



**5 June 2008**

## **Press Release**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2008 at the Berlaymont building in Brussels representatives of libraries, publishers and collecting societies gathered, in the presence of Commissioner Reding, to sign a memorandum of understanding. The agreement codifies standards of 'due diligence' when people are searching in good faith for the right-holders of orphan works.

This follows nearly two years of discussions about orphan works - copyright works whose copyright-owners cannot be identified or found. EBLIDA has been heavily involved in this task.

EBLIDA is one of the signatories to the memorandum of understanding, as we think it represents a good starting point for the digitization of materials held in the collections of cultural institutions in Europe and will help users discover materials that would previously only have been available to a few users on site.

We think that the memorandum of understanding balances the needs of different sectors. We look forward to the future development of mechanisms for the lawful use of orphan works in, for example, projects of mass and bulk digitization. When libraries wish to digitize large numbers of orphan works, it will not be practicable to rely on searching for the right-holder in every case.

We are therefore pleased that the memorandum of understanding proposes that the signatories review the implementation of the guidelines at a suitable period in the future and EBLIDA recommends that this review take place in 2009.

For more information please contact Andrew Cranfield, Director EBLIDA, e: [cranfield@debibliotheken.nl](mailto:cranfield@debibliotheken.nl).

EBLIDA, European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations, was established in 1992 as a non-governmental, non-profit umbrella organisation representing libraries on a European level. Subjects on which EBLIDA concentrates are culture, copyright, Information Society related matters and information technology. For further information on the EBLIDA annual Council meeting and elections 2007- 2009 please contact the EBLIDA Secretariat at [eblida@debibliotheken.nl](mailto:eblida@debibliotheken.nl).