



Minutes Executive Committee meeting Coimbra, Portugal, 9th-10th March 2007

These Minutes have been approved by the EBLIDA Council.

Chair: Barbara Lison.

Participants: Toby Bainton, Andrew Cranfield, Gerald Leitner, Jill Martin, Helena Patrício, Bas Savenije, Carla Sotgiu, Disa Svensberg and Finn Vester.

Friday, 9th March

1. Opening and announcements

Barbara Lison opened the Executive Committee meeting and bid everyone welcome.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Jan-Ewout van der Putten and Karin Åstrom.

3. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved, but discussions on the draft strategy and draft annual work programme were postponed till Saturday, as was the agenda item regarding EBLIDA finances.

4. Approval Draft Minutes Executive Committee meetings Krakow, Poland, 6th and 7th October 2006

Andrew Cranfield apologised for that fact that the minutes from Krakow failed to mention the appointment of Barbara Lison as EBLIDA's vice president. This will be amended in the minutes from the EC meeting in Krakow.

5. EBLIDA internal matters

Announcements

Andrew Cranfield said that he will be attending the German Library Congress from the 20th to the 22nd of March at the invitation of the organizers. He will participate in two sessions, the first on lobbying for libraries and the role of EBLIDA, the second on the European Digital Library. The director will also speak at the Evaluations Conference in Aarhus, Denmark on the 10th -12th June



Membership

After the work done last year to delete EBLIDA members who were two or more years in arrears, the director could report that only one associate member would be eligible for deletion in 2007. However, as reported at the last EC meeting in Krakow the membership of EBLIDA has shown a decline over the last five years not least in relation to associate members.

The question of whether associations from new EU member states are being invoiced correctly was raised. The director will investigate this and report back to the members of the EC.

6. EBLIDA Communication

EBLIDA News and EBLIDA Website

The director gave a short brief concerning the newsletter and scope; a short newsletter which can be read and digested quickly. In general the comments from EC members were positive. Carla Sotgiu thought that a publishing frequency of one a month was probably enough, Finn Vester gave positive feedback on the newsletter and website, Helena Patrício was likewise positive about the website.

Toby Bainton said that one could see the newsletter from the viewpoint of the reader and as a contributor and hoped enough material was being produced. Andrew Cranfield thanked him for all his contributions so far.

Some members of the EC had not received all issues of the newsletter, among them Jill Martin and Barbara Lison, and this led to a discussion on how members might register for the newsletter and how many email addresses an organisation or institution might register. The director commented that technically there was no real limit, but that it might be difficult for the secretariat to manage a very large number of email addresses.

Gerald Leitner commented that he thought it should be up to the associations and institutions to disseminate this material among their members and interested parties.

Disa Svenskberg thought the organisations might oppose this and maybe the extra service of dissemination from the EBLIDA secretariat could be seen to be a membership advantage.

Andrew Cranfield said that EBLIDA News was available on the EBLIDA website from the date of publication, so there was also the possibility of accessing the newsletter there. The director will look into problems of distribution and present a proposal for newsletter registration at the next EC meeting.

Jill Martin approved of the new website and thought the fortnightly frequency of the newsletter was about right.

Gerald Leitner was positive and thought that these changes in communication signalled a change in EBLIDA. He thought the secretariat should decide the frequency, based on an analysis of the available resources.

Disa Svenskberg, Barbara Lison and Bas Savenije were all positive about the revised communication.

7. Annual report 2006

A short annual report for 2006 will be distributed among EC members prior to the EC meeting and Council meeting in Reykjavík.

10. Updates on EBLIDA lobbying activities and monitoring issues

CEG

Toby Bainton, Chair of the CEG, had submitted a short report prior to the meeting outlining the activities of the CEG since the last EC meeting. He further commented that even though at times it might look like that not much is happening in the area of copyright/IPR in Europe, there is still enormous pressure from right holders in their pursuance of extended protection and he cited IPRED 2, dealing with criminal measures for copyright infringement as a good example of this.

PEG

Prior to the meeting Andrew Cranfield had submitted a short report on PEG activities since the last EC meeting. Helena Patrício commented of the work of PEG in relation to the proposal for a European project mapping LIS education to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF).

At their meeting in Prague PEG has discussed the idea of a feasibility study, addressing just a few EU member states. After careful consideration Helena Patrício and Andrew Cranfield both felt that the scope of such a project was very large. Andrew Cranfield also felt that the project would not produce the required added value for EBLIDA and its members.

There was further discussion as to what the EQF would actually bring to the profession and how not having it could adversely affect the library sector in Europe.

Disa Svenskberg was concerned that it might lead to the introduction of minimum standards and as such lower the professionalism of the sector.

Gerald Leitner thought that this was a very ambitious project and Bas Savenije noted that something similar has been initiated in The Netherlands, but had proved not to be feasible.

Finn Vester reporting on this issue from a meeting in Denmark stated that the Danish Library Trade Union was not interested in such a project. Barbara Lison did not think that library managers in Germany would accept the outcome of this project and its aims and goals as basis for their recruitment policy.

Andrew Cranfield did not think this was really an EBLIDA project and the EC concluded that the PEG would not move ahead and submit a project proposal aimed at EU funding.

The secretariat would investigate the possibility of joining/participating in the ENGCARD project. The goal of ENGCARD (cooperation between the European Engineers and EUROCADRES, representing European Managerial and Professional staff) is to design a

professional qualifications passport to help facilitate mobility by reducing the major obstacles related to the recognition of the professional qualifications of the engineering professionals. The project is being funded by the European Commission, which hopes to create a “template” which can be used by other professions and which could be of interest to EBLIDA and the European LIS sector.

Trade and Libraries Expert Group

The minutes from the T&L Group meeting in Copenhagen had been submitted to the EC prior to the meeting. There were no further comments.

11. EBLIDA/LIBER workshop on digitisation, Copenhagen, October 2007

The draft agenda for the workshop was discussed and approved. Barbara Lison suggested that it might be good to have a representative from GOOGLE at the workshop, either presenting a paper or in attendance. Toby Bainton and Andrew Cranfield will convey this back to the rest of the steering group. Once conference registration had been established, Jill Martin suggested that it should be possible to see who had registered with a running list of participants.

At present there was no budget for the workshop. The steering group will hold its next meeting at the Royal Library, Copenhagen on the 13th of April.

12. EBLIDA/EUCLID conference: Librarian@2010 – Educating for the future, Lisbon, September 2007

Agenda item postponed till Saturday.

13. Draft proposal for the establishment of a Digitisation Expert Group

The EC discussed the proposal, as drafted by the director. Toby Bainton remarked that this was a big topic of interest to university librarians and the EU will look to EBLIDA for expertise in this area. Jill Martin thought there was a good argument for the establishment for a group such as this, but maybe such a group should only function for a limited period of time. Bas Savenije supported the initiative, but thought the proposal too broad.

Carla Sotgiu suggested that the expert group should be called “The Digital Library Expert Group”. Both Helena Patrício and Gerald Leitner disagreed with this, as it limited to scope of what is happening to not include archives, museums and other cultural institutions. Andrew Cranfield commented that many thought the use of the word library in The European Digital Library was too limiting, so perhaps we should take inspiration from this.

Disa Svenskberg thought the new expert group should define its own mandate. Barbara Lison argued that it should be the EC that decided the direction and terms of reference of the expert groups. The rest of the EC were of the same opinion.

Bas Savenije proposed that a working group be established to consider the terms of reference and mandate for an expert group on digitisation. The working group consists of Bas Savenije, Carla Sotgiu, Helena Patrício and the director. The group will present a proposal at the next EC meeting in Reykjavík.

Finn Vester noted that according to the statutes establishment of expert/working groups is an EC decision and does not need approval from Council.

15. Proposal of merger of CEG and Trade and Libraries and Expert Group

The written submission from Kjell Nilsson, Chair T&L, and Andrew Cranfield proposing that these two expert groups merge was unanimously approved by the EC.

16. Memorandum of understanding with LIBER

The memorandum of understanding between LIBER and EBLIDA has been finalised.

17. Agenda for Annual Council Meeting, Reykjavík 2007

The Director reported on the status of planning for the meeting. All speakers and social events are now finalized and that Icelandic colleagues have provided excellent planning and assistance.

The EC meeting in Reykjavík will start at 10.00 AM on Thursday the 10th of May 2007 at the National and University Library.

18. Preparation for EC Meeting, Tallinn, October 2007

The next EC meeting will be in Tallinn on the 19th – 20th October 2007.

19. Location of EC meeting, March 2008

The EC decided that this meeting would take place in Venice; venue to be decided upon at a later date and further discussed in Iceland.

20. Annual Council Meeting May 2008

The EC decided to hold the Council meeting 2008 in The Hague

Saturday the 10th of March 2007

Due to time constraints it was decided that the discussion on finances, including annual accounts and revised budget 2007 would be finalized by email.

12. EBLIDA/EUCLID conference: Librarian@2010 – Educating for the future, Lisbon, September 2007

Helena Patrício and the director presented the proposal for the conference, including a draft budget. Carla Sotgiu suggested inviting someone from the EU Commission to attend and Barbara Lison supported this suggestion. This suggestion will be forwarded to the conference steering group.

Jill Martin asked some questions concerning sponsorship and the possibility of realising the revenue from these. Helena Patrício was confident that the sponsors who had been contacted would be willing to support the conference.

Jill Martin also noted that the time frame until the conference itself was quite short. Helena Patrício and the director were aware of this and would act accordingly.

The EC approved the budget and committed EBLIDA to share revenue/deficit equally with EUCLID.

8. EBLIDA draft strategy 2007-2010

Barbara Lison and Finn Vester thanked the strategy working group for its work and commented that he thought it was a good strategy.

Disa Svenskberg thought that the section covering objectives should be changed, so that the sequence was changed with the more overall objectives (EBLIDA also aims...), coming before primary objectives. Barbara Lison thought this diluted the section on aims and the rest of the EC agreed with her.

Gerald Leitner commented that the Annual Yearbook was not mentioned in the strategy.

Finn Vester wanted this publication to contain articles about important issues that EBLIDA is focusing on.

Disa Svenskberg thought that EUCLID should be mentioned as a partner in the strategy.

Barbara Lison thought there should be more focus on the fact that libraries are working for the European citizen and the strategy should reflect this in its wording, to which Carla Sotgiu added her support.

The strategy should also underline why the recruitment of members is so important to EBLIDA, stressing legitimacy and representation.

Bas Savenije was happy with the document, commenting that we should remember that libraries were both collections of materials and organisations.

Carla Sotgiu hoped that EBLIDA could attract archives and other information providers as members and reflected that it is through our actions we become visible.

Prior to the EC meeting, the director had collected and distributed comments from EBLIDA members from the open consultation on the draft strategy. Some of these were letters of support, some comments on wording, but three separate issues could be identified: certification of education, more emphasis on open access and the need to lobby on the issue of VAT on electronic materials.

The director commented on the VAT issue saying that Frankfurt Group has dealt with this in some detail (commissioning a report showing how different VAT rules on electronic publications affects the shift from analogue to digital materials in European university and research libraries). The director did not think there was much opportunity to pursue this much further as a lobbying issue. Bas Savenije thought it was a waste of time at the European level and should be dealt with at the national level. Toby Bainton commented that the French government was showing some interest in this issue.

Bas Savenije explained that LIBER is very active on issues of open access and EBLIDA's efforts in this area should reflect a constructive division of tasks.

Barbara Lison thanked the strategy working group for its excellent work

There were no further comments on the strategy. It was agreed that the director would write to those that had contributed comments, conveying the thoughts and appreciation of the EC. The director will incorporate the changes and comments of the EC into the strategy document.

9. Annual Work programme

The director went through the annual work programme, underlining the importance of continuing work on the EBLIDA website. Disa Svenskberg asked that all acronyms be written in full.

Helena Patrício explained that the concept of Life Long Learning (LLL) could be understood in two ways for EBLIDA – in general as important for European citizens, but also as an important element in LIS education and for the profession.

Barbara Lison mentioned that the web site did not include testimonials as yet; this would be added as soon as possible.

Gerald Leitner noted that the publication of the EBLIDA yearbook should be mentioned in the work programme.

13. Draft proposal for regulations governing expert groups and working groups.

The director explained the proposal and the EC approved the concept and limitations of expert groups/working groups.

It was felt that expert groups and working groups should be strongly aligned with the political and strategic development of EBLIDA.

The director said that he thought the expert groups reflected the scope of EBLIDA and there should be a balance between a “narrow” and a “broad” approach.

Disa Svenskberg thought that the role of the director in the expert groups (acting as secretary) limited the number of expert groups possible.

Carla Sotgiu said that to some extent the expert groups also reflected the different positions of the library associations in the member states, increasing visibility and the opportunity to attract new members.

The proposal was discussed in detail and a number of changes proposed. These were noted by the director and a revised proposal will be distributed to all EC members.

Working groups to formulate terms of reference for a digitisation expert group and for the two proposed conferences/workshops were approved.

Helena Patrício and the PEG will work on a proposal for terms of reference for PEG to be submitted to the EC prior to its next meeting.

The Library Association of Ireland had submitted a proposal for the establishment of an expert group on culture. To consider the feasibility of this a working group was established consisting of Barbara Lison (Chair), Gerald Leitner and Jill Martin and will report back at the next EC meeting

21. Any other business

None

22. Closure of meeting

Barbara Lison thanked the EC members for their constructive comments and for the good discussions.