



LIGUE DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES EUROPÉENNES DE RECHERCHE

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, JULY 2006

LIBER's Executive Board held four meetings during the year: at the beginning and end of the 2005 Annual General Conference in Groningen, in Cambridge in October 2005, and in Warsaw in January 2006. It also held a consultative meeting on a proposed new membership category with national and regional organisations in Uppsala in July 2006.

Membership

The membership of LIBER now stands at 366, an increase of 16 on last year.

Conferences

The Annual General Conference took place at Uppsala universitet, Sweden, in July 2006. 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 2006 Conference was due both to an excellent programme and to the delightful location and superbly efficient organisation by Dr Ulf Göranson and his team from the Uppsala Universitetsbibliotek. The 2007 Conference will be hosted jointly by the National Library of Poland and the Library of Warsaw University from 3 to 7 July and the 2008 Conference will be held in Istanbul.

Other conferences and workshops organised by or in collaboration with LIBER included the fourth in the successful series of OAI workshops on Innovations in Scholarly Communication at CERN, Geneva, in October 2005; the LIBER Architecture Group organised a workshop with the title 'Changing Needs, Changing Libraries', in Belgium and the Netherlands in March 2006; and the Preservation Division organised a hands-on workshop on preservation microfilming, in Lisbon in February 2006.

Strategic issues

At the Annual General Conference in Groningen in 2005 the President of LIBER signed the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities, and in January 2006 LIBER submitted an extensive response to the *i2010 Digital Libraries* consultation document sent out by the European Commission. At the invitation of OCLC Pica and the Digital Library Federation, LIBER has accepted the responsibility for collecting records about ongoing or completed digitisation projects in Europe, and these will be submitted through the *EROMM* database to the global Registry of Digital Masters that will be maintained by OCLC. This registry, which will be openly accessible, will facilitate access to works that have been digitised elsewhere and thus help to avoid the waste of effort through duplicate digitisation.

OCLC PICA Fund

The OCLC PICA Fund, which is maintained through the generous support of OCLC PICA, continues, and, by 2007, 62 libraries from central and eastern Europe will have benefited by having their membership of LIBER paid from the fund for three years. Several of these libraries had continued their membership after the end of the OCLC PICA funding.

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 Jouve. 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.

Fund for libraries in central and eastern Europe

As agreed at the 2005 Annual General Assembly, a small premium was added to the registration fee for the Annual General Conference to allow LIBER to make grants to assist libraries in central and eastern Europe to attend the Annual General Conference. There were 20 applications in 2006 and 9 grants were made.

Communication with members

The Secretariat has distributed four mailings to all members, in August and November 2005, and in February and May 2006. Given the cost of assembling and copying documents, and then posting them, coupled with the unreliability of the postal service in some parts of Europe, the Executive Board has decided that all communications from LIBER to its members will be electronic with effect from 1 September 2006. All members whose email addresses are known have been added to the LIBER-All listserv. Anyone employed in a LIBER member library is welcome to join the LIBER-All list. Details are given on the LIBER website.

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 2006