



Annual Activity Report 2005

Draft Version April 2006

EBLIDA GENERAL

EBLIDA Strategy and Work Programme

EBLIDA followed its EBLIDA Annual Work Programme 2004 – 2005, based on the EBLIDA Strategy 2004 – 2007 document. EBLIDA worked hard on having its voice heard in EU context on library and archive issues. Mainly through its Working Groups responses to EU Directives and documents were prepared and lobby activities initiated. An overview of responses requested and or supplied is presented on the EBLIDA website.

Relevant issues and EBLIDA Lobby activities and responses

§ *EC review of the acquis communautaire on Copyright & Related Rights*
Consultation on the review of EU legislation on copyright and related rights (2004)

§ Directive on the enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement

Directive 2004/48/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the enforcement of intellectual property right, 29 April 2004

[http://europa.eu.int/smartapi/cgi/sga_doc?smartapi!celexapi!prod!CELEXnumdoc&lg=en&numdoc=32004L0048R\(01\)](http://europa.eu.int/smartapi/cgi/sga_doc?smartapi!celexapi!prod!CELEXnumdoc&lg=en&numdoc=32004L0048R(01))

Rights management

a) Commission Recommendation on collective cross-border management of copyright and related rights for legitimate online music services, 18 October 2005
http://europa.eu.int/smartapi/cgi/sga_doc?smartapi!celexapi!prod!CELEXnumdoc&lg=en&numdoc=32005H0737&model=guichett

According to the Commission, the first experience with the Recommendation shows that EU-wide licensing actually works. The first EU-wide license was conceived just three months after the Recommendation was adopted. On 23 January 2006, EMI Music Publishing announced having entered into a Heads of Agreement with the MCPS-PRS Alliance (the UK Collection Society) and GEMA (the German Collection Society), with the aim of offering to license the rights in EMI MP's Anglo-American songs under a single license across Europe for Mobile and On Line Digital uses. On 20 January 2006, the UK society (PRS) has formed a joint venture with the Spanish society (SGAE) that creates a platform for future joint EU-wide licensing of the Anglo-Hispanic repertoire.

b) Commission Staff Working Document - Impact assessment reforming cross-border collective management of copyright and related rights for legitimate online music services, 11 October 2005

- ü **EBLIDA Response to the European Commission Working Document Management of copyright and related rights and the Commission Staff Working Document Study on a Community initiative on the cross-border collective management of copyright of 7 July 2005, July 2005**

§ **Data Protection issues related to Intellectual Property Rights**

Protection of databases

First evaluation report of Directive 96/9/EC on the legal protection of databases, 12 December 2005

- ü **EBLIDA Response to the European Commission on the evaluation of EU rules on databases [DG Internal Market and Services Working Paper. First evaluation of Directive 96/9/EC on the legal protection of databases, Brussels, 12 December 2005], March 2006**
- ü **EBLIDA Response to the European Commission Working Party 29 Working Document on Data Protection Issues related to Intellectual Property Rights, Working Document 104 of 18 January 2005, March 2005**

Contributions:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/fsj/privacy/workinggroup/consultations/intellectual_property_rights_en.htm

§ **Open Access & EC Consultation on Scientific Publications**

- ü **EBLIDA Statement, towards an effective scientific publishing system for European research, April 2005**

In this annual activity report also the activities of the Working Groups are assembled. An overview of the membership of these groups is presented on the EBLIDA website

EBLIDA WORKING GROUPS



EBLIDA Copyright Expert Group

The Copyright expert Group held two meetings, on 3-4 March in Cambridge (England) and on 28 October in Aarhus (Denmark). It discussed many issues, the most important of which are listed below (with a reference to any official statement by EBLIDA):

- schemes to make published material more easily usable by visually-impaired people (especially when the published material is protected by technical systems)
- data protection issues arising from technical protection systems (associated with intellectual property rights)
EBLIDA Response, www.eblida.org/position/DataProtection_Response_March05.htm
- possible regulation, by the European Commission, of Collecting Societies
www.eblida.org/position/CollectiveManagement_Response_July05.htm
- the Commission's 'i2010 digital libraries' initiative
http://www.eblida.org/position/i2010_DigitalLibraries_Response_Jan06.htm
- the second proposal for a Directive on the enforcement of intellectual property rights
- the Commission's staff working paper on strengthening the Competitiveness of the EU publishing sector
www.europa.eu.int/information_society/media_taskforce/doc/contributions_swp/eblida.pdf



Members of the group have also held useful meetings with officials and other lobbyists. On 7 October, Wilma Mossink and Nol Verhagen met Mr Xavier Troussard, adviser on culture and communication to EC Commissioner for Education and Culture Jan Figel. On 22 November Chair Toby Bainton attended a public hearing at the European Parliament in Brussels on the subject of criminal measures to enforce intellectual property rights. And in July, September and November Barbara Stratton (in November with Harald von Hielmcrone) attended meetings of the World Intellectual Property Organisation or its committees. Meetings to discuss topics of common concern were also held with the Federation of European Publishers on 15 June and 23 November.

EBLIDA Working Group on Professional Education

The Professional Education Working Group (PEG) which has a brief to monitor professional education and qualifications on behalf of EBLIDA has met twice during the year and spent time cementing relationships with other like minded bodies. Most of the Group's work has been to investigate production of a document stating EBLIDA's position on LIS and Archive professional qualifications as part of a proposal to develop a Common Platform for the library and archive sector under Article 15 of the Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications.

- ü Directive on the recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the recognition of professional qualifications of 7 September 2005, OJ L255 of 30 September 2005, p. 22 (<http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/JOhtml.do?uri=OJ:L:2005:255:SOM:EN:HTML>)
- ü Article 15 of this Directive aims at facilitating the recognition of professional qualifications on the basis of common platforms (see http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/qualifications/docs/future/platforms_en.pdf)

The complexity of the education situation in Europe is widely acknowledged and it is recognised that sharing information on education issues is an important aid to lobbying. For example on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive, the Lifelong Learning (LLL) Framework, the Bologna Process (both training of professionals and activities of LIS and Archive professionals in training students in universities), Digital Libraries and Certification process.

At its meeting in January 2006 PEG agreed that creation of a common platform (Article 15) would encourage professional associations to participate in the Bologna Process (BP). Although the Directive relates to regulated professions and does not directly affect LIS and Archives, it is seen as a positive driver and presents an opportunity to improve the sector's profile.

In discussion on what the content of a common platform for the sector might look like, PEG agreed that information should be gathered from members. This will be equally important for lobbying activities to help better understanding of the profession – image, pay and status etc. It would also avoid duplication of existing work such as that of Certidoc, which has just produced a revised version of its documentation.

PEG agreed that the process of establishing a common platform, even if it is not finalised, will help to identify the complexity and breadth of the sector and will in itself increase confidence in understanding what we do. Undertaking such a process would allow us to use the definitions as a basis for promotion to non LIS and Archive sectors.

EBLIDA Working Group on Trade Agreements and Libraries

The most important event in 2005 was the seminar "Trading in Knowledge", organised in Cambridge on 2-3 March by EBLIDA and SCONUL in cooperation. Twenty-five people from twelve countries participated. The speakers included, i.e., the celebrated English author and journalist George Monbiot, and GATS counsellor Dale Honeck.

The second day of the seminar focused on practical action. It was suggested that the expert group change its name to the current one, and that a statement be written to summarize EBLIDA's views on the potential implications of trade agreements on publicly funded libraries. It was also pointed out that intellectual property rights have developed into a large trade area, and that this calls for a degree of cooperation with the EBLIDA Copyright Expert Group.

In conjunction with IFLA's annual conference in Oslo the group met at Oslo University College to discuss, i.e., library representation at the upcoming WTO Ministerial in Hong Kong, and the EU proposal for a Directive on Services in the Internal Market. Also, the chairman Kjell Nilsson gave a talk at an IFLA/CLM session, giving an overview of the issue of trade and libraries.

In September a Position Paper on trade agreements and libraries was finalized:

- ü EBLIDA Position Paper on How International Trade Agreements affect Libraries, EBLIDA Position Paper on International Trade Agreements, *September 2005*
http://www.eblida.org/position/InternationalTradeAgreements_Position_September05.htm; also available in German: <http://www.eblida.org/position/index.htm#gats>

In November followed a statement on the EU proposal for a directive:

- ü EBLIDA Statement on the Proposal of the European Parliament and of the Council for a Directive on Services in the Internal Market, *November 2005*
http://www.eblida.org/position/ServicesDirective_Statement_Nov05.htm

Due to lack of funding, nobody from the group was able to attend the WTO Ministerial in December. According to a report from the IFLA delegation nothing of immediate interest to libraries seems to have occurred.

In January members Bainton and Hielmcrone met with a member of the European People's Party to find out more about his interpretation of the EU proposal. The results of that conversation and of recent changes to the proposal seem to suggest that publicly funded libraries are not immediately threatened.

The group was considerably strengthened in May 2005, in conjunction with the EBLIDA Council in Cork, Ireland, by the addition of three extra members.

EBLIDA Projects

European projects

EBLIDA participated in the 2-year project CALIMERA, focusing on cooperation of local libraries museums and archives. This project ended in May 2005. Benefits have been the visibility of EBLIDA in Europe, establishing new contacts and working relations. It also offered some financial relief, but required much extra efforts from the staff.



EBLIDA Organisation and Membership

EBLIDA welcomed member organisations from new EU Member States, and made some welcoming regulation for membership and policy to organise annex meetings in these states. Due to organisational restraints, the meeting had to be postponed.

The EBLIDA membership remains a fragile factor in the lobby organisation, as many associations have a very limited budget for international memberships and lobby activities.

The EBLIDA Office recruited a new administrative staff member in the vacancy. At the end of the year it became also clear that a new director would have to be recruited from the 1st of February 2005. An interim solution could be found through support of the EBLIDA host organisation in the Netherlands.

EBLIDA Representation

EBLIDA was active and represented at the following meetings in 2005

Date	Place	Meeting
17 January	Brussels	EBLIDA & FEP meeting
20 – 21 January	Copenhagen	CALIMERA Conference 'Access to knowledge'
3 - 4 February	Geneva	WIPO A2K Treaty meeting
2 – 3 March	Cambridge (UK)	GATS Workshop
3 – 4 March	Cambridge (UK)	CEG meeting
11 March	Helsinki	PEG meeting
10 – 11 March	Cork	<i>'The Word Endures' Conference</i>
12 March	Executive Committee meeting	Helsinki
31 March – 1 April	Krakow (Poland)	<i>EBLIDA meeting with new EU Nat. Assoc. representatives; postponed</i>
2 – 4 May	Latvia	<i>Nordic-Baltic Conference</i>
11 – 15 May	Cork (Ireland)	EBLIDA Annual Council
15 – 16 June	Brussels	FEP – EBLIDA Meeting
14 – 18 August	Oslo	<i>IFLA Annual Conference</i>
14 September	Brussels	EBLIDA – FEP (2 nd meeting)
26 September	Frankfurt	<i>FRAGRO meeting</i>
5 – 9 October	Supetar (Croatia)	Conference NAPLE/Ministry of Culture of Croatia
6 – 7 October	Luxembourg	<i>EIPA/EC IP & Knowledge-based Society Conference</i>
10 October	Frankfurt	<i>Frankfurt Group Meeting</i>
13 – 15 October	Zagreb	PEG Meeting
21 – 28 October	Luxembourg	EC – FP6 Pro President cts Evaluation
27 – 28 October	Madrid	IFRRO AGM & Seminar on Copyright
28 – 29 October	Aarhus (Denmark)	<i>EBLIDA CEG meeting</i>
11– 12 November	Riga (Latvia)	EBLIDA Executive Committee /Seminar Baltic countries/Meeting with Minister of Culture
23 November	Brussels	EBLIDA/FEP Meeting
25 November	Copenhagen	<i>100th Anniversary Danish Lib. Assoc.</i>
15 – 17 December	Seville	ADD Conference (Prof. Education)

ANNEX

Overview of EBLIDA Groups

EBLIDA Copyright Expert Group (CEG)

NAME	ASSOCIATION
Toby Bainton (<i>Chair</i>)	SCONUL, UK toby.bainton@sconul.ac.uk
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EBLIDA Trade & Libraries Group

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EBLIDA Professional Education Group

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