

Invitation to joint conference on "Copyright: Enabling Access or Creating Roadblocks for Libraries?"

The International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA) and Electronic Information for Libraries (eIFL), will hold a joint conference on copyright and libraries on the 13th and 14th of November in Chisinau, Moldova.

The inclusion of copyright as a significant policy area of the European Union and developments at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) over the last two decades have shown the dynamics of intellectual property rights and how regional and international developments influence national legislation all over the world. IFLA, EBLIDA and eIFL believe that an understanding of these issues is of great importance to libraries and librarians if we are to fulfil our mission of providing free and equal access to knowledge and information.

The aim of the conference is to give participants a broad understanding and awareness of current issues in the field of copyright and libraries, especially in the digital environment.

With a truly international panel of speakers, we will focus on regional, European and international copyright challenges for libraries, what lessons can be learnt from other countries and how best to ensure that influence the decision makers have a sound understanding of the role of copyright law in enabling libraries to provide access to knowledge.

The conference will begin with a pre-dinner keynote speech, followed by discussion, by Fred von Lohmann, Senior Staff Attorney at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, the US-based digital civil liberties organisation. The second day features senior speakers with regional and international experience on copyright in the EU and transition countries, exceptions and limitations for libraries, and challenges and opportunities for librarians in transition countries.

There will be opportunities for questions and discussion. The conference languages are Moldovan, English and Russian.

EBLIDA members are kindly invited to attend the conference, free of charge. Participants are expected to cover their own travel expenses and accommodation. The deadline for registration is 1st of November 2008. Please book early as places are limited!

For registration and a full conference programme, please visit <http://www.eblida.org/index.php?page=joint-ifla-eblida-eifl-conference> or contact the EBLIDA Secretariat. This is a unique opportunity to learn about an area of growing importance to the work of libraries.

The conference organizers hope that you will be able to participate in this exciting conference and look forward to seeing you in Moldova!

We are very grateful to the Swedish Development Agency for their support.

COMMUNIA Workshop "Marking the public domain: relinquishment & certification"

EBLIDA will be represented at the third COMMUNIA Workshop, to be held on the 20th and 21st of October in Amsterdam. This workshop will focus on the public domain and consists of a plenary session on Monday morning, working groups on Monday afternoon and another plenary session on Tuesday morning.

The Monday morning session will be dedicated to the public domain, perspectives and tools. The afternoon is open for discussion of the two main issues addressed by the workshop, which aims at examining the possibilities of relinquishing rights in European jurisdictions. Other issues to be dealt with are the *non-waiverable moral rights of authors* and the role of copyright registries. The Tuesday morning session will be devoted to projects that have built business models or organisational practices for public domain material e.g. the Google Books project, Europeana.

Further information can be found at <http://www.communia-project.eu/>.

The EBLIDA Expert Group on Information Law (EGIL) meets in Venice

By Andrew Cranfield, EBLIDA Director

The EGIL convened in Venice on 2nd and 3rd of October with a full agenda and a number of important issues to discuss. Most pressing was the discussion about EBLIDA's response to the recently published *Green Paper on Copyright in the Knowledge Economy*, which asks a number of questions with relevance for the European library sector, including the problem of exceptions and limitations contra license and contractual agreements. As long as contracts can override exceptions provided by copyright EBLIDA believes that libraries and users have little protection against publisher's contracts which limit the use of the product for e.g. research and private use. As most EBLIDA

members will know the list of exceptions in the INFO SOC directive is both voluntary (i.e. the member states can pick and choose among the exceptions in their national legislation) and exhaustive (i.e. the member states can introduce no new exceptions), even if a new exception would pass the famous three-step-test. This has meant that most countries have a more restrictive list of exceptions and limitations than the INFO SOC directive allows and that no new exceptions can be introduced even if they are for the benefit of society at large. EBLIDA would like to see all the exceptions of the INFO SOC directive be made mandatory and also that the directive allows for new exceptions.

Also on the agenda was the Commission proposal for the *extension of term of protection for sound recordings from 50 to 95 years*. EBLIDA recognises that the consequences for libraries may not be dramatic, but as a matter of principle the proposed term extension is worrying, not least because it goes against the recommendations of the report from the Institute for Information Law (IViR), which the European Commission commissioned the institute to do. EBLIDA is against term extension as we do not believe this will have a positive influence for society at large and that the evidence for the proposal is both insufficient and unconvincing.

The EGIL group also discussed a number of briefing papers for the Knowledge and Information Centre on issues such as PLR (public lending right), data protection and limitations and exceptions to copyright which we will publish on the EBLIDA website once these are finalised.

On Friday the 3rd October the EGIL held a short seminar for our Italian colleagues where various members of the group spoke about EBLIDA in general, current copyright issues in the EU and the response to the Green Paper on Copyright in the Knowledge Economy. The seminar also included presentations from Ferdinando Tozzi, Giuliana De Francesco and Rosa Maiello.

Also a big thank you to Maria Carla Sotgiu Cavagnis, former EBLIDA EC representative, for helping us to organise this meeting.

The EBLIDA Expert Group on Culture and Information Society (EGCIS) meets in Milan *By Barbara Lison, EBLIDA Vice-President and EGCIS Chair*

The EBLIDA Expert Group on Culture and Information Society (EGCIS) has been established in order to advise the EBLIDA Executive Committee on issues of culture and information society as they are perceived on the European Union agenda. The expert group will also be responsible for briefing on relevant issues and the drafting of any relevant position papers.

At present the group consists of seven members: Rubina Afzal (Denmark), Karin Åström Iko (Sweden), Tuula Haavisto (Finland), Hella Klauser (Germany), Marian Koren (Netherlands), Barbara Lison (Germany), Aldo Pirola (Italy) and Andrew Cranfield (EBLIDA). The chair of the group is Barbara Lison; Hella Klauser has been appointed as the information officer and Andrew Cranfield acts as

secretary for the group.

Over the course of the first two meetings, the group has discussed the focus of their future work, drafted a mission statement and evaluated the results of the recommendations presented by the discussion group at the Council meeting in The Hague last May. A working plan has been drawn up and some recommendations for possible immediate EBLIDA actions have been formulated. These will be presented to the executive committee at its next meeting in Athens on 2 November.

A big thank you to my colleagues in the group and especially to Aldo Pirola, our host on 29 September in Milan.

The EBLIDA Expert Group on Information and Library Education (ILEG) meets in London *By Andrew Cranfield, EBLIDA Director*

This expert group consisting of Jill Martin (United Kingdom), Annamaria Tammaro (Italy), Carl-Gustav Johanssen (Denmark), Inge Simon (Germany), Jurgita Rudzioniene (Lithuania), Pedro Hípola and Marion Huckle (United Kingdom) met in London on the 9th of September to discuss issues relating to professional LIS education. The background for the work of this group was the work of the professional education group (PEG) which met during the period 2005-2007 to investigate whether the library profession was, as such, regulated in Europe. To use a rather unscientific term the group concluded that while there was "semi-regulation" in some countries (e.g. the United Kingdom with the concept of chartered librarians), the title of librarian is not protected and hindrances for working within the profession did not take on this form.

ILEG will investigate and report on how the *Bologna process* effects the profession and what the *European Qualifications Framework* (EQF) will mean for librarianship and associated educations in Europe. It is important for the library associations that EBLIDA is aware of what is happening within the educational framework in Europe, though the group recognises that most associations do not have the resources or mandate to work with the issue of educational accreditation.

The group will draft position papers and reflections on LIS education in Europe, the Bologna process, EQF, the European funded ENGARD project (a qualifications passport for engineers, but which could be interesting as a template for other professions) and the CERTIDoc project concerning certification of competencies as important contributions to the establishment of the EBLIDA Knowledge and Information Centre.

With mobility and flexibility so high on the European agenda it is vital that EBLIDA understands the issues and can work to promote a transparent map of LIS education in Europe.

The ILEG will meet again in Portugal in January 2009 in conjunction with the BOBCATSSS conference, where we will take the opportunity to talk to partners in EUCLID, who are naturally interested in these issues as well.