



## Cooperation between LIBER and EBLIDA

### Memorandum of Understanding

**EBLIDA** represents the interests of libraries, archives and information sectors and professionals in Europe by:

- securing access for all to the benefits of the information society in all formats
- promoting formal, informal and non-formal education at all levels, including lifelong learning
- making culture and cultural diversity accessible, and securing their preservation

**EBLIDA** promotes and defends the interests of the library, archive and information sectors and professionals working for the people living in Europe, by:

- lobbying at the European level
- encouraging and supporting national organizations lobbying at the national level

**LIBER** represents and promotes specifically the interests of *research* libraries in Europe by

- assisting research libraries in Europe to become a functional network across national boundaries in order to ensure the preservation of the European cultural heritage
- improving access to collections in European research libraries
- facilitating the provision of more efficient information services in Europe.

Key areas of the activities of **LIBER** are concentrated around:

- improving access to scholarly communication
- digital library services
- library management
- services and facilities for member institutions.

On a number of important strategic library issues EBLIDA and LIBER work towards many of the same goals in aiming to ensure that digital materials are made available to the research community and citizens in general. These goals pose a series of challenges in relation to IPR, funding, technology and organization. Both organizations recognize the need to collaborate and support each other, rather than to compete. Such collaboration should be based on the mutual recognition of each other's specificity, with a strong emphasis on lobbying and legal advice for EBLIDA, and on research library networking for LIBER.

Especially challenging for the moment is the construction of the European Digital Library, as proposed by the European Commission in its i2010 document as a truly pan-European initiative.

Both organizations will naturally be closely involved with this initiative and it would be logical and relevant to coordinate efforts and strategies for this. The results of the online consultation which was launched in September 2005 bring to light a number of issues on which EBLIDA and LIBER could work together in order to adopt common points of view. Below we give a partial list of such issues, indicating with E, L or EL whether the main responsibility for each should be carried by EBLIDA, LIBER, or shared in equal parts by the two organizations:

- Addressing the many copyright issues which the European Digital Library project will need to tackle in order to create a vibrant and relevant digital library environment. (E)
- Advising and influencing relevant funding bodies and stakeholders at all levels as to the need for appropriate funding levels. (EL)
- Helping to assess the needs of users and explaining the benefits of mass digitization initiatives. (EL)
- Adopting a common perspective on the technical and management issues of digital material and preservation. (EL)
- Finding solutions for the challenges of orphan works, licensing and extended collective licensing. (E)
- Establishing and promoting initiatives on open access to scholarly publications. (EL)
- Encouraging the creation of a European network of centres of excellence. (L)
- Preservation of the European cultural heritage, whether in traditional or electronic format – legal issues (E), organisational and access issues (L)

The above issues relate specifically to the European Digital Library, but also more generally to library development, both academic and public.

It would be constructive for the two organizations to share information on a regular basis and take the opportunity for members of the two organizations to network at meetings. This could include:

- The inclusion on each others listservs.
- The exchange of printed information.
- The exchange of work programmes and annual reports.
- Mutual representation at the annual meetings of the two organizations (and the opportunity to present the organization).
- Mutual representation at board meetings of the two organizations whenever the agenda contains items of relevance to both parties.
- Semi-annual meetings with representatives from the two organizations and from SPARC Europe.
- The organisation of joint workshops (like, e.g., the one in 2007 on digitization strategies for Europe).

EBLIDA and LIBER have a number of working groups/expert groups where it might be relevant to establish some form of cooperation and attend each other's meetings.

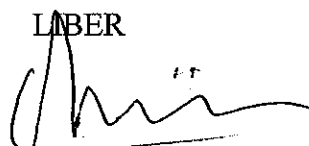
Date 20/4/2007

EBLIDA

  
Jan Ewout van der Putten  
President

Date 5.04.07

LIBER

  
Hans Geleijnse  
President