

The EBLIDA Newsletter is published monthly on European library & information society issues, programmes, news and events of interest to the library, archive and cultural heritage community.

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Contents:

1. Editorial
2. Acquisition policies in public libraries and their related copyright strategies
3. Sustainable development goals and libraries: 2nd European report
4. A European library agenda for the post-Covid age, update 2021
5. News from PL 2030: (a.) Kickstart your #hackAD journey and (b.) BIBLIO MOOC - a course designed specifically for librarians
6. The EBLIDA-OCLC Workshop on library new models (21st September 2021).
7. Congratulations to Ms Barbara Lison, new President IFLA
8. News from the EBLIDA Think The Unthinkable Programme

1. Editorial

Dear Colleagues,



Scheduling is important in the life of any organisation. The EBLIDA calendar usually runs in line with the solar year; it is only too natural, on 31st December, to draw the balance sheet of our activities. But the most important time for EBLIDA is dictated by its statutory obligations: right before summer, the EBLIDA Council gives the final stamp to our activities and approves the operational plan. We are ready to start a new cycle, moving ahead along a new schedule. After the scrutiny of the Council and the Summer break, September 2021 marks the beginning of a new year for EBLIDA, as it happens in schools and universities.

So, what will the EBLIDA “syllabus” be for the time ahead of us?

The seven countries involved in the EBLIDA flagship programme [“Think The Unthinkable \(TTU\): a post-Covid library agenda meeting sustainable development goals to be funded through European Structural and Investment Funds \(ESIF\) 2021-2027”](#) are now planning their Fall activities. TTU project managers are moving away from the awareness phase and entering the training /

workshops is to produce technical specifications aimed to facilitate would-be project managers in filing applications within the European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027.

The EBLIDA Secretariat is also involved in the elaboration of the 2nd European report on sustainable development and libraries. We are processing information provided by SDG experts and/or library associations in EBLIDA member countries. So far, a set of “country profiles” is being elaborated with a view to updating the [SDG – KIC](#) (Knowledge and Information Centre) section of the EBLIDA website. The synthesis of the report and its follow-up will be discussed by the Executive meeting in its October meeting.

Also fundamental for future EBLIDA activities is a report on acquisition policies in public libraries and related copyright strategies, now being prepared. This report has an operational short-term scope, since it provides guidance to TTU project managers in their projects concerning digital libraries. It will include some indications on the role public libraries can play within the (e-)book chain and a realistic strategy serving both library users and authors. Unlike scholarly communication, the authors and the editorial boards in the book trade are not researchers, university professors and civil servants paid by public institutions. The book trade is essentially the product of self-employed persons making their own living out of their creative efforts; therefore, a different copyright strategy should be followed in public libraries.

I also take pleasure in informing the Newsletter’s readers that the report “[A European library agenda for the post-Covid 19 age](#)”, released in August 2021, has been updated. In May 2020 we were somewhat optimistic in our belief that the Covid crisis would come to the end after Summer 2020. That has unfortunately not been the case. Now that Europe is seeing a light at the end of the tunnel, it is time to take stock of what took place in libraries during this terrible year and to make an assessment of the state of the art of libraries in Europe.

With EBLIDA activities running again at a full cruising speed, all readers of the EBLIDA Newsletter, and in particular EBLIDA members, will follow the activities of the new Executive Committee, elected in June 2021. The Executive Committee will meet in Riga on 5-6 October for the first time – hopefully, in-presence – and this marks a discontinuity with the long series of virtual meetings having taken place from April 2020 to June 2021. We are fully aware that the Covid crisis is not yet over; nevertheless, personal contact and prolonged conversations will be useful in creating a corporate culture and show that EBLIDA is first and foremost a community of people willing to implement ideas, projects and policies.

At this stage, EBLIDA’s priority is to come back to real life.

Ton van Vlimmeren
EBLIDA President

2. Acquisition policies in public libraries and their related copyright strategies



By early 2022, Public Libraries (PL) in seven EBLIDA countries will file from 50 to 70 applications within the framework of the **European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027**. Half of them will presumably address the issue of the digital library and plan advanced experiences in the digital distribution of publications. In an expanding digital library, PL negotiations with publishers cannot be managed in the old traditional way.

A policy should be set up, with a view to facilitating the elaboration of viable projects with realistic requirements and

objectives.

libraries and public libraries' acquisition policies. It takes into account market constraints, but also existing opportunities and some possible models with related copyright strategies. We can anticipate that a viable model in medium-large countries, for instance, would consist of setting up a centralised entity negotiating rights with publishers (in particular, small independent publishers who produce a large quantity of titles but have no marketing capacity to distribute them) and decentralised points of distribution where copyright-protected resources are combined with OA resources, blogs, conversations with users and other useful tools.

The primary aim of this paper is therefore:

- To illustrate the main differences between the book trade and scholarly communication and how these differences impact on the acquisition policies of PLs and RLs,
- To set up an appropriate PL acquisition policy, which may contribute to build up “rich” platforms partially controlled by PLs,
- So that by early 2022, libraries involved in Think The Unthinkable initiatives and requesting funds through the European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027 are enabled to carry out acquisition policies in an enhanced digital environment, with the support of long-term planning and appropriate copyright strategies.

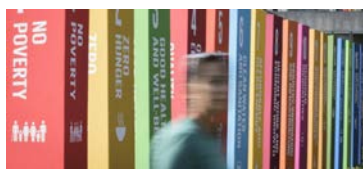
Research libraries' acquisition policies have been permeated by the BOAI (Budapest Open Access Initiative), which was launched in In 2002. Open Access (OA) has made great strides with a panoply of successful projects, platforms and other initiatives. Even if the bill for RL acquisitions remains high, OA has contributed to the stabilization of the market and to galvanising the advocates of products and channels which are alternative to the oligopoly of commercial scholarly publishing.

In the book trade, authorship and the selection of quality production – a public endeavour in the scholarly communication chain – is within the scope of private companies and of individuals. While scholarly communication is fully digitalised, the penetration of digital technologies in the book trade sector is still not pervasive - the paper format represents the large majority of publications, up to 90-95%. Despite increasing e-book sales and e-lending in libraries during the Covid-19 crisis, the percentage of digital publications in the book trade remains the same (Habran (2020), p. 121.).

This may be the reason why PL delayed their reflection on negotiation policies and their interaction with the book trade in the digital environment. This also means that *tous les jeux ne sont pas faits* for PLs. How should they proceed? Should they adopt the Budapest Declaration (2002) as it stands? Or should they build up an initiative of their own?

The study is now undergoing the scrutiny of both the EC Committee and the [Expert Group on Information Law](#) (EGIL) before being released.

3. Sustainable development goals and libraries: 2nd European report



In May 2020 EBLIDA released the “[Sustainable Development Goals and Libraries – First European Report](#)”. This report was an attempt to map SDG projects in European libraries not only as stories to be told to administrators and policy-makers for advocacy purposes, but also as a fully-fledged concept apt to frame library work into the broader and far-reaching scope of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The traditional library sphere is now being challenged by private information service providers, with high-tech giants, like Google, Amazon, Facebook and Apple, breaking the monopoly of free access to information enjoyed by libraries for years. In the current “attention economy”, where a wealth of information creates a poverty of attention, many private information providers *distribute free and universal access to content based on advertising revenues*.

new roles for libraries. In this new political and social context, the most appropriate political framework can be clearly identified in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, approved in 2015, and in its European equivalent, the European 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. The First European report on sustainable development goals and libraries clearly reflected this picture.

The 2nd report on SDGs and European libraries will be of a totally different nature. Only one year ago, European libraries were still fumbling to master SDGs, to understand how to associate SDGs to projects and how to establish SDGs as their own framework. After one year, it is apparent that European libraries are going through another stage of their approach to the sustainable development agenda, for at least three reasons.

First, SDGs are now a reality in the libraries of many European countries; many of them prioritise SDGs for their activities. SDG-oriented projects blossom everywhere, to the point – and this is the second factor – that in a good number of countries a national, and to a certain extent also European, library policy on sustainable development can be clearly defined with the selection of several SDGs as put at the centre of their action. And finally, as long as conformity to SDGs is becoming a permanent criterion in the formulation of projects, the need to evaluate these projects is strong and well rooted in the mentality of librarians.

These “country profiles” are now undergoing the scrutiny of both the EC Committee and the [Expert Group European Libraries and Sustainable Development Implementation and Assessment \(ELSIA\)](#); the synthesis report will be published later in the year.

4. A European library agenda for the post-Covid age, update 2021



On 26 March 2020, the EBLIDA Executive Committee met in an extraordinary online meeting and asked the EBLIDA Secretariat to undertake a survey aimed at reviewing the state of libraries in the face of the Covid-19 crisis on the basis of a checklist including 19 items. This checklist aimed to describe measures, practices and services provided by library associations and library institutions which were initiated during the crisis and continued in one way or another in the post-Covid-19 age.

The content of the EBLIDA report [A European library agenda for the post-Covid 19 age](#) (May 2020), together with the [Sustainable Development Goals and Libraries - First European Report](#), also released in May 2020, and the Paper on [The European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027: Funding Opportunities for Libraries](#) (June 2020) were aggregated into the EBLIDA flagship report “[Think The Unthinkable: A post Covid-19 European Library Agenda meeting Sustainable Development Goals and funded through the European Structural and Investment Funds \(2021-2027\)](#)”.

One year later, with the pandemic apparently slowing down and, in some countries, on the way to being eradicated, EBLIDA decided to relaunch an investigation with a view to validating the new normals detected in the first post-Covid agenda report and to identifying the legacy left by library policies and trends set in place during the peak of the Covid-19 crisis. In May 2020 EBLIDA was somewhat optimistic in the belief that the Covid crisis would come to the end after Summer 2020. That has unfortunately not been the case. Now that Europe is seeing a light at the end of the tunnel, it is time to take stock of what took place in libraries during this terrible year and make an assessment of what is the state of the art of libraries in Europe.

libraries will have to re-prioritise their agendas and revise their public policies. As an organisation working in the European field, EBLIDA is closely monitoring these developments and exploring how libraries may align with new priorities in a proactive way.

All respondents, mainly EBLIDA Members, must be thanked for the prompt and savvy responses they sent EBLIDA on the occasion of both Surveys, in 2020 and 2021.

The updated report is now undergoing the scrutiny of the EC Committee before being released.

5. News from Public Libraries 2030

(a.) Kickstart your #hackAD journey



The #hackAD project is entering its final phases and, as a project partner, we're excited to present the methodology used in this project and show how you can get started with hackathons in your library!

Before we jump into how you can get hacking in your library, here's how the #hackAD started.

This project is based on the Social Hackathon Umbria (#SHU) methodology which was piloted in Italy. #SHU is a digital co-creation initiative that aims to develop the digital skills of young people and adults through training in preparation for a hackathon. There is no need to be a digital expert - innovation, creativity, and perseverance is all that is needed for a successful hackathon! The #hackAD project picked up on this methodology and implemented it in Italy, Greece, Croatia, and France. The project partners created Social Hackademy Labs where young people received in-depth training courses on: Native Mobile App Development, Web Design, and Visual and Graphic Design. As part of their learning journey, the participants get to put into practice their new knowledge and skills in a national Social Hackathon. The challenges they needed to develop solutions for, were linked to one or more of the 17 UN Goals for Sustainable Development.

The #hackAD methodology has been compiled into a [one-stop-shop document](#) to help you get started with Social Hackathons in your libraries. It is crucial to plan this process out well for a successful hackathon and if you're looking for inspiration we recommend following the [#hackAD page](#) to see how the partners carried this out and to stay up to date with the project.

The #hackAD project will also be presented during the [ALL DIGITAL Summit](#) this October. If you'd like to find out more about the project and meet the project partners, make sure to register for this event.

(b.) BIBLIO MOOC - a course designed specifically for librarians

We are announcing the launch of the [BIBLIO Massive Open Online Course](#) starting October 4!

This MOOC offers:

- state-of-the-art curricula developed and delivered by experts under high standards of quality assurance
- 26 modules covering transferrable and digital skills for library professionals



training programme and certify as *Community engagement and communication officer* or *Digital transformation facilitator*.

- personalised support provided by experienced lecturers
- opportunity to meet, connect and network with peers from all over the world
- certification in accordance with the European and national qualification frameworks
- opportunity for participants who will successfully complete the MOOC to enlist in a specialised

It is open to all and free of charge. Experience in librarianship is a plus but not mandatory. The course itself will require a 8-10 hour weekly commitment and participants with a 75% success rate of online assessments will receive the course certificate.

The [BIBLIO project](#) aims to address the skills gap in the library sector resulting from the digital transformation. In order to do this, a MOOC at EQF level 5 has been developed to support the upskilling and reskilling of library professionals as well as individuals interested in a career in librarianship.

We would like to invite you to share the [registration link](#) to the MOOC to your network and on your websites so that librarians across Europe can take part in this training opportunity! Please find attached some visuals to use as well in your communications.

6. The EBLIDA-OCLC Workshop: “Reshaping the library in light of the pandemic: possibilities and opportunities”

**RESHAPING THE LIBRARY
IN LIGHT OF THE PANDEMIC:
POSSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

ONLINE WORKSHOP
21 SEPTEMBER 2021

16:00 – 17:30 (CET)
10:00 – 11:30 (EDT)
08:00 – 09:30 (MDT)

Theme: *Reshaping the library in light of the pandemic: possibilities and opportunities*

Date: 21 September 2021

Time: 16:00 – 17:30 (CEST - Central European Summer Time)

[Registration](#)

Over the last 18 months, the impact of the pandemic and the changes that it has enforced have been felt by many libraries the world over. During the workshop, we will look at how these changes have impacted and reshaped libraries both globally and regionally. Using the findings and conclusions gleaned from an [OCLC Research](#) project carried out during the pandemic, and a report published by EBLIDA in May 2020 and updated in August 2021, we will consider what the ‘new normal’ for libraries may look like in the post-COVID age. The programme of the workshop is [here](#).

and evolve, the OCLC Research team met with global library leaders to discuss emerging library models in response to the changes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. They looked at new and evolving practices and policies, possibilities for collaboration, and how these opportunities can benefit their communities into the future. During this session, representatives from OCLC Research will share their findings and conclusions based on the library leaders' vision as their New Model Library emerges. A corresponding report will be made available later this year.

The tables included in the EBLIDA report ([see paragraph 4](#)) provide evidence that most changes implemented during the Covid crisis are going to impact the future of libraries not only as additional or complementary services, but also in terms of governance and diversification of sources of income. When libraries re-opened at the end of the Covid big crisis from March to May 2020, they were intensively used and more books were read, in spite of initial drops. New copyright contracts were negotiated with publishers in some countries; these are opportunities that should not be jeopardised; as Winston Churchill said: *"you should never waste a good crisis."*

7. Congratulations to Ms Barbara Lison, new President IFLA



Barbara Lison, Director of the Public Library of Bremen and IFLA President-elect (2019-2021), is the new [IFLA President](#) since August 2021.

Barbara is an old friend of EBLIDA, since she served in the EBLIDA Executive Committee from 1997 to 2001, from 2005-2007, 2007-2009, as EBLIDA Vice President from 2015-2018 and one more time as EC member from 2018 to 2020.

She contributed to many of EBLIDA's activities and now joins the ranks of those EBLIDA officers who take high responsibilities within IFLA.

She co-authored the report for the European Parliament on "[The new role of public libraries in local communities](#)" (2018).

Barbara has been a Board member in the most important entities working with libraries in Germany (Goethe Institut, EKZ, VDB, etc.).

At international level, she was a member of the network of the Bertelsmann Foundation, a founding member of PLIN, the International Network of Public Libraries and a member of the IFLA Governing Board.

Under current circumstances, Barbara's designation as President IFLA ran in a virtual way and there was not the kind of ceremony we have been used to see in previous designations. But we have no doubt that Barbara's Presidency will produce very concrete results.

We will of course support her mission and look forward to cooperating on that with the other organisations active at the European level.

We wish Barbara "**Meeresstille und glückliche Fahrt**"!

8. News from the EBLIDA Think The Unthinkable Programme

Italy



place between September and October 2021 focused on “SDGs and libraries - Filing projects within the European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027”.

Virtual Labs are jointly organised by EBLIDA, [Rete delle Reti](#) and [The Italian Library Association](#).

Proposals will be worked out in the following areas:

1.1 Green Library (SDGs 12,13, 14 and 15), focussed on library space, environment, areas and places;

1.2 Green Library (SDGs 12,13, 14 and 15), focussed on

Green Literacy;

2.1 Digital Conservation (SDGs 9 and 11), focussed on Web archiving, local history;

2.2 Digitalisation of collections (SDGs 9 and 11), focussed on sustainable digitalisation;

3.1 Digital citizenship (SDGs 4 and 10), focussed on Smart cities and Citizen Science;

3.2 Digital citizenship (SDGs 4 and 10), focussed on Digital communities;

4. Access (SDGs 4 and transversal), focussed on intelligent metadata;

5. Inclusiveness (SDGs 5 and 10), focussed on social and territorial cohesion;

6.1 Work and Economic Growth (SDGs 8 and 9), focussed on work and job requalification;

6.2 Work and Economic Growth (SDGs 8 and 9), focussed on productive activities and entrepreneurship.

Netherlands

In the Netherlands, the nine public libraries of ‘[Expeditie NL](#)’ (Expedition Netherlands) used the first part of 2021 for alignment. Together we found out what will become relevant over the coming years for every Expedition-member, what do the libraries in that case need and how is this related to SDG’s, EU-policy and funding and policy on a national level.

Now we have a clear view, we are eager to match our ambitions with EU-calls and partners. For this we would love to share our vision and ambition with public libraries from other EU-membership-states to see if we can join forces.

On September 20th, we will start activating the international network with the list of forthcoming EU-calendar of calls for proposals and possible matches between Dutch libraries and libraries in other countries.

Please contact Maarten Crump (m.crump@alignmenthouse.nl) and Giuseppe Vitiello (g.vitiello@eblida.org) if we can organise such a meeting with your network of public libraries.



Get Involved!

EBLIDA members comprise a robust network of libraries and our aim is to strengthen libraries in Europe

Please look at the [Four good reasons to become EBLIDA member](#).

For the registration form please fill out the [Membership Enquiry Form](#) or contact the Secretariat: eblida@eblida.org

September 15

[Digital Shift Forum - The academic library and artificial intelligence: some possible futures](#)

Place: Online event

Organizer: RLUK

September 15-17

[OpenSym 2021](#)

Place: Madrid, Spain & Online (hybrid conference)

Organizer: OpenSym

September 16-17

[National Libraries Now 2021 Conference](#)

Place: Online event

Organizer: NLN

September 21

[EBLIDA - OCLC Online Workshop: Reshaping the library in light of the pandemic: possibilities and opportunities](#)

Place: Online event

Organizer: EBLIDA & OCLC

September 23-24

[Localising the Sustainable Development Goals through Baltic museums and libraries Workshops & Social event](#)

Place: Online event

Organizer: National Library of Latvia, the Latvian Museum Association (LMA) and the Latvian Librarians' Association (LLA)

About the Newsletter

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