

President's Editorial

Dear EBLIDA members, dear colleagues,



We are living in exciting times in Europe in recent years. Let me stress two aspects which will be decisive for the future of libraries and the information sector : the economic crisis and the changes happening from digital development, the e-world.

I know from my own experience as director of a public library what it means to economise, to save on resources, to enter into political discussions about why libraries and archives are so important and necessary services for the future of the citizens and why they are needed for the information society. It is crucial to maintain those services to avoid a possibility of long-term consequences that are more expensive.

Imagine a world without resources. What is left then? Our most vital resource as human beings: our intellect, our ability to develop, to invent, to solve problems. I believe that future society needs people who are well educated, trained and skilled. These should take place in schools by well educated teachers, in universities with support from institutions that guarantee the free and democratic access to the information world, especially libraries, museums and archives. In these difficult economic times, one must not try to economise on knowledge and access to information - that will only make the future even more difficult. As a minister at the opening of the Folkwang Museum in Germany said: "*Dear Mayor, especially in these times take good care of culture and education...*" This prayer should be heard at the highest level and followed up by decision and policy makers around Europe.

In 1982 the first CD came onto the market: "52nd Street" by Billy Joel. 30 years ago, no-one had heard of downloading, streaming or even of the idea of a book in an e-format. But changes in technology should not exclude libraries. Libraries are not museums of printed material. And even if Amazon opened its lending library for e-material at the end of October in Germany, only libraries as democratic institutions are equipped to fight the digital divide and ensure that this is not money that makes the difference.

It is obvious that the legal framework for national laws are made in Brussels. We must therefore keep an eye on it and work together both on the national level but also on the European level and whenever relevant with IFLA on a global level.

Our next Annual Council and Conference will take place in Milan (Italy) on 14th and 15th May 2013. These will be 2 active days of work to address the above issues and to strive to achieve a balanced proposal for libraries, archives and the documentation sectors. Until then, EBLIDA will define its next Strategy 2013-2016 and each EBLIDA member will be involved in the discussion. I truly believe that EBLIDA is the perfect platform from which to achieve our goals, and that altogether we will succeed in ensuring a bright future for libraries, archives and the information sector.

Enjoy reading!

Klaus-Peter Böttger,
EBLIDA President

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News round-up: EBLIDA and Europe

38th Croatian Library Association General Conference and Assembly

The biggest gathering of Croatian librarians working in all types of libraries (public, school, academic, special, national) is the General conference and assembly of the Croatian Library Association (CLA), which takes part every two years.

CLA, established in 1940, is a non-governmental, non profit, national umbrella association of 16 Croatian regional library associations. Since its foundation, CLA has been operating on voluntary basis, dedicated to the principles of high professional performance, organizing courses and seminars aimed at training and further professional development of Croatian librarians. Today CLA has around 1500 members, individuals and institutions. Approximately one third of people who work in libraries in Croatia are members of CLA. It is open to everyone who works in a library.

The activities of CLA include: library legislation, professional development and lifelong education, conferences and workshops covering fields of information science and librarianship, publishing, and international cooperation with IFLA and EBLIDA, and library associations in the region as well.

Current strategic activities of CLA are orientated towards development and preservation of intellectual freedom, protection of basic democratic principles of the wider social community, promotion of professional interests and values and library advocacy.

This year, the 38th General conference and assembly of the CLA took place from September 26th to 28th in Osijek, the fourth largest Croatian city (about 130,000 inhabitants), cultural and economic centre of the eastern Croatian region of Slavonia. The event, organized along with help and enthusiasm of the regional library association, Library association of Slavonia and Baranja, gathered nearly 300 participants from Croatia and Europe.

The program of the assembly consisted of bi-annual reports, and elections for the CLA management and professional bodies. Marijana Mišetić has been elected president of the Croatian Library Association in her second term.

The main theme of the general conference, *Keeping pace with changes*, included the following topics: e-books; e-services, strategies for library development, mass digitization projects; open access; library services for children and young adults; library collection as cultural heritage; improvement of cooperation among local and regional library associations.

Parallel sessions included 65 presentations, workshops, round tables, discussions, as well as 23 poster presentations. Electronic resources have brought irreversible changes to creation, distribution, and delivery of information, amount of which will undoubtedly grow in the upcoming years.

E-book has redefined the generally known categories in the processes of creating and publishing. It has changed the role and activities of libraries, and has also stimulated the European library legislation to search for new models.

In order to improve services and access to the traditional and digital collections by using the new technologies, libraries have developed e-services and e-products, varying from online catalogs, digital collections for special needs and purposes and institutional repositories, to social networks, and the semantic web.

Traditional library services for children and young adults have been expanded through various innovations, e-services, and new media.

In Croatia, the leading role of libraries as non-profit educational, cultural and scientific institutions has been additionally emphasized in the big national digitization projects, which guarantee access, presence, and permanent deposit of digital content in Croatian, or referring to Croatian cultural heritage and scientific achievements in the global digital environment. The leading role of libraries has also been emphasized in the question of open access which is considered a realistic and achievable mode of free and open scientific communication. Informational, cultural, and educational roles of libraries in Croatia require new strategic documents, necessary for work and development in the new digital environment, while their role in heritage preservation requires new approaches and solutions for registration of library materials as movable cultural heritage.

In order to fulfill the needs of democratic and civil society, as well as knowledge and innovation based society, which perceive libraries as their central service and fundamental resource, libraries need all kinds of support, especially technological, financial and legislative. Libraries play a unique role in knowledge dissemination in the information society based on inclusiveness and equality in accessing the digital content and common European information space, as well as on investment in scientific research and innovation.



Klaus-Peter Böttger, President of EBLIDA, and **Marijana Mišetić**, President of the Croatian Library Association, at the opening ceremony of the 38th General Conference and Assembly of the Croatian Library Association.

News round-up: EBLIDA and Europe

Among notable number of round tables, workshops, and discussions, which all reached conclusions directing and shaping activities of the CLA in the next two-year period, the final, third workshop of the international project *Regional cooperation : challenge and opportunity* took place. In recent years, Croatian Library Association has been putting much effort into strengthening international cooperation, through its active membership in EBLIDA and IFLA and through initiatives with library associations in the region. Cooperation on an international scale requires lasting commitment and intense efforts. The project *Regional cooperation : challenge and opportunity*, financially supported by IFLA/ALP Programme and planned, organised and conducted by the CLA during the 38th CLA Conference, gathered librarians from the region of South Eastern Europe. The aim of the project was the improvement of leadership and advocacy skills of library professionals in order to advocate their interests in the wider social and political environment, development of joint projects and other long-term activities based on collaboration and networking, and the strengthening of library communication and cooperation in the vulnerable region of South Eastern Europe. This regional project helped strengthen the role and importance of IFLA members in South Eastern Europe, characterised by multilingual and multicultural diversity. It promoted inclusion and access to information as a global imperative, and proved the importance of library profession in culture, education, and science. ALP Programme Coordinator on behalf of IFLA was Mrs. Fiona Bradley, and the IFLA trainer was Mrs. Winnie Vitzansky.

Croatian Library Association wishes to thank EBLIDA and IFLA colleagues and friends, as well as the library associations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia, for participating in the 38th CLA General Conference and Assembly and in the project *Regional cooperation : challenge and opportunity*, and for making this such a wonderful event and pleasant experience.

Our special thanks goes to Mr. Klaus-Peter Böttger, EBLIDA president, and Mrs. Winnie Vitzansky, IFLA trainer, for visiting Croatia and exchanging their rich experience, knowledge and encouraging beliefs with Croatian librarians.

Article written by Nevia Raos (Secretary, Croatian Library Association).

11th BAD National Conference, " Integration, Access and Social Value" from October 18 – 20, 2012, Lisbon, Portugal

The opening ceremony of the Conference welcome key-notes speeches of two Presidents of International organisations: Sinikka Sipilä, IFLA President-elect, and Klaus-Peter Böttger, EBLIDA President (see also President's editorial). The two of them offered the audience motivating speeches on libraries as forces for strong societies and fundamental structure to access to the digital world.



From 14 to 16.30 a session was dedicated to the International and European actions with strong support and input of EBLIDA representatives. Four of the six speakers on the panel were EBLIDA Executive committee members.

The reason for this strong presence was that in a period of troubles in Europe, EBLIDA considered it a duty to be engaged in promoting the role and place of libraries by participating in Conferences.

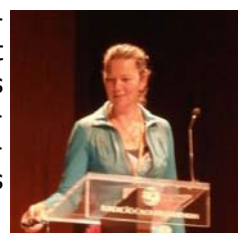
The speakers delivered inspiring speeches on different aspects of the work of the association.



Klaus-Peter Böttger (picture on the left) and Gerald Leitner (picture on the right) addressed the many issues raised by the development of the e-Books market. Klaus-Peter Böttger highlighted the current questions at stake for libraries with regards to e-Books and the problems incurred in making them available for library patrons. Gerald Leitner then underlined the strong points of the EBLIDA e-Books campaign and the actions already undertaken to raise the awareness of politicians across Europe regarding this issue.



Aldo Pirola (picture on the left) lectured the audience with a presentation of the activities of the Expert group on Culture and Information Society. He highlighted the fact that information Literacy is becoming one of the key focus point of the EU institutions while the reading abilities in Europe is appearing to decrease in the youngest generation. Erna Winters (picture on the right) showcased the concept developed in the Netherlands with the Library of 100 talents where children are invited to share their ideas to create the library of the future.



The audience welcomed those speeches all inviting to stand up for libraries and to fight for their rights!

EBLIDA Executive Committee meeting in Lisbon, 19 October 2012

Seizing the conference in Portugal as an opportunity, EBLIDA Executive Committee members met on 19th of October. It was an intense day long meeting to discuss EBLIDA issues concerning the organisation, the different bodies, the next strategy and the preparation of the next council and conference in 2013. This meeting also provided the opportunity to liaise with Portuguese colleagues. EBLIDA Executive Committee members would like to thank Maria-José Moura and Ana Paula Gordo in particular for the wonderful warm welcome given to EBLIDA members.

EGIL meeting in Riga: 1,5 days of active working sessions and...

A few months ago, the National Library of Latvia invited members of the Expert group on Information Law to host their meeting in Riga on 22 and 23 of October.



EGIL members had one and a half days to discuss the future strategy of the EGIL Expert Group, the replacement of the chair, the definition of key principles on the acquisition of and access to e-Books by libraries, the current review of the directive on Public sector Information, on Collective Management Organisation, and on the regulation of Data protection.

On the proposal of the Executive Committee, in line with the regulations and in order to strengthen the relationships between the EC and EGIL, Ulrika Domellöf Mattsson (from the Swedish Library Association) received the support of the EBLIDA EC and of the EGIL members to take over from Harald von Hielmcrone, acting chair of EGIL who is retiring in February.

... a farewell to the Harald von Hielmcrone



For more than 17 years, Harald von Hielmcrone has been an active member of EGIL and a key resource person in the analysis of the European Directive. Chair of EGIL since 2010 Harald von Hielmcrone received frank and moving tributes from his colleagues. It is around a farewell drink that the moment was the most moving. Thanks to his high level of knowledge in copyright and experience with libraries, Harald von Hielmcrone has been an active and dedicated support to EBLIDA's work. As the spokesperson for libraries at the EU Commission during the stakeholders dialogue on out of Commerce works, he helped the negotiations with the other stakeholders. In a few months, Harald will leave the association and EBLIDA would like all of those who have worked with him to wish Harald a wonderful retirement.

The eBooks corner: eBooks campaign—a quick overview

On the 17th of October, the e-Books Task Force members met under the chairmanship of Gerald Leitner. The task force studied a first set of proposals established by the experts of EGIL on the question of e-Books.

EGIL members received a mandate to establish key principles on the acquisition of and access to e-Books by libraries following up on the statement published by EBLIDA in May on European libraries and the challenges of e-publishing. These principles aim to be used for discussion with the Federation of European Publishers and representatives of the European Commission.

6 Principles to change the European landscape for libraries regarding eBooks

These 6 key principles *define minimum conditions for libraries when e-books are acquired and made available, whilst maintaining a balance between the interests of the public and those of the right holders.*

Those statements are about: acquisition, access, continuous access and long-time preservation, availability of metadata, pricing and privacy. Find out the detailed key principles at <http://www.eblida.org/e-books-in-libraries.html>.

The first round of negotiations has already begun with FEP and the EU commission with meetings on the 6th and 8th of November. There will be a monthly follow-up and report in every EBLIDA Newsletter given by members of the EBLIDA e-Books Task Force.

To be continued...



EBLIDA who's who?

As the network evolves, and as new members enter EBLIDA's community, the EBLIDA newsletter has decided to open its columns to members wishing to introduce themselves to others. The idea is to get to know each other better, to discover more about our association-colleagues, and to strengthen our links and cooperation. And why not to open up discussions, to launch proposals, and to create partnerships?

This month, EBLIDA opens its columns to : VOB Vereniging Openbare Bibliotheken **The Netherlands Public Library Association**



The Netherlands Public Library Association (Vereniging Openbare Bibliotheken - VOB) is the national association of public libraries and related organisations in the Netherlands. All 160 public library organisations (around 1000 service points) are members of the VOB. With their 10.000 employees (4500 FTE) and an annual turnover of around 600 million euro, they serve around 6 million individuals and most of the schools for primary education in the Netherlands (current population: 16,5 million).

Contrary to many other countries, the association is an Association of public libraries as institutes and has its sole income from its membership, no government funding. The legal statute of most public libraries in the Netherlands is a non-profit foundation, not so much an administrative department of the local municipality. So every public library has its own library board. An upscaling process in the last decade has resulted in larger library organisations, beyond municipal borders. Provincial library service organisations work for development, innovation and implementation at the regional level, and are also partners and members of the VOB.

In 2011 the library association merged with the public library employers association, thereby strengthening its advocacy for public libraries, cultural entrepreneurship and modern employment in the public library sector.

VOB advocates the common entrepreneurial interests of the public libraries and the provincial and national support organisations. It maintains close relationships with politics at the national level, representatives of the administration and other organisations in society. It participates and develops statements in the political, governmental and social debates about cultural politics and social economic themes.

It supports the public library field professionally and internally through guidelines, agreements (a.o. on certification) and externally. Services are mainly focused on supporting and strengthening societal entrepreneurship, modern employership, market development, networking and knowledge sharing within the sector.

As employers' association VOB works for good employment conditions, and negotiates with trade-unions on Collective Labour Agreements (CAO).

The working programme of the Association includes activities to gather data from the public libraries. Statistics are part of a larger partner project of building a data warehouse.



Current issues

Confronted with threatening budgets cuts on local libraries by the municipalities, VOB has started supportive actions for its members, including an ambassadors' network, presented in video messages, training workshops, collecting best practices in public awareness raising and alternative solutions, engaging in a court case, and other issues, all collected in a dedicated (log-in) website: The Library in Action: This is what the library does!

The Digital Library (Bibliotheek.nl) is a hot topic, and considered crucial for modern consorted library service. The VOB is close to the process of building up the necessary infrastructure and digital content, especially E-books. Its taskforce develops various models in negotiation with Dutch publishers. Upcoming legislation will confirm the role of the (digital) library and lay out its funding.

Working ahead of developments, VOB has published its new Strategy 2012-2016: The Library delivers value, acknowledging the necessary transformation of public libraries, branding them as a common public service delivering value through cultural entrepreneurship, with an open eye for needs and developments in society. Among the strategic projects are the National Library Card, the Netherlands Library Catalogue, Customer value, benchmarking and E-books licensing.

For international advocacy and library development, VOB is closely linked to EBLIDA (which it helped to build up and housed for many years) and IFLA, all near by located in The Hague – World Library Capital.



Ap de Vries,
Director VOB,
EBLIDA Council member



Marian Koren,
senior policy
adviser VOB,
Substitute EC,
member of
Expert Group
for Culture and
Information
Society



Erna Winters,
Director Public Library
Kennemerwaard,
Treasurer EBLIDA
Executive Committee

Events and Dates

November 2012

November 5 – 7, 6th Conference of the Central Library of Forschungszentrum Jülich: Networked knowledge - data, people, systems (WissKom 2012)

Place: Aachen, Germany

URL: http://www.fz-juelich.de/zb/DE/WissKom2012/WissKom2012_node.html

November 6 – 7, Alliance for Permanent Access (APA) 2012 Conference

Place: Frascati, Italy

URL: <http://www.alliancepermanentaccess.org/index.php/community/event/apa-2012-conference-6-7-nov-esaesrin-frascati/>

November 6 – 8, J. Boye Aarhus 12 Web and Intranet Conference: "Sharing is Caring"

Place: Aarhus, Denmark

URL: <http://aarhus12.jboye.com/>

November 7 – 9, CIRN 2012 Community Informatics Conference: 'Ideals meet Reality'

Place: Prato, Italy

URL: <http://cirn.wikispaces.com/prato2012>

November 8 – 10, Mediterranean Editors and Translators Meeting 2012 (METM12): "Craft & Critical Vision: Diving Beneath the Surface of Discourse"

Place: Venice, Italy

URL: http://www.metmeetings.org/index.php?page=metm12_call

November 9 – 11, Basel Book Fair

Place: Basel, Switzerland

URL: <http://www.buchbasel.ch/>

November 15 – 17, 17th International Conference on Information Quality (ICIQ)

Place: Paris, France

URL: <http://iciq2012.cnam.fr/>

November 16 – 18, Dublin Book Festival

Place: Dublin, Ireland

URL: <http://www.dublinbookfestival.com/dublin-book-festival-2012/>

November 17 – 25, 31st International Istanbul Book Fair 2012

Place: Istanbul, Turkey

URL: <http://istanbulkitapfuari.com/>

November 20, Beyond the rhetoric: new opportunities in open access

Place: London, UK

URL: <http://www.alpsp.org/Ebusiness/Meetings/Meeting.aspx?ID=290>

November 20 – 21, Online Information 2012

Place: London, UK

URL: <http://www.online-information.co.uk>

November 23 – 24, 7th Munin conference 2012 – Trends in scholarly publishing

Place: Tromsø, Norway

URL: <http://www.ub.uit.no/baser/ocs/index.php/Munin/MC7/index>

November 25 – 29, Workshop On Web Based And Distributed Information Systems (WEBDIS'12)

Place: Sorrento, Italy

URL: <http://www.sitis-conf.org/en/workshop-webdis--12.php?Preview=ok>

November 26 – 28, Semantic Web in Libraries Conference (SWIB 12)

Place: Cologne, Germany

URL: <http://swib.org/swib12/>

November 28 – 30, 6th Metadata and Semantics Research Conference (MTSR 2012)

Place: Cádiz, Spain

URL: <http://mtsr2012.uca.es/index.php>

November 28 – 30, 13th International Conference on Web Information System Engineering (WISE 2012)

Place: Paphos, Cyprus

URL: <http://www.wise2012.cs.ucy.ac.cy/>

November 30, Open Horizons: A Revolution in Open Science

Place: Brussels, Belgium

URL: <http://www.leru.org/index.php/public/extra/open-horizons-a-revolution-in-open-science/>

December 2012

December 3 – 4, 7th International Workshop on Semantic and Social Media Adaptation and Personalization (SMAP 2012)

Place: Luxembourg City, Luxembourg

URL: <http://www.smap2012.org/cms/SMAP2012/content.nsf/id/homepage>

December 3 – 4, Migrating heritage: networks and collaborations across European museums, libraries and public cultural institutions

Place: Glasgow, Scotland

URL: <http://wp3.mela-project.eu/wp/pages/research-field-03-international-conference>

December 6-7, STM E-Production and STM innovation Seminar 2012

Place: London, UK

URL: <http://www.stm-assoc.org/events/stm-e-production-seminar-2012/> and <http://www.stm-assoc.org/events/stm-innovations-seminar-2012/>

December 10 – 12, 7th International Conference for Internet Technology and Secured Transactions (ICITST-2012)

Place: London, UK

URL: <http://www.icitst.org/>

December 10 – 13, IEEE International Conference on Data Mining (ICDM 2012)

Place: Brussels, Belgium

URL: <http://icdm2012.ua.ac.be/>



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!!! SAVE THE DATE !!!

**21st EBLIDA Annual Council and Conference Milan (Italy), 14th–15th May 2013
More information soon!**

The Executive Committee Meeting will take place on Monday 13th of May 2013