

**EBLIDA Annual Council Meeting and International Conference—“A Library Policy for Europe”  
Vienna, 7-9 May 2009**

Dear Colleagues

On behalf of EBLIDA, NAPLE (National Authorities on Public Libraries in Europe) and the Büchereiverband Österreichs (Austrian Library Association) it is a great pleasure for me to invite you to our Annual Conference in Vienna on Friday 8 May 2009. The theme and title of our conference will be “A library policy for Europe” investigating what can be achieved and accomplished for libraries and other information providers at the European level if we are to ensure a high level of contribution from this sector to economic and human development in Europe.

I am convinced that the time has come to discuss a library strategy for Europe and we hope that this conference will be a starting point for these discussions and will bring together stakeholders from the whole of Europe. We need the commitment and energy from all types of libraries to move the agenda forward.

This conference also brings about a new cooperation with our partners from NAPLE, underlining the need for collaboration and coordination in the library and information sector to work towards common goals.

The involvement of a national library association in the annual conference continues the concept from 2008, where we hosted a highly successful conference in Amsterdam in association with the Dutch Library Association and the Dutch Library Umbrella. I believe this is an important initiative in order to engage with our national partners in the work of EBLIDA and a move towards more engagement and dialogue.

I hope that many members of the three organizations will have the opportunity to join us in Vienna, but also that other European organizations and stakeholders will exploit this occasion to attend the conference and discuss with us how to promote the role of libraries in Europe. The day after the conference on the Saturday there will be the opportunity to visit some libraries and vineyards outside of Vienna. On Thursday 7 May EBLIDA will hold its Annual Council Meeting and we hope that many EBLIDA members will be able to attend the meeting, not least because we have elections to the Executive Committee this year.

For you as a policy maker I believe that this conference

will offer you the opportunity to influence and take part in this vital discussion and I hope that you will help spread the news of this conference among your membership and with colleagues in your country.

Full details of both the EBLIDA/NAPLE/BVO conference and of the Council meeting will be posted on the EBLIDA website in January.

I look forward to welcoming you to Vienna.

*Gerald Leitner, EBLIDA President*

### **Seasons Greetings**

On behalf of EBLIDA I would like to wish all our members and sponsors a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

In 2008 we held our Annual Council meeting in The Hague and a one day conference in Amsterdam in association with the Dutch Library Association and the Dutch Library Umbrella marking a new type of cooperation with national library associations. In our view this was a success and a format that we plan to repeat in Vienna next year, hosting a conference in cooperation with NAPLE and the Austrian Library Association.

In November we hosted a joint conference with IFLA and eIFL in Moldova entitled “Copyright: Enabling Access or Creating - Roadblocks for Libraries?” with a panel of international speakers, bringing European and international experiences and perspectives to the debate. This year has also seen the continuation of the task of establishing expert groups in the key strategic areas of information law, digitization and online access, education and lifelong learning, culture and information society and professional LIS education. Most of these groups have met during 2008 and will continue their work in 2009.

In November the EGIL (Expert group on Information Law) submitted its response to the European Commission’s Green Paper on Copyright in the Knowledge Economy” and at the beginning of December an EBLIDA delegation met with representatives from the Commission’s Copyright Unit to discuss our response and some of the problems that libraries face in a digital environment.

Much of EBLIDA’s work during 2008 underlines the need for close cooperation and collaboration with both the EBLIDA membership and with other library organizations. Over the last two years we have held conferences in cooperation with EUCLID, LIBER, IFLA and eIFL and I believe that in the future we will continue this course in

our endeavors to work together for the promotion of libraries and other cultural institutions in Europe.

*Andrew Cranfield, EBLIDA Director*

### **From the secretariat**

EBLIDA's Information Officer, Carmen Morlon, will leave us at the end of January to take up a position as deputy director at LIBER and SPARC Europe. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of EBLIDA to wish Carmen all the best for the future and to thank her for all her efforts and hard work over the last 8 years for the organization, which has meant working with four different directors, three EBLIDA presidents, Executive Committee members and of course the EBLIDA membership as a whole.

### **Launch of Europeana**

*By Pernille Drost, Danish Union of Librarians and member of EBLIDA Executive Committee*

Before the opening there was a small seminar entitled "Europeana - Looking Ahead" with short presentations. Participants were a mix of invited organisations, partners from the project and the different subgroups. The seminar was chaired by Claudia Dillmann (member of the Executive Board of the European Digital Library Foundation) and aimed at facilitating solutions on content delivery and financial sustainability for the future of Europeana.

#### Session 1: How to improve the delivery of content from cultural institutions to Europeana?

Presentations included:

- Audiovisual archives: Daniel Teruggi (National Institute for Audiovisual - INA, France)
- Museums: David Dawson (Wiltshire Heritage Museum, UK)
- Archives: Angelika Menne-Haritz (German National Archives)
- Libraries: Lynne Brindley (British Library, UK)

#### Session 2: How to ensure the financial sustainability and appropriate governance for Europeana on the long term?

Much of the discussion evolved around the question of financing and how to get as many institutions as possible to join the network. Also it was mentioned that EUROPEANA started of as a project mainly concentrated on the national libraries but now the other sectors are included. Therefore it is important to address all sectors when working in the network. Lynne Brindley from the British Library emphasized the importance of designing the EUROPEANA website for the users and not only the partners. Otherwise the network will soon lose its attraction.

As for the future of EUROPEANA and the EDL Foundation, Claudia Dillman, German Film Institute, talked about the future board and which institutions should be represented. It is expected that the Commission will be asking for representation as they are supporting the project financially. But she emphasized the importance of having close contact to the institutions involved. But as I understood it the future organisational structure wasn't completely decided upon or clarified.

After the morning seminar was the official opening at the Palace Charles Lorraine which is an old part of the Royal Library. The launch was attended by many of the European Ministers of culture and speeches were given by José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission and Viviane Reding, EU Commissioner for Information Society and Media. Both spoke very warmly of the network and Ms Reding was very enthusiastic about the project.

There were more participants than expected and therefore they had arranged a second room with video transmission. But EBLIDA was (of course) seated in the main room with the rest of the VIPs.

Paradoxically the EUROPEANA network technically broke down because of too many hits and the management in The Hague and the European Commission decided to temporarily take down the site and find a more robust solution. In a press release they are expecting to be opening the site again in Mid-December.

### **Book review "The Public Domain – Enclosing the Commons of the Mind" By James Boyle, Yale University Press, 2008**

*By Andrew Cranfield, EBLIDA Director*

James Boyle's new book on copyright and IPR is interesting for two reasons. Firstly, and most importantly, because of its content and secondly because of the way it has been published.

I'll address the issue of the publication terms first. Readers can go to Amazon and, in the normal way, purchase the book for just under 19 \$ or one can visit <http://www.law.duke.edu/boylesite/> and download the book for free under a Creative Commons License. The question of course, in this case, is whether this is a good business model or not – who will purchase the book if it is freely available? It will probably be difficult to ascertain the precise impact of this double approach to publishing a work in this way, but there is no doubt that more people will have access to this information than if the only way was either to purchase the book from a bookstore or to borrow it from a library.

James Boyle is one of the USA's leading scholars on copyright and intellectual property rights and his new book sets out to address these often very complicated issues in what Boyle terms as "readable", while acknowledging the dangers of popularizing a complex set of intellectually demanding questions. There is no doubt that Boyle is a gifted writer and has accomplished his task with success and with this book the author gives a broad overview of the issues and challenges of copyright in the digital era. "The Public Domain – Enclosing the Commons of the Mind" is a welcome addition to the literature on copyright and is to be highly recommended to librarians and library students who wish to know more about this field.

In his introduction Boyle writes "The entire community of librarians deserves our thanks for standing up for free public access to knowledge for over two hundred years. Librarians are my heroes. They should be yours, too" This is praise indeed!