



LIGUE DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES EUROPÉENNES DE RECHERCHE
ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

REPORT OF THE LIBER EXECUTIVE BOARD

This is the report of the LIBER Executive Board presented at the LIBER Annual General Assembly held in the National Library of Poland, Warsaw, on Friday 6 July 2007.

MEETINGS

The Executive Board had met on four occasions during the year: at the beginning and on the final day of the Annual General Conference in Uppsala in July 2006; in the Royal Library, Copenhagen, in October 2006; and in Koç University Suna Kiraç Library in January 2007.

MEMBERSHIP

At the Annual General Assembly in Uppsala in 2006, LIBER members had approved proposals for an increase in the level of the membership fee, and the creation of a new membership category for national and regional library organizations. The new membership fee had been implemented in 2007, and the Board was glad to report that there had been very positive support from the members for the new membership fee. A small number of cancellations took place, but overall the number of LIBER members increased over the year from 366 in July 2006 to 369 in July 2007. A total of sixteen national organizations had joined in the course of the year under the terms of the new membership category for national and regional library organizations.

STRATEGIC ISSUES

Following on from the discussion of the document 'A New Profile for LIBER' at the Annual General Assembly in July 2006, the work of the Executive Board this year had concentrated on a number of key areas: the preparation of a Development Plan for 2007-2010; the agreement and implementation of Memoranda of Understanding with other European organizations; plans for improved communication with the LIBER membership and a higher profile for LIBER through the creation of a new LIBER website; and support for the work of the Professional Divisions, who would report to the Assembly on their activities during the year.

2007 ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE, WARSAW

The LIBER Conference in Warsaw, co-hosted by the National Library of Poland and Warsaw University Library, had been superbly organized as a very successful partnership between a national and a university library. The Board was deeply indebted to Dr Tomasz Makowski, Director of the National Library of Poland, and Ms Ewa Kobierska-Maciuszko, Director, Warsaw University Library, and the staff of both their libraries, for the friendly and efficient way in which they had greeted LIBER delegates, and for these stimulating and memorable Conference days in Warsaw. A special mention also went to Dr Joanna Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska of the National Library of Poland and Ms Anna Wolodko of Warsaw University Library for their assistance and support during the preparation of the Conference.

It was noted that this year for the first time Conference delegates would receive a conference evaluation questionnaire by email after the Conference seeking feedback and views on the Conference, and members were strongly encouraged to let the Board have their views so that future conferences can be designed to meet members' needs. An online version had also been mounted on the website and the questionnaire could be completed in either format, and returned to the LIBER Secretariat by 31 July 2007.

SPONSORSHIP

The Board continued to give a high importance during the year to attracting sponsorship. LIBER was very grateful to the Main Sponsors and Sponsors that continued to support its work. The Main Sponsors were: OCLC PICA – to which the Board was also very grateful for the OCLC PICA Fund in support of membership of LIBER for libraries in countries in Central and Eastern Europe during these last years; ProQuest; Ex Libris; and LIBER's new Main Sponsor, Preservation Technologies. The Sponsors currently were: Euromonitor International; Belser Wissenschaftlicher Dienst; and Jouve. LIBER expressed its warm appreciation to all its Main Sponsors and Sponsors for their invaluable support.

CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN LIBRARIES (CEE) FUND

At the Annual General Assembly in 2005, LIBER members had decided that a small premium should be added to the conference registration fee in order to permit grants to be made to assist libraries in Central and East European libraries to send representatives to attend LIBER Annual General Conferences. A total of six grants from fourteen applications had made in 2007, and the recipients were warmly welcomed at the Conference.

COMMUNICATIONS

As agreed by members at the Annual General Assembly in Uppsala in 2006, all LIBER communications had become 'electronic only' from August 2006. It was noted that this transition had been smoothly accomplished, and that no difficulties had come to light. During the year, four mailings to members (August 2006, November 2006, February 2007 and May 2007) had been issued in the normal way. During the year, the Board had recommended the creation of a new website, and this proposals had been implemented by the Web Group. After a tender process, The Adhere Creative, Birmingham, UK, had been selected to produce the new site, which would be demonstrated to the Assembly.

FORTHCOMING ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCES

The LIBER Annual General Conference in 2008 would take place from Tuesday 1 July to Saturday 5 July 2008 on the Campus of Koç University, hosted by Koç University Suna Kiraç Library, Turkey. Ms Bayir, Director, had prepared a short video about the University Library and Campus for members, and this would be shown at the end of the Annual General Assembly. The 2009 Annual General Conference would be held in Toulouse.

SECRETARIAT

The Executive Board wished to express its thanks to Ms Susan Vejlsgaard, Assistant Secretary, for her work in the Secretariat during the year. The Board also wished to thank Dr Raf Dekeyser, a volunteer member, for his continuing work and support to LIBER.

Ann Matheson
General Secretary

July 2007