



# LIGUE DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES EUROPÉENNES DE RECHERCHE

## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, JULY 2005

LIBER's Executive Board held four normal meetings during the year: at the beginning and end of the 2004 Annual General Conference in St Petersburg, in Lyon in October 2004, and in Uppsala in January 2005. It also held two consultative meetings on the future of LIBER, in Cambridge in January 2005 and in Groningen in July 2005.

### **Membership**

The membership of LIBER now stands at 350, an increase of 13 on last year.

### **The future of LIBER**

The main preoccupation of the Executive Board during the year has been the activities related to the future of LIBER. In October 2004 Dr Raf Dekeyser, formerly Librarian of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, was appointed as LIBER's Development Director, with a remit to carry forward the work preparing a strategic plan for LIBER; Dr Dekeyser has offered his services on a *pro bono* basis, and the Board is very grateful to him for his generosity. A full report of the work on the future of LIBER is given in a separate paper enclosed with the August 2005 mailing to members.

### **LIBER/EFLC Fund**

The LIBER EFLC Fund came to an end with the 2004 Annual General Conference. The Fund was established in 1995 with a grant from the European Foundation for Library Co-operation and had the aim of facilitating participation in LIBER Annual General Conferences by librarians from central and eastern Europe. It has been very successful – a number of the librarians who have attended have specifically commented how much they have appreciated an opportunity that they would not otherwise have had. The Executive Board felt that this was an important initiative to continue, and so they decided that, from 2005, the budget for the Annual General Conference would be structured in such a way that participants would pay a small premium (c.10% of the registration fee) and that this would be kept aside as a special fund to be used the following year to waive the registration fee for some librarians from central and eastern Europe. Those librarians will have to apply for a grant and will be required to set out what they expect to gain from their attendance. The scheme will run initially for three years and will then be reviewed by the Executive Board. Casalini Libri have generously contributed €400 to the scheme.

### **OCLC PICA Fund**

The OCLC PICA Fund, which is maintained through the generous support of OCLC PICA, has allowed 40 libraries to become members of LIBER, by meeting their membership fee for a period of three years in the hope that they will then remain members. So far several have been able to do so. LIBER is very grateful to OCLC PICA for their continuing support for this Fund.

### **Sponsorship**

Sponsorship plays a major role in the funding of LIBER's activities. The two Main Sponsors are OCLC PICA, and ProQuest Information and Learning. The current Sponsors are Belser

Wissenschaftlicher Dienst, Endeavor Information Systems, Euromonitor International, and Ingenta. The support of all these organisations is gratefully acknowledged; their logos appear on the LIBER website and in the programme for the Annual General Conference. Any LIBER members who would like to propose companies that might be interested in sponsoring LIBER are invited to contact the General Secretary.

### **Communication with members**

The Secretariat has distributed four mailings to all members, in August and November 2004, and in February and May 2005. All members whose email addresses are known have been added to the LIBER-All listserv, which is increasingly used to communicate with members between the formal mailings. Anyone employed in a LIBER member library is welcome to join the LIBER-All list. Details are given on the LIBER website.

### **Conferences**

The Annual General Conference took place at the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, Netherlands, in July 2005. As always, the planning of the Annual General Conference was a major part of the work of Executive Board members, especially the Chairmen of the Professional Divisions. The great success of the 2005 Conference was due in part to an excellent programme and in part to the delightful location and superbly efficient organisation by Dr Alex Klugkist and his team from the Universiteitsbibliotheek Groningen. The 2006 Conference will be held at Uppsala Universitetsbibliotek, Sweden, from 4 to 8 July and will have as its theme: 'Turning the library inside out'. The 2007 Conference will be held in Warsaw, hosted jointly by the National Library and the Library of Warsaw University.

### **Other LIBER activities**

The Preservation Division organized a workshop at the British Library on cellulose acetate in May 2005. The Access and Preservation Divisions, led by University College London and the British Library, bid successfully for funding of £100,000 from the UK Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) for a project to investigate the life-cycle costs in the preservation of electronic literature (especially e-journals), and to identify the criteria to be used in deciding when it was safe for a library to abandon the collecting of printed journals and to rely on electronic access only.

### **Secretariat**

The Executive Board wishes to thank Susan Vejlsgaard, the Assistant Secretary, for all her work in making sure LIBER operates efficiently during the year and especially her liaison with the Conference host, with sponsors and conference partners. The Board also expresses its gratitude to its two volunteer members, Dr Ann Matheson and Dr Raf Dekeyser for all their advice and assistance during the year.

**Peter Fox**  
**General Secretary**

**July 2005**