



16th EBLIDA Annual Council Meeting, Peace Palace Library, The Hague, Netherlands, 5th May 2008. Minutes

These minutes have been approved by the 17th Council Meeting, May 2009

1. Opening and announcements

The President of EBLIDA, Gerald Leitner, opened the meeting and welcomed all delegates to this, the 16th meeting of the association. The President thanked the librarian Jeroen Verfliet of the Peace Palace library for his hospitality and for providing this historic venue for the meeting. He also thanked the Dutch Library Association for hosting lunch for EBLIDA delegates and for transportation to the Peace Palace.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from the following:

Mr. Osvaldo Avallone, National Central Library, Rome (Italy)
Ms. Tatjana Aparc-Jelusic, EUCLID (Croatia)
Ms. Milagros del Corral Beltran, Biblioteca Nacional (Spain)
Mr. Martin Davidson, British Council, Manchester (UK)
Mr. Berndt Frediksson, Swedish Association of Archivists (Sweden)
Mr. Hans Geleijnse, LIBER (Netherlands)
Ms. Sigrun Klara Hannesdottir, Upplysing (Iceland)
Mr. Mats Hansson, Swedish Arts Council (Sweden)
Mr. Pedro Hipola, University of Granada (Spain)
Ms. Barbara Krauchi, Swiss Library Association (Switzerland)
Ms. Janice Lachance, SLA (USA)
Mr. Jens Thorhauge, Danish Agency for Libraries and Media (Denmark)

3. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved. The President suggested that the chairs of the expert groups present their reports before the break out session.

4. EBLIDA Annual report

The director presented the annual report for 2007-2008 reflecting on the main areas of engagement for EBLIDA during this period and these were continued in the annual work programme for 2008-2009. The minutes of the Executive Committee meetings during this period underline the fact that the establishment of new expert groups in the following areas:

- Information Law (Chair: Toby Bainton)
- Digitisation and online access (Chair: Bas Savenije) – Joint expert group with LIBER
- Culture and Information Society (Chair: Barbara Lison)
- Education and lifelong learning (Chair: Pernille Drost)
- Professional LIS education (Chair: Jill Martin)

and the conceptual development of the knowledge and information centre have been the main drivers for 2007-2008. This development reflects a broader range of issues to be addressed by EBLIDA and the expectations of our members. The issues of both the research/academic libraries and public libraries should be addressed by EBLIDA. The director underlined the importance of EBLIDA not being perceived too narrowly associated only with IPR/copyright issues, but as a pan-European library and information association.

The director also gave some thought to the thinking behind the knowledge and information centre and the reasoning behind this project idea. At present there is a huge amount of data produced by and/or provided for libraries in the member states of the European Union. Information provided at the local, regional and national level. However this data is, by and large, not collected and aggregated, at the European level. This information overview is a necessary tool for advocacy and lobbying work in Europe and is a logical task for EBLIDA to undertake and a service for the association to provide to its membership.

Cooperation with other European and international organizations had also been important during the period 2007-2008 and the director mentioned two conferences held in 2007. Firstly a joint conference with EUCLID and the Portuguese Library Association (BAD) in Lisbon in September 2007 and secondly a joint conference with LIBER in Copenhagen in October 2007. Both conferences provided a surplus, which the treasurer will report more on. The conferences, apart from reflecting inter-organisational cooperation, also provided more tangible results. A number of articles from the Lisbon conference will be published in the journal "Education for Information" and from the LIBER/EBLIDA conference a series of recommendations on digitization have been drafted and forwarded to the European Commission.

Finally the director mentioned the new brochure produced by EBLIDA giving a brief outline of the work of the organization. He encouraged members to request copies to take to annual meetings etc and thereby help promote the work of EBLIDA.

The Annual work report was approved by Council.

5. Approval of Draft Minutes Council Meeting, Reykjavik, Iceland, May 2007.

Council approved the minutes with no further comments.

6/7 – EBLIDA Expert Groups. Reports from Chairs.

Expert Group on Information Law / EGIL (Toby Bainton)

The EGIL has met twice since the last Council meeting in Iceland – in Vienna in November 2007 and in Paris April 2008. Discussions at these meetings included the issues of TPM's (Technical protection measures), contracts vs. legislation, Public Lending Right, exceptions and limitations, data protection and privacy, rights clearance for mass digitization and traditional knowledge and these should form the basis for the future strategy of EGIL.

Toby Bainton also reported from the work of EBLIDA as represented in the High Level Expert group – subgroup on copyright. The main issues addressed by this group are preservation, and the digitization of out-of-print works and orphan works. The group has established some recommendations on guidelines for a diligent search when digitizing orphan works in library

collections. EBLIDA has expressed concern about the lack of provisions regarding the question of mass digitization and the need to find solutions for this in the future.

The Chair also mentioned that EGIL is monitoring anti-terrorist legislation, as well as the services directive.

Joint Expert Group on Digitisation and Online Access /JEGDO (Chair: Bas Savenije)

Bas Savenije reported from the activities of this group, which has been established in cooperation with LIBER. The JEGDO has held two meetings – London in January 2008 and Copenhagen in April 2008. The groups main area of focus are Open Access, Europeana and digital library networks, web harvesting, legal deposit of digital material and national policies for digitization, including funding. The Chair stressed the importance of including other types of libraries and archives in the work of the group.

For both LIBER and EBLIDA the question of the problem of lack of European funding for digitization is of concern and while both organizations recognize the merits of private-public partnerships (e.g. the GOOGLE digitization projects), these are not without a number of problems – e.g. usage rights and ownership.

Expert Group on Professional LIS Education / ILEG (Chair: Jill Martin)

This expert group had held its first meeting in London February 2008 to start a discussion on which areas of LIS education the group could concentrate on. The work of this group builds on some of the experiences of the PEG (Professional Education Group) which had been established to investigate the regulation of the library profession in Europe and what consequences this might have. While the LIS sector in Europe is structured very differently there is no country where the sector could be deemed to be regulated in the true sense of the word. The group had also looked at the European Qualifications Framework and how this could be implemented in the LIS sector – this issue will remain on the agenda of the ILEG. Jill Martin stressed the important of gaining an understanding of what is happening at the national level in order to qualify the work of the group at the European level. The group feels that it is also important to ensure that the national library associations engage with this subject and seek cooperation with library schools and other educational institutions in order to create a better understanding between the worlds of academia and institutions.

Expert Group on Culture and Information Society (Chair: Barbara Lison)

The group held its first initial meeting at the beginning of April 2008 in Berlin. The group is well aware of the difficulty of defining such a broad concept as culture and that the group will focus on defining this in a way which is workable. Culture can also be seen in a broader context including social sectors –e.g. providing library services to minority groups. Recent years have seen much emphasis on the digitization of cultural heritage, but it also remains a primary duty for libraries to disseminate and promote new forms of content and access as well as promoting literacy and reading. The group will also work to add relevant material to the EBLIDA website, drawing attention to EU cultural policy and the position of libraries in cultural and information society issues. The group hopes that the whole EBLIDA membership will take an interest in this topic and help develop a manifesto – to define the “the role of EBLIDA” and “the definition of culture”.

Expert Group on Education and lifelong learning (Chair: Pernille Drost)

Unfortunately it had not been possible to convene this group yet, but the Chair underlined the importance of clarifying the exact definition of LLL in a library context. Education and LLL is of course cross-sectoral and it would be important to find partnerships across the spectrum to achieve the best and most focused results. It is important to gather knowledge in this area and to avoid duplication of efforts.

Presentation EBLIDA Knowledge and Information Center.

After a short presentation of the ideas behind the EBLIDA Knowledge and Information Centre – the concept of a library map of Europe bringing together data about library statistics, library legislation, funding and structure and organization and the intention to have country reports from all the member states. The information and expertise of the expert groups are also an integral part of the build up of the knowledge center, providing a clear link between the strategic aims of EBLIDA and the information of the knowledge centre - Council divided into 5 discussion groups to debate the following questions:

- Are the issues which you would like to see covered by the expert groups and which should be included in the EBLIDA Knowledge and Information Centre?
- How do you think that important issues for the European Library sector can be disseminated to EBLIDA constituents and other important EBLIDA stakeholders and other European stakeholders?
- How Can EBLIDA best facilitate dialogue and discussion among its membership?

8 Annual work programme

The director reminded delegates of the overall EBLIDA mission statement:

- Lobbying at the European level
- Providing relevant and up-to-date information about EBLIDA and European library issues
- By seeking involvement in European projects and by organizing seminars and workshops of interest to the library and information community

The director outlined some of the challenges for the period 2008-2009, including the ongoing work in finding solutions for orphan works at the European level and to contribute to the discussion on possible changes to the Copyright directive. EBLIDA and its expert group on digitization and online access will continue to work with the issues of open access, web harvesting, legal deposit of digital material and digital library networks. The director also outlined the work to be done in the area of professional LIS education.

EBLIDA will continue to work and cooperate with other European and international library organizations such as NAPLE (National Authorities on Public Libraries in Europe), IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) and CENL (Conference of European National Librarians), as well as right holder associations such as the FEP (Federation of European Publishers). EBLIDA and IFLA are planning to co-host 1-2 conferences in 2008.

The director gave an update of the work of the secretariat and that the secretariat continues with 1.5 FTE (Full time employees) and that the book keeping for the organization has been outsourced since 2007.

EBLIDA continues to be involved in two European projects – ENTITLE (about lifelong education and libraries) and Communia (about the value of the public domain). This involvement will continue in 2008-2009.

The Annual Work Programme was approved by Council.

9. EBLIDA Finances

9A. Financial statement

EBLIDA treasurer Bas Savenije presented the financial statement for 2007. He pointed out that while staff costs had been slightly higher than the revised budget for 2007, these were offset by lower secretariat costs, including lower location costs at the VOB and that there had been no legal consultancy costs for 2007. Costs for accounting were slightly higher than predicted due to the fact that the book keeping for EBLIDA is now done by the EBLIDA accountants Bouwer and Officier.

Income was slightly lower than predicted due to the non-payment of some associate members.

In 2007 EBLIDA held two workshops/conferences as already reported – one in cooperation with EUCLID and the other with LIBER. EBLIDA had not predicted a surplus from these events, but as the financial statement shows there is a surplus of 5.207 EURO, which have been added to the end of year surplus, which shows a balance of 12.772.00 EURO. Over the years EBLIDA has accumulated a number of uncollectable debts from non-payments from members and therefore the total amount of 12.148 EURO has been deducted from the debtors in the balance sheet as of December 31st 2007. This gives a result of 624 EURO on the financial statement for 2007.

Council approved the financial statement for 2007.

9.B. Revised Budget for 2008

Bas Savenije presented the revised budget for 2008. Of special notice are the higher costs for temporary employees of 10.000 EURO which has been added to the budget for the process of finding and employing a new director in 2008-2009. The costs for legal advice and accounting services have been revised based on the figures for 2007.

Council approved the revised budget for 2008.

9.C Draft budget 2009

The treasurer presented the draft budget for the financial year 2009 pointing out the amount of 6.000 EURO has been set aside for a period of transition for a new director working the current director for approx. two months.

Council approved the draft budget for 2009.

The President thanked the director and treasurer for their work with the finances of EBLIDA and financial statement for 2007.

10. Minutes of Executive meetings

10.a Reykjavik, 10 May 2007 and 12 May 2007

Council approved the minutes.

10.b Tallinn, 19 – 20 October 2007

Council approved the minutes.

10.c Bordeaux 29 February – 1 March 2008

Council approved the minutes.

11. Any Other Business

No points were raised under this agenda item.

12. Next Meeting

On behalf of EBLIDA the President announced that the next Council meeting will be in Vienna in May 2009 and he hoped that many EBLIDA members would be able to attend the meeting.

13. Closure

The President thanked those present for attending the meeting and their contributions and our host for so generously offering us this wonderful venue for the EBLIDA Annual council meeting.

After the Council Meeting delegates were given a tour of the Peace Palace and the new library reading room. The afternoon concluded with a drinks reception at the invitation of EBLIDA.