



eIFL Newsletter - March 2003

Farewell to Anna

As you know, on 31st March, Anna left OSI and eIFL. Anna gave an enormous contribution to eIFL and we are all very sorry for her departure from our team. We, however would like to wish her lots of satisfaction and a great success in her future professional career.

Those of you who would like to keep in touch with her can email her at: ambalogh@freemail.hu.

Advisory Board Meeting 27-28 March

As mentioned in the previous newsflash, the first eIFL Advisory Board Meeting was held on 27-28 March 2003 in the eIFL office, in Rome. The Advisory Board is, together with the Management Board one of the two managing bodies of the new eIFL.net foundation. The Advisory Board will be the strategic body advising the Management Board and guiding the eIFL.net's activities. A special responsibility of the Board will be the guidance of the negotiation progress with publishers.

The following persons participated in the meeting: Darius Cuplinskas, Director OSI Information Programme, Jean Claude Guèdon (OSI Information Sub-Board representative), Johanna Sander, COSALC, South Africa, Abdulsalami Rilwandu, eIFL country coordinator, Nigeria, Alexander Kuznetsov, eIFL country coordinator, Russia, Derek Law, Director Information and Communication, Strathclyde University, Monika Segbert and Barbara Morganti, eIFL.net team. The country coordinators who attended the meeting (Olga Kvochkina, Kazakhstan and Martin Svoboda, Czech Republic were unable to attend) were invited directly by OSI to geographically represent the eIFL network.

The meeting agreed for the next Advisory Board Meeting to be held in August during the IFLA conference. By that time, clear criteria for official elections of Board members will have been set up. Elections will probably take place during the eIFL GA, in October 2003.

The minutes of the Board meeting, produced by Monika Segbert after the meeting, will be made available on the members-only section of the eIFL web site as soon as they are approved by the Board.

Update on SCI & TECH

Licence negotiations are almost finalised with Proquest and CUP. Next steps and information about the other publishers will be communicated directly to the countries that expressed interest in respective publishers. Our Serbian consortia has conducted independent comparative review of EBSCO and Proquest databases offered to eIFL countries. We will make it available on password protected members only section for you to see the overlap of titles and numbers of full text journals.

Free countries from SCI & TECH tender

By acknowledging the good will of publishers that offered free access to a range of countries we would like to encourage the 17 countries that are currently participating in eIFL and are eligible for free access, to, once again, look at the publishers' offers and promote them to their institutions. These countries simply need to send us the IP addresses of the interested institutions in order to gain access.

Update on Russian content

A trial access to databases was opened in March for the eIFL members interested in Russian language resources. These are provided by Integrum-Tehno and EastView, representing 24 and 6 databases respectively.

These databases contain massmedia, reference books, social science journals and others. 273 libraries from 11 countries have taken part in the trial.

Participating libraries have been encouraged to rate the trialed database in order to define the most popular resources. The trials will end on 3 April 2003. After that, resources will be evaluated (by 10 April) and the first price proposals from the publishers are expected. Those of you who are not on eiflrussian list, but would like to be added, please contact us.

Lund Directory of free journals & Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI)

Those of you who attended the General Assembly in St. Petersburg will remember Melissa Hagemann's presentation of BOAI (www.soros.org/openaccess). We would like to draw your attention to one of the projects funded by BOAI: the Directory of Open Access Journals (**DOAJ**). The directory will be developed and maintained by the Lund University library www.lub.lu.se, building on the existing list of free scholarly journals produced by the (**Swedish School of Economics and Business Administration**).

eIFL will work closely with BOAI and the Lund University Library to widely disseminate and promote access to these free scholarly resources on the web.

eIFL.net web site

Last month we informed about restructuring of eIFL.net web site. Our technical team is finalising the new layout and we expect to have the site up and running in two weeks. You will be informed as soon as this happens!

eIFL.net new leaflet and logo

eIFL.net as a new independent organisation has produced a new leaflet and a logo. These are available for the country coordinators from the members-only section on the current eIFL web site, under 'Marketing'- 'Marketing templates'. Please make use of this template to produce your own country version.

eIFL.net and ICOLC

ICOLC has invited eIFL to make special presentation and update on eIFL.net at its meeting in Las Vegas, USA. ICOLC expressed interest and support in development of consortium in countries in transition and draw a number of volunteers to share resources and experience. Rima Kupryte has been invited to join eICOLC 2003 organising and planning committee. eICOLC will take place in October, in Denmark.

Scholarly Communications Report

Scholarly Communications Report is essential reading for all those who need to keep abreast of developments in scholarly communications, and in particular the impact of electronic publishing. Published eleven times a year (monthly excluding July) it provides a broad overview of industry trends, combined with evaluative and critical analysis of the key issues and developments.

SCR will be of interest to commercial, society and academic publishers, intermediaries and subscription agents providing services to scholars as well as library managers responsible for electronic resource provision.

Please visit **SCR website**. Please contact us if you wish to get access to full reports and we will arrange free trials for you.

New country coordinators

- . We would like to welcome Cambodia and its coordinator Mr. Chheng Pharin to eIFL.net family. They just started free trials and had training on EBSCO databases. Country visit and discussions on the creation of a consortium will follow.
- . We would also like to welcome the new coordinator in Mongolia. **Ms. Norov Sanjaajamts**, together with L. Ariunaa, will be in charge of the organisation of the Mongolian library consortium.
- . As a result of eIFL team visit to Macedonia with assistance of Biljana Kosanovic, eIFL coordinator from Serbia, Macedonia is enthusiastically working on forming a consortium. Welcome our new Macedonian colleagues: Ana Pejcinova and Miodrag Dadasovic.

Coming in April:

Survey of country needs on new content for negotiation

eIFL is finalising an electronic survey form which will be made available on the web to be filled in by all the country coordinators. The survey will collect information on new electronic resources that country consortia are interested in subscribing to in 2004. This will enable eIFL to produce a 'wish list' of new publishers to be approached for negotiation in the near future.

We have organised free trials for The Charleston Advisor (**www.charlestonco.com**). This is a publication that offers critical reviews of web products for information professionals. It offers a review of 250 products that are available in the market. The trials will be good through mid-May, 2003. eIFL countries interested, please contact us for receiving trial passwords.

Events

- . eIFL.net will be presented by joint paper of Monika Segbert and Alexandr Kouznetsov at the Cultivate Conference, which will be held on 6-9 April at the Russian State Library, in Moscow.
- . A workshop on 'consortium building and copyright' will be held in Kyrgyzstan on 5-11 April, delivered by Emilija Banionyte, President of the Lithuanian Research Library Consortium.
- . Monika Segbert will join the Albanian eIFL coordinator at the national meeting on 27-29 April.
- . We plan to go ahead with the regional workshop in Turkey in May despite the political situation, and also, for the moment, with the workshop in China in June-we will watch both political and health risks carefully in both cases, keeping in touch with our local organisers, and wish our colleagues in these troubled regions safety and well-being.

Looking forward to receiving information about the activities and events organised in the country members of eIFL.net

The eIFL Team