



Draft Strategy 2007-2010 – Open Consultation

As reported in the last issue of *Hot News*, a group of Executive Committee members and the director met in London at the end of last year to formulate a draft strategy proposal for 2007-2010. This document is now complete and has been sent out to all EBLIDA members by post on Tuesday the 13th of February. In order to ensure transparency and the influence of EBLIDA members on the strategy for the organisation over the next coming years, we would ask for your comments and feedback on this document.

We would ask for these no later than the 5th of March 2007 and that they be emailed to EBLIDA at cranfield@debibliotheken.nl.

EBLIDA and EUCLID Joint Conference 2007— “Librarian@2010 – Educating for the future”

By Helena Patrício, EBLIDA Executive Committee Member,
on behalf of the Organising Committee

EBLIDA and EUCLID are proud to announce their first ever joint conference to be held in Lisbon from 19 to 21 of September 2007.

Background and goals

EBLIDA and EUCLID share the belief that Europe needs strong libraries and knowledgeable librarians who can help in creating a strong European economy. Today libraries and the information sector face a series of complex challenges due to fundamentally changing expectations of users. The introduction of ICT, born digital material, digitization of large volumes of traditional material and a shift from the public to the private domain have profoundly changed the library environment.

The Bologna process aims at creating a European educational space characterized by transparency and promoting mobility of academic staff and students, as well as professionals within the LIS Sector in order to promote employability and facilitate integration. This process is of vital interest for the academic field as well as the field of practice. So far European education and research institutions on one side and the field of practice on the other have, to a large extent, discussed these issues separately. There is a need to bridge the gap between the academic field and the field of practice when discussing the future of European library and information science education, the profession and its services. In order to promote such a joint discussion, EUCLID and EBLIDA are arranging a joint conference in Lisbon, Portugal, in September 2007.

This conference aims to bring educators, researchers and practitioners together in order to discuss the effects of profound social changes related to digitization, multiculturalism and the growth of the knowledge economy. The conference will also consider the impact of the Bologna process, both in the arena of education and research and also in professional practice, and the relationship between the two. The conference will be organized according to the following themes and the submission of papers is welcomed.

Theme 1. “Cooperation between academia and practice”

How can LIS research be incorporated, integrated and disseminated into LIS practice? How can research and education be stimulated and enriched by practice? Can “arenas” or “fora” be established where researchers and practitioners can meet and discuss?

Are there institutional or other barriers which make this cooperation difficult?

Theme 2. “Mobility and flexibility”

How can the LIS community work together on issues of mobility and ensure cooperation between academia and practice for the benefit of students and professionals in the LIS sector?

Are mobility and flexibility in the employment market-place important for its development?

Theme 3. The role of academia and the LIS associations in the continuous training of library professionals.

What role can the LIS associations and organizations play in partnership with the LIS educational sector to ensure that there is relevant and research based continuous education for the LIS sector as whole.

Are the associations and organizations prepared to meet the needs of its members and other stakeholders?

Panel discussion: “Towards a common curriculum”

Does the LIS educational sector need a common curriculum or guidelines for LIS academic institutions? A panel of practitioners and researchers will analyse and discuss the “European curriculum reflections on library and information science education” published in 2005 by The Royal School of Library and Information Science, Copenhagen to see if these curriculum suggestions meet the needs of the institutions in the future.

Call for papers

The conference will consist of several types of contributions: Invited guest speakers, Submitted papers and Panel discussion.

Authors who wish to contribute papers for the conference should submit an abstract of approx. 500 words addressing one of the three overall conference themes "Cooperation between academia and practice", "Mobility and flexibility" and "The role of academia and library associations and organisations in the continuous training of the library professionals".

Abstracts should be submitted to Pedro Hípola by email (phipola@ugr.es) no later than 1st May 2007. The review process will be completed by the end of May and authors will be notified immediately thereafter.

Accepted papers will be considered for publication in the journal *Education for Information*.

A final programme, including details of venue, registration fee, accommodation and a full list of speakers will be published in June.

Digital Libraries Group (COopyright Subgroup) meeting in Milan

By Toby Bainton, EBLIDA Copyright Expert Group Member

On 25 and 26 January, I attended a meeting of the European Commission's Copyright Subgroup for the Digital Library Initiative. The meeting was held in Milan at the law practice of the Subgroup's chairman, Professor Marco Ricolfi. Amongst the people present, three represented cultural institutions and four represented right-holders. A fuller description of the purpose and work of the Subgroup was given in *Nr. 1 January 2007 of EBLIDA News*, so this account can concentrate on reporting progress since October.

On the topic of *digitisation for preservation* the Subgroup quickly approved wording for their official report which will propose allowing libraries to make *multiple* digital copies for preservation purposes, when more than one copy is required for technical reasons, provided that the digital copies are available to users only when they are on-site, and that no increase results in the number of copies available to end-users.

On the topic of *digitisation of out-of-print works* the Subgroup examined in detail a draft licence prepared by one of the representatives of collecting societies. Many amendments were suggested and a final form of the licence is awaited. Its proposed terms seem acceptable to libraries though it is a complicated document. It is intended to be used for agreements between libraries and rights-holders.

On the topic of *digitisation of orphan works* it was agreed that a solution needed to be found to the problem of orphan works, and that a flexible framework should allow more than one method for making digital copies without excessive legal risk. Several possible approaches are being discussed in various Member States and indeed in the United States of America. A member of the Subgroup will prepare suitably broad recommendations, which will not insist on one particular method.

John Wiley and Sons Inc. purchases Blackwell Publishing (Holdings) Ltd.

By: Andrew Cranfield, Director EBLIDA

Along with co-signatories SCONUL, CURL, LIBER and SPARC Europe, EBLIDA has sent a letter to DG Competition of the European Commission, outlining our concern with the recently announced purchase of Blackwell Publishing by John Wiley and Sons. From previous experiences with similar takeovers, we suspect that this may well have an adverse effect on prices on journals and for journal accessions at individual libraries or consortia of libraries. As published information is by its very nature a monopoly product customers cannot go elsewhere for the same information. We fear that this concentration of journal titles among large publishing houses may result in an adverse exploitation of their market position. We conclude the letter by offering to meet with the Commission to discuss the effects on the availability of scientific information in light of this and other recent purchases in the European publishing market.

Interactive content and convergence: Implications for the Information Society

By Carmen Morlon, EBLIDA EU Information Officer

This study identifies 36 existing or potential barriers (roadblocks) to developing online content and assesses their market impact up to 2010. According to the study, there are diverse reasons for which content owner/right-holders and distributors sometimes cannot come to terms, or content can not be exploited e.g. complexity of clearance of underlying rights (orphan works), locating right-holders and the national systems of collective management of rights.

Technological, copyright, digital piracy, legal and regulatory issues - IPR and interoperability in particular, competition and economic issues e.g. cost of digitisation are identified as main obstacles. As regards publishing, attention must be paid to skills, the impact of direct regulation/co-regulation on content and advertising, VAT, market power of certain gatekeepers, fragmentation and complexity due to different platforms and the re-use of copyrighted content by e.g. portals, digital libraries and digitisation projects).

The study by *Screen Digest Ltd, CMS Hasche Sigle, Goldmedia GmbH and Rightscom Ltd.* will be an important input to the proposals on content online that the Commission intends to present in the second half of 2007. The public consultation questionnaire on 'Content online in the Single Market' (28 July-13 October 2006) and public hearing on 11 October 2006 led to more than 175 written contributions, which are currently being analysed for the proposals (see EBLIDA Response at <http://eblida.cimconsult.dk/uploads/eblida/19/1167692951.pdf>).

The final report and annexes can be downloaded from http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/eeurope/i2010/studies/index_en.htm#interactive.