



European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations

Lobbying for archives and libraries

EBLIDA, the *European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations*, is an independent, non-profit umbrella organisation of national library, information, documentation and archive associations in Europe. Subjects on which EBLIDA concentrates are European information society issues, including copyright and licensing, culture and education and EU enlargement. We promote access to information in the digital age, and the role of archives and libraries in achieving this goal. We represent the interests of our members to the European institutions, such as the European Commission, European Parliament, and the Council of Europe.

QUESTIONNAIRE - EN

EBLIDA welcomes the Media Literacy Questionnaire and the opportunity to respond to part of the questionnaire.

4) Media Literacy in the online environment

Question 14. In your opinion, should media literacy initiatives include a dimension of awareness of copyright issues? (See also on this issue the European Charter for the Development and the Take-up of Film Online).

EBLIDA believes strongly in the importance of strengthening copyright awareness as an integral part of media literacy in an online environment. Online and e-content have changed the landscape of media use and as a consequence of this a broad range of copyright and related issues have become apparent. The complexity of many of these issues makes it imperative that users are aware of their rights and obligations in an online environment. However, we feel that copyright awareness and education all too often focuses on restrictions of use, rather than giving a broader and more balanced picture of what the user can and cannot do within the legal framework of a specific member state.

EBLIDA would also recommend that media literacy initiatives include an understanding of the basic principle of copyright, which is to stimulate creativity and incentives to create. If users understand this principle and their statutory rights, we feel that users will be less likely to infringe copyright, unknowingly as well as knowingly.

Question 15. The culture of finding information through search engines involves access to almost limitless sources of information. The ability to understand the way these search engines work (prioritisation and classification of sources), to validate these sources of information and to evaluate items of news and opinion outside known branded websites is essential in the global online information society. Could you please list and briefly describe any projects to help this process of critical use of search engines and of evaluation of sources and content?

EBLIDA supports initiatives at national and international levels, which support a greater understanding of the way in which search engines find, access and present information to the end user. The danger of incomplete and poor information in the online environment is prevalent and in order to harvest the full potential of the huge amount of information available it is essential that users are able to distinguish and evaluate information from a variety of sources.