issues

In line with the overall strategy of the organisation, EBLIDA defined five key areas for the organization to focus on during 2008-2009:

- Information law
- Digitisation and online access
- Culture and information society
- Professional library and information science education
- Education and lifelong learning

Information Law

The Expert Group on Information Law has held two meetings during this period – in Venice in October 2008 and in Helsinki February 2009. At both meetings the EGIL hosted seminars for interested colleagues with approx. 40 participants in Venice and 70 participants in Helsinki. Matters on the agenda for the seminars included EBLIDA's response to the European Commission's Green Paper on the Knowledge Economy, the SUBITO case in Germany (regarding inter-library-loans), Public Lending Right and more general copyright developments in Europe.

In October 2008 EBLIDA/EGIL submitted its response to the European Commission's Green Paper on Copyright in the Knowledge Economy. The response of EBLIDA was guided by two principles. Firstly our belief in the fundamental rights of expression and to receive information and secondly to insure the effective functioning of the internal market. EBLIDA believes that there are a series of fundamental problems with the exceptions as outlined in the Copyright Directive of 2001. Firstly that the list of exceptions is exhaustive, secondly the exceptions as listed in the directive can be, more less, neutralized by the use of technical protection measures and thirdly that there is no safeguard against contracts eliminating the benefit of the exceptions. EBLIDA is of the opinion that it cannot be left only to the market to ensure access to library content and that the legislator must ensure the balance between the interests of right holders on the one side and the wider societal interests of research, science and education on the other side.

To follow up on our response to the Green Paper an EBLIDA delegation met with representatives of the European Commission's Copyright Unit in Brussels to discuss a number of issues that we had raised and the need to provide evidence and practical examples of how libraries and educational institutions are working with digital media in new learning environments.



In June 2008 EBLIDA was a co-signatory to the “Memorandum of Understanding on Diligent Search Guidelines for Orphan Works”. This document was the result of discussions in the High Level Expert Group on Digital Libraries – subgroup on copyright, established by the European Commission and with EBLIDA representation. The problem of orphan works constitutes a serious challenge in the goal to make Europe’s cultural heritage available in digital format for wide usage and it is necessary to find different solutions which are compatible at a European level.

EBLIDA has also opposed term extension for sound recordings, which would nearly double the term from 50 to 95 years. In June 2008 EBLIDA sent letters to six European Commissioners outlining our concern at this proposal and in January 2009, in cooperation with other NGOs and consumer organizations, we drafted an open letter which was distributed to interested parties. EBLIDA does not believe that copyright extension for sounds recordings will benefit those performers and session musicians that it is intended to and that most of the revenue will instead go to the recording industry.

Digitisation and online access

After the 1st LIBER-EBLIDA workshop on the digitization of library material in Europe, held in Copenhagen October 2007, a set of recommendations were drafted and forwarded to the European Commission. In June 2008 an LIBER-EBLIDA delegation met with representatives from the Information Society and Media DG to discuss these recommendations and how best to proceed.

The joint LIBER-EBLIDA expert group on digitization and online access (JEGDO) has held one meeting during this period in London in October 2008 and continued to work on a check list / guidelines for digitization activities and formulating policy on open access. The JEGDO also worked on a mission statement for the group to be presented at the Council Meeting in Vienna.

In October 2008 work also began on the planning of the 2nd LIBER-EBLIDA workshop on the digitization of library material in Europe to be held at the Royal Library in The Netherlands in October 2009.

Culture and Information Society

The expert group on culture and information society held its second meeting in Milan in September 2008, continuing to outline those issues that are of relevance to the European library sector within the fields of culture and information society and to collect data pertaining to these.

Professional library and information education

The expert group on professional library education held meetings in London, October 2008 and in Copenhagen, February 2009. The group discussed the objective of ensuring synergy between library practice and LIS research, how best to follow broader educational developments in Europe, including the Bologna process and issues of mobility and flexibility within the profession. The group will cooperate with EUCLID on issues of curriculum delivery.

Education and lifelong learning

Work in this area of policy has been deferred to 2009-2010

Conferences and meetings

Annual Council Meeting and Conference

On May 8th 2008 the EBLIDA Annual Council Meeting was held in the library of the Peace Palace in The Hague where approx. 50 EBLIDA delegates attended. The chairs of the expert groups reported on activities over the previous 12 months and after the presentations break out groups were established to discuss the focus areas and report back to Council. Council approved the work plan for the coming year and the financial statement for 2007.

On May 9th 2008 EBLIDA, the VOB (Dutch Library Association) and FOBID (the Dutch Library Association) co-hosted a joint conference at the new public library in Amsterdam entitled "Advocacy and Libraries". The first part of the programme took a view at how libraries are changing in modern society with EBLIDA President, Gerald Leitner, addressing the issue of a library policy for Europe. Presentations from Rolf Hapel, Bernt Hugenholtz and Bert Mulder looked at how advocacy is about creating visibility, how innovation sets the agenda for the future and how the legislative framework for copyright affects service provision for libraries. The second part of the day looked at advocacy from a historical perspective with presentations from Alistair Black (who chaired this part of the conference), Paul Schneiders, Iikka Makinen, Laura Skouvig, Magnus Torstensson and Peter Vodosek and five primary roles for public libraries in the 21st century – information, education, culture, reading and forum.

EBLIDA Executive Meetings

The EBLIDA EC has held two meetings since the Council meeting in The Hague. In November 2008 the EC was invited by the Greek Library Association to Athens and in March 2009 the EC visited Istanbul. At both meetings there was the opportunity to meet people from the respective organizations, to give short presentations about EBLIDA and the work of the expert groups and to hear about the library structure in Greece and Turkey. These meetings resulted in Greek and Turkish library associations joining EBLIDA as members.

Cooperation with other organizations

IFLA

IFLA, EBLIDA and eIFL held a joint conference at the Scientific Library of the Academy of Economic Studies in Chisinau, Moldova from the 13th to the 14th November 2008. Entitled "Copyright: Enabling Access or creating Roadblocks for Libraries?" brought together an international panel of speakers from Europe, the USA and Chile and looked at the issues from both a European and more global perspective. The participants were mainly from Moldova and the region and a central theme of the conference was to underline the vital importance of lobbying at state level in order to influence the decision making and legislative processes.

The conference was funded with support from the Swedish Development Agency.

NAPLE



The President and Director met with representatives of the NAPLE Board at the IFLA WC in Quebec in August 2008 to discuss future cooperation and the concept for a joint conference in Vienna

The EBLIDA Director and President attended the annual NAPLE conference from the 9th – 11th October 2008 and the director moderated a session on “EBLIDA - NAPLE forum – EUCLID cooperation for the Advancement of libraries in Europe”

NAPLE and EBLIDA have worked closely together on the organization and programme planning for the joint conference “A Library Policy for Europe” to be held on the 8th of May 2009 in Vienna.

Federation of European Publishers (FEP)

Representatives from EBLIDA/EGIL have held two meetings with the FEP in December 2008 in Brussels and in March 2009 in Paris. Issues discussed have included GOOGLE library digitization projects, the Green Paper on Copyright in the Knowledge Economy, solutions for orphan works and the Arrows project.

LIBER

Cooperation between LIBER and EBLIDA continues via the Joint Expert Group on Digitisation and Online Access and with plans to host a conference at the Royal Library in The Hague in October 2009. The Group is in the process of preparing a generic check-list for digitisation policies and projects.

Membership Campaign

In 2008 EBLIDA launched a membership campaign aimed at securing membership representation in all the countries of the European Union and also aiming at representation from library associations from European states that are not members of the European Union. The offer of membership to these associations was free membership for 2009 and a membership fee of 200 EURO for 2010, 2011 and 2012. The campaign has resulted in the following associations joining EBLIDA – Association of Greek Librarians and Information Scientists, Association of Library and Information Professionals of the Czech Republic, Association Luxembourgeoise des Bibliothecaires, Archivistes & Documentalistes, Cyprus Association of Librarians & Information Scientists, the National Centre for Information and Documentation (Bulgaria), the Union of Associations of Slovene Librarians, the Association of Libraries of Czech Universities and the Romanian Library Association.

EBLIDA also welcomed the Library Association of Serbia as a new associate member in 2009.

EBLIDA Knowledge and Information Centre

Over the course of the last year the establishment of the EBLIDA Knowledge and Information Centre has been discussed within the framework of the EBLIDA Expert Groups and during the Executive Committee Meetings. It is quite clear that there is a need to collect and disseminate data regarding the overall structure of the library sector in Europe and to provide evidence based information for advocacy and lobbying efforts in Europe and in our contact with the



European institutions. During the last 12 months initial plans for the knowledge centre have been formulated and discussed with other European partners and a preliminary structure agreed upon. The secretariat has investigated various EU funding possibilities under various programmes and will submit a project proposal under one of the lifelong learning programmes at the beginning of 2010 in cooperation with a number of national partners.

Communication

The publication frequency of “EBLIDA News” was changed from fortnightly to once a month after the EC had reviewed and evaluated the newsletter which was launched in its new format in 2007. At the Council Meeting and Conference in The Hague/Amsterdam a new EBLIDA brochure briefly outlining the organisation’s primary focus areas was presented to members.

European Projects

EBLIDA is involved in two European projects – 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). EBLIDA representatives attended meetings in Amsterdam 2008 and Zurich 2009.

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

The director attended the ENTITLE meeting in Ljubljana, November 2008.

Other meetings

On June 4th 2008 EBLIDA President Gerald Leitner attended and spoke at the German Library Congress in Mannheim

On October 28th 2008 the President visited Belgrade to meet with representatives from the Serbian library community and he also spoke about the aims and goals of EBLIDA to an invited audience.

On November 20th 2008 the President attended and gave a presentation at the 20th Anniversary of the Spanish Library Association (FESABID) in Madrid

Director Andrew Cranfield attended and spoke at the 50th anniversary of the Central Library of the European Commission in Brussels on December 2nd 2008.

On March 12th 2009 the President spoke at the AIB (Italian Library Associations) annual meeting in Milan.

Secretariat

At the end of January 2009 Carmen Morlon resigned her position as EU Information Officer at EBLIDA.

On March 1st 2009 Joanne Yeomans joined EBLIDA and will take over as EBLIDA director from May 1st 2009 replacing Andrew Cranfield who finishes his term as director after three years.

On March 16th 2009 Claudia Forero took up the position of office manager at EBLIDA.