



Newsletter

eIFL Newsletter - September - October 2005

1. eIFL-related News

Preparations for the General Assembly Under Way

As you know, our 2005 General Assembly will take place in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 28-29 October. A pre-General Assembly one day workshop on Open Source Software for Libraries will be organised on 27 October in order to highlight OSS solutions such as link resolvers for interested eIFL member countries representatives. Deadline for submission of request for participation in this workshop is 12 September. We have already started to make arrangements concerning logistics and programme of this major eIFL.net event, which will include key speakers such as Anurag Acharya, principal engineer from Google Scholar or Art Rhyno, University of Windsor Systems Librarian and author of the eIFL.net report on Open Source Software. Art Rhyno is also the author of Using Open Source Systems for Digital Libraries. You all will be duly updated as progress is made.

Follow-up on eIFL Workshops in Palestine and Jordan

eIFL has carried out workshops on consortium building and licensing of electronic resources in Gaza (10-11 July), West Bank (13-14 July) and Amman (17-18 July) as a follow up after the Middle East kick off meeting that took place in April in Cairo. The three workshops convened much interest from a large representation of the national library communities who explored the main challenges that they face in building sustainable consortia. More collaborative activities will follow suit. eIFL also foresees to organise similar workshops in the other new participating countries from the region, namely Lebanon, Egypt and Syria. You can have a look at several presentations and the new faces at http://www.eifl.net/events/events_related.html.

The Poznan Foundation of Scientific Libraries to Host ICOLC Fall Meeting

Jan Nikisch, chair of the eIFL.net advisory board and director of the Poznan Foundation of Scientific Libraries, Poland, has posted a meeting information and registration site at <http://www.pfsl.poznan.pl/icolc/index.html> where you can find the tentative programme, list of participants, registration form and useful information related to the ICOLC Fall meeting that will be held from 28 September to 1 October. Hope to see many of you there!

Welcome to the Senegalese Library Consortium

Henri Sene, eIFL.net country coordinator for Senegal, has recently announced the creation of COBESS, (Consortium des Bibliothèques de l'Enseignement Supérieur du Senegal). At the General Assembly meeting held at the University Gaston Berger of Saint Louis on July 16 the University Librarians of public and private higher educational institutions of Senegal decided to create COBESS. The main library of University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar was designated to host its headquarters and the Consortium gathers together 31 libraries of 27 higher educational institutions in the cities of Dakar, Saint-Louis, Thies, and Bambey. We wish this new consortium much success and dynamism!

eIFL to Support iPRES

Nestor, the German national "Network of Expertise in Long-term Storage of Digital Resources" will support the forthcoming International Conference on Preservation of Digital Objects (iPRES) to be held in Goettingen on 15-16 September. The conference seeks to increase exchange of international experiences as far as the digital preservation is concerned, paying special attention to preservation policies, technical workflow and web archiving. eIFL.net is one of the co-organisers of the event, together with the Austrian National Library, Cornell University Library, California Digital Library, Goettingen State and University Library, and the Chinese

Academy of Sciences. This important meeting continues the series of focused seminars eIFL.net has been holding with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and international experts. Please refer to <http://rdd.sub.uni-goettingen.de/conferences/ipres/home> for additional information.

eIFL.net at the International Workshop on e-Science

Rima Kupryte attended the International Workshop on "Creating the Information Commons for e-Science: Toward Institutional Policies and Guidelines for Action", held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris on 1st and 2nd September 2005. The event was jointly organised by CODATA, the Committee on Data for Science and Technology and other organizations such as ICSU, ICSTI, INASP, UNESCO, TWAS, and OECD. The Workshop attracted the participation of more than one hundred individuals from the domains of science, information management, and related areas of the social sciences, law and public policy, joined by representatives of international organizations and decision-makers in national governments with an agenda on public science and technology policies and public research funding. As a result of this major event, it has been proposed to explore the nature, scope and feasibility of launching an initiative leading to the creation of a Global Information Commons for e-Science. The programme and further details can be found at <http://www.codataweb.org/UNESCOmtg/agenda.html>.

eIFL at IFLA

eIFL.net exhibitor stand at the IFLA Congress in Oslo in August was largely visited by quite a few members of the eIFL community and interested people and representatives of like minded initiatives. During the Congress eIFL.net also co-organised several events with the IFLA Committee on Copyright and Other Legal Matters (CLM), please read details on the eIFL-IP section of this Newsletter issue.

eIFL at the Wikimedia Conference

Irina Razumova from the eIFL.net community in Russia attended the first international Wikimedia conference held in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, on August 4-7, and organized by the Wikimedia Foundation. Wikimedia is an international non-profit organization dedicated to the development and distribution of free multilingual content through the various wiki-projects, most notably Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia- one of the 50 most popular websites in the world available in 120 languages and hosting more than 2.2 million articles with 660 000 in English editions and 260 000 in German.

The Conference was attended by four hundred people from 50 countries all over the world and its program included 65 lectures, workshops and tutorials.

The opening keynotes and further development were reported by Jimmy Wales, the founder of Wikimedia. Technology aspects were reviewed by prominent figures in the free software movement. The sociology of wiki communities and problem areas such as integrity and neutrality of the content were also discussed.

The Program of the conference and a number of talks and presentations are available at the official Wikimedia site: <http://wikimania.wikimedia.org/wiki/Programme> and http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimania_2005_Presentations.

2. Upcoming eIFL Events in September-October 2005:

- Rima Kupryte, Monika Segbert, Susan Veldsman and Alexander Kuznetsov will be the resource persons in the eIFL.net workshop to be held in Tehran, Iran, from 8 to 13 September.
- On 15 September Teresa Hackett will attend the WIPO Interactive Session with Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) to be taken place in Geneva under the framework of the development Agenda to discuss informally issues of common concern to the international community.
- Jan Nikisch will participate in the International Conference on Preservation of Digital Objects (iPRES) in Goettingen, Germany, on 15-16 September.
- Melissa Hagemann will be giving a presentation of eIFL's activities in Open Access in developing and transition countries at the International Conference on Open Access in Developing Countries (<http://www.icml9.org/meetings/openaccess/>), on 21-22 September. The conference is a parallel meeting of the 9th World Congress on Health Information and Libraries in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil.
- Emilija Banionyte will pay a country visit to Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 25-28 September and will meet with the local library community.
- Teresa Hackett will attend the Annual General Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO to be held in Geneva from 26 September to 5 October. Items of interest to eIFL are provisionally tabled for 28

September (the Development Agenda, PCIPD and the draft broadcast treaty). Because WIPO member states could not reach a consensus on a Development Agenda, a heated discussion and much negotiation is expected.

- Rima Kupryte will attend the ICOLC Fall meeting to be held in Poznan, Poland, from 28 September to 1 October. The event will be hosted by the Poznan Foundation of Scientific Libraries.
- At the invitation of Karmen Stular Sotošek, Melissa Hagemann will be giving a presentation on Open Access at the Annual Conference of Slovene Librarians on 24 October in Portorož, Slovenia.
- Monika Segbert will pay a country visit to Lebanon in October during which she will hold discussions with the local library community.
- On 28-29 October the 5th eIFL General Assembly will be held in Vilnius, Lithuania. This event will be attended by the eIFL community and staff, and major international figures will also attend as speakers. A pre-Conference workshop on Open Source Software for Libraries will take place on 27 October and the Advisory Board will meet on 27 and 30 October.

3. Update on new Content

Negotiation with Gale Publishing Finalised

eIFL.net has signed an agreement with Gale International on 7 September which will allow access to 6 databases (Literature, Resource Center, Business and Company Resource Center, InfoTrac, OneFile, Biography Resource Center, Health and Wellness Resource Center, and History Resource Center-Modern World). Model licences are available on the eIFL.net website in the members-only section.

4. Update on eIFL-IP

eIFL at IFLA Oslo

Taking a Stand: Libraries and Access to Knowledge for All

eIFL co-organised several highly successful events at IFLA Oslo with the IFLA Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM).

"Developing a library agenda for intellectual property. Libraries and the Geneva Declaration on the future of WIPO" was a roundtable discussion attended by more than 300 librarians from all over the world who shared their views, ideas and experience on this hot political topic with representatives of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), IFLA CLM and eIFL who have been closely involved in the groundbreaking events taking place in the international world of IP over the past year.

A joint IFLA-eIFL press release was launched during IFLA Oslo. "Are the UN's richest members committed to access to knowledge for all? International library organisations call for an end to deadlock in discussions for a Development Agenda for WIPO" expressed disappointment that after nine days of discussion not only did WIPO government delegates fail to agree on any of the substantive issues, but that due to resistance from the US and Japan, a consensus on how to handle the discussions in the future was rendered impossible.

"Four shotgun weddings and a funeral. Free Trade Agreements: not free not fair – keep copyright out!" discussed the increasing number of bi- and multi-lateral trade agreements which are having a profound impact on domestic copyright legislation. Negotiations are often conducted behind closed doors by government trade officials with no understanding of libraries and the services we provide, while big trading blocs such as the US and the EU use the lure of market access as a means to impose overly restrictive copyright laws on developing countries. Participants learnt about the implications of FTAs for developing countries as well as the World Trade Organization General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS).

In his report to the IFLA Council, Mr. Winston Tabb, Chairman of IFLA CLM expressed his appreciation to eIFL for support in international copyright activities during the year and looked forward to continued fruitful co-operation.

eIFL-IFLA press release, Oslo 16 August 2005: http://www.eifl.net/services/wipo_da.html.

eIFL-NGO press release, Geneva 20.7.2005 calling on WIPO to move the development agenda forward: http://www.eifl.net/services/ipdocs/PressRelease_iim3.pdf.

eIFL Awarded UNESCO Funding for Copyright Work in CIS Region

The important work of eIFL in copyright issues was recognised when UNESCO recently selected an eIFL proposal for funding, one of only twenty-four projects selected from 502 proposals to the UNESCO Information for All Programme (IFAP). The award will fund scalable, transferable tools and resources and a training seminar for librarians in copyright and related issues in the CIS and neighbouring regions.

The UNESCO IFAP provides a framework for international co-operation and international and regional partnerships. It supports the development of common strategies, methods and tools for building a just and free information society and for narrowing the gap between the information rich and the information poor. The programme is a key element in the fulfilment of UNESCO's mandate to contribute to "education for all", to the "free exchange of ideas and knowledge" and to "increase the means of communication between peoples". eIFL is excited to be part of the programme and the new opportunities that it will bring.

http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=1627&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html.

eIFL-IP Africa Workshop, Kampala, November 2005

The eIFL-IP workshop for Africa will take place in Kampala, Uganda on Friday 25th - Saturday 26th November 2005. eIFL-IP colleagues from Botswana, Cameroon, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe will attend.

The workshop will cover copyright and libraries; copyright issues in Africa; copyright and trade agreements; international developments; advocacy and creating alliances. There will be lots of time to discuss national issues, exchange information and ask questions. There is an emphasis on practical issues and together we will start to plan a national library copyright strategy. Speakers hail from Canada, Ireland, South Africa, Uganda and the UK.

The eIFL workshop takes place in co-operation with the Africa Copyright Forum (ACF) Conference Forum, 28-30 November 2005. This is a separate event, but we hope that many eIFL-IP participants can stay on and can benefit from attending both events.

A new era of activism for access to knowledge in Africa will be launched in November 2005!

Information on the eIFL-IP Africa workshop: <http://www.eifl.net/services/ipafrica.html>.

Information on the Africa Copyright Forum conference: <http://www.nlu.go.ug/acfconf.htm>.

Resources

One of the best websites for information on bi-and multi-lateral Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) is [bilaterals.org](http://www.bilaterals.org) "everything that's not happening at the WTO". [bilaterals.org](http://www.bilaterals.org) is a collective effort to share information and stimulate co-operation against bi-lateral trade and investment agreements that are exposing countries to the deepest forms of penetration by transnational corporations. The website contains up-to-date multilingual news items and analysis and helps to keep track of all the negotiations. <http://www.bilaterals.org/>.

5. Open Access News and Useful Resources

Support for Conversion to Open Access for Journals in Developing Countries

OSI has given a grant to Bioline International (<http://www.bioline.org.br/>) for the conversion of ten traditional subscription-based journals to open access. Bioline is a not-for-profit electronic publishing service committed to providing open access to quality research journals published in developing countries. Bioline will be issuing a call for interest for journals which would like to convert to open access. eIFL will distribute the call so if you know of journals which would like to convert to open access, please keep an eye out for it.

Guide to Open Access Publishing and Scholarly Societies

In July OSI released a practical guide (http://www.soros.org/openaccess/scholarly_guide.shtml) which discusses the options and actions that societies and publishers can take with respect to open access. The guide was written by Jan Velterop, the former publisher of BioMed Central.

Springer Appoints Jan Velterop Director of Open Access

Jan Velterop joined Springer in mid-August as their new Director of Open Access. Although Springer was the first large publisher to experiment with Open Access through their "Open Choice" Program, this initiative was not widely promoted or understood. Velterop will be working to strengthen support for Open Access both within Springer and throughout the publishing community. For more information, please see <http://www.springeronline.com/sgw/cda/frontpage/0,11855,4-40575-2-157192-0,00.html>.

Content Commons Project

eIFL-OA had a meeting with the Connexions Project in July. Connexions is a project out of Rice University in Texas to create a "content commons" of educational material which can be freely used and reused. From their website: "Connexions is an environment for collaboratively developing, freely sharing, and rapidly publishing scholarly content on the Web. Our Content Commons contains educational materials for everyone – from children to college students to professionals – organized in small modules that are easily connected into larger courses. All content is free to use and reuse under the Creative Commons "attribution" license."

Connexions is eager to increase its international collaborations and welcomes interest from eIFL members. For more information please see: <http://beta.cnx.rice.edu/aboutus/> Also, this recent article on Connexions provides more background information: <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2005/07/29/open>.

eIFL Open Source Software Report Available on the Web

The Open Source Software Report that eIFL.net commissioned from Art Rhyno, systems' librarian of the University of Windsor, Canada, can be found on the eIFL website. This is a very thorough account of what OSS stands for and of main OSS options currently available. Please read it all on the eIFL website members-only section at http://www.eifl.net/members/members_knowledge.html#report.

Conclusions from the JISC International Colloquium 2005 Online

Following the JISC International Colloquium that took place in London in June and on which a report was provided by the eIFL representative in our last newsletter issue, now it is possible to read conclusions, details and a statement of principles at www.jisc.ac.uk/scholarly.

The eGranary Initiative for Africa

The eGranary Digital Library is a project from the University of Iowa that aims to develop an information delivery system which is economically and technologically within the African context. By garnering permissions, copying web sites, and delivering them to intranet web servers inside its partner institutions in developing countries, this initiative manages to provide with millions of high quality digital educational resources to African learning institutions lacking adequate Internet access. Please read further on this project, partner institutions, list of contributors and current activities at <http://www.widernet.org/digitallibrary/>.

Free Access to Scholarly Resources through the Global Development Network

Through its online programme the GNet, GDN offers free of charge access to research papers and online journal listings. On the one hand, the Knowledge Base enables access to thousands of full-text research papers and literature, with a special focus on material from developing and transition countries (please see http://www.gdnet.org/knowledge_base/research_papers/).

Study on Self-Archiving Released

Alma Swam and Sheridan Brown of Key Perspectives have recently published Open Access Self Archiving: An Author Study where they give an account of the self archiving experience, motivation issues and mechanisms of 1296 respondents. You can read it at http://www.keyperspectives.co.uk/OpenAccessArchive/2005_Open_Access_Report.pdf.

Useful Resource on Electronic Publishing

The Scholarly Electronic Publishing Bibliography (SEPB) holds a rich archive on English-language articles, books, and other printed and electronic sources on electronic publishing mostly from the 1990 onwards. Please see <http://info.lib.uh.edu/sepb/sepb.html>.

Articles on Open Access Webliography and Institutional Repositories Available on the Web

A preprint of the article "Open Access Webliography" by Adrian K. Ho and Charles W. Bailey, Jr. is now

available at <http://www.escholarlypub.com/cwb/oaw.htm>. This annotated weblibliography presents a wide range of electronic resources related to the open access movement that were freely available on the Internet as of April 2005. Equally, it is freely available the preprint of "The Role of Reference Librarians in Institutional Repositories" article by Charles W. Bailey in this issue is also available at <http://www.escholarlypub.com/cwb/reflibir.pdf>.