



Newsletter

eIFL Newsletter - MAY/JUNE 2005

1. eIFL-related News

eIFL starts working with countries in the Middle East

The eIFL launch of the Middle East project took place on 18-19 April in Cairo in collaboration with the Goethe Institute Cairo/Alexandria and the OSIDEV Foundation. The meeting was very successful in gathering senior representatives from libraries in public and private institutions from Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt, Syria and Jordan. The program covered the benefits of library consortia, and the licensing and negotiating for electronic content. New areas in the information environment such as open access, institutional repositories of local electronic content, and the intellectual property rights of digital materials were also covered, making this meeting a vibrant and enriching experience. This first meeting will be followed up by national workshops, where specific themes will be dealt with in full detail according to national needs. eIFL.net warmly welcomes these new participating countries into its international network and looks forward to a fruitful partnership with all of them. You will have the opportunity to meet representatives from all 5 countries at the eIFL General Assembly this October.

The programme of the kick off meeting along with several presentations by participants is available in the Members Only Section at http://www.eifl.net/members/members_knowledge.html#presentation. You can also visit the photo gallery to find out how our new partners look like. Enjoy!

Second Anniversary of MALICO

The Malawi Library and Information Consortium (MALICO) will become 2 years of age on 7 May 2005. Among its objectives MALICO aims to provide member institutions with greater Internet bandwidth, influence national digital policy, enhance cooperation among diverse information stakeholders at the national and international levels, facilitate access to international scholarly publications, and provide consultancy. Among the events to be held on the occasion of this anniversary, on May 4-7 MALICO is launching its connectivity-related VSAT Project - Internet Access for Learning, Research and Development. Please refer to <http://www.bunda.sdn.org.mw/malico.htm> for full details.

Next ICOLC Meeting in Poland

ICOLC, the International Coalition of Library Consortia, will hold its 2005 Autumn Conference in Poznan, Poland, from September 28 to October 1. We have the pleasure to announce that Jan Andrejz Nikisch, the president of the eIFL.net Advisory Board will host this important meeting. We are sure that he will take advantage of his eIFL experience in organising our 2004 General Assembly, which was a great success.

Pilot Training Workshop in Institutional Repositories in South Africa

As part of the new eIFL Open Access service, on May 11-13 the South African Site Licensing Initiative (SASLI) will be organising a workshop about Institutional Repositories in Pretoria. The main purpose of the workshop is to provide training in the practicalities concerning the launch and management of institutional repositories so that member institutions will be able to create OAI-compliant digital research archives of their research publications, and to work towards the establishment of a national virtual research archive. It is also expected that such training will serve as a transmission belt to encourage the setup of institutional repositories in other countries in the region. Additional information on the programme and participants to this event can be found at http://www.eifl.net/events/events_related.html.

eIFL Support for the Chinese Open Access Conference

On June 22-24 the International Conference on Policies and Strategies for Open Access to Scientific Information in Beijing will gather international experts and Chinese representatives from research funding agencies, major research institutions, Open Access publishers, legal and economic experts in open access, and libraries to

discuss issues related to policies and strategies for stakeholders. Likewise, effects of open access on scholarly communications and digital divide will be addressed together with challenges to Open Access from the legal, financial and management standpoints. The event will be hosted by the Library of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and co-sponsored by eIFL, OSI, the Chinese National Foundation and the National Science and Technology Library. The temporary URL of the conference is <http://www.ecs.soton.ac.uk/~harnad/Temp/china-oa.doc>.

eIFL at IFLA

As already anticipated, eIFL will have a stand in the next IFLA Congress in Oslo on 14-18 August. We have been assigned with stand number 406.

2. Upcoming eIFL Events in May-June 2005:

- On May 2-3, Teresa Hackett will take part in the International Seminar on Intellectual Property and Development, jointly organised by WIPO, UNCTAD, WHO, UNIDO and WTO, in Geneva. She will make a presentation on "Copyright and Related Rights in the Digital Environment"
- On May 4-8, Rima Kupryte will attend the launch of MALICO VSATs Project-Internet Access for Learning, Research and Development in Blantyre, Malawi (VSATs are ground links to satellites which transmit internet data between sites. Radio links can then be used to transmit data on the ground to other sites.)
- On May 5-7, Teresa Hackett will represent eIFL.net at the high-level briefing "Correcting Course: Rebalancing Copyright for Libraries in the National and International Arenas", to be held at Columbia University, New York City. The meeting will address developments in the United States and in international venues affecting the balanced interpretation and application of copyright
- On May 5-10, Monika Segbert will be in the USA to present eIFL.net at the SOLINET Annual Members Meeting in Atlanta, followed by a series of meetings in New York
- On May 9-13, Malawi coordinator Margaret E. Ngwira will meet with Mozambican library community so as to discuss ways ahead towards consortium strengthening
- On May 11-13, the 3 day Institutional Repositories Workshop "Creating tomorrow's information infrastructure for today's scholarly community in Pretoria", South Africa, will take place
- On May 12-13, Teresa Hackett will participate in the TransAtlantic Consumer Dialogue (TACD) workshop on an "Access to Knowledge Treaty", London. Moving the process of the February A2K meeting forward, this workshop will examine the text of a consolidated draft Treaty including provisions for libraries.
- On May 17-22, Monika Segbert will travel to Amman, Jordan, to take part in the OSI Information Sub-Board Meeting and to take forward discussions with Jordanian librarians and decision makers
- On May 30- June 3, Monika Segbert will give a presentation of eIFL.net activities to the LIDA (Libraries in the Digital Age) Conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia with a special focus on eIFL consortia in Balkan countries
- At the beginning of June it is very likely that one workshop will be organised in the Middle East region, in concrete, in Jordan
- In the middle of June Monika Segbert will meet with German and Swiss colleagues and development agencies to discuss cooperation and funding sources
- On June 20-22, Teresa Hackett, on behalf of eIFL.net, will lobby government delegates during the Inter-sessional Intergovernmental Meeting (IIM2) in Geneva. This will be the second of three key meetings to discuss proposals for a Development Agenda at WIPO
- On June 22-24, Rima Kupryte will be attending the China Open Access Conference in Beijing. It is the International Conference on Policies and Strategies for Open Access to Scientific Information, organised by the Chinese Academy of Science (CAS) and the Inter-Academy Panel on International issues (IAP), co-sponsored by the Open Society Institute/eIFL, Chinese National Foundation, and the National Science and Technology Library (NSTL), and will be hosted by the Library of Chinese Academy of Sciences (LCAS)
- On June 30-July 2 the next eIFL Advisory Board Meeting will be held at Monika Segbert's house in Ancona, Italy

3. Update on new Content

Agreement signed with Emerald Publishing

eIFL has signed an agreement with Emerald Publishing in February for 5 countries (Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Slovakia)

Free Trials for SAFARI Technical e-Books Available

Safari is a collection of electronic books for programmers and IT professionals. From now on it is possible to enjoy free trials for both the Safari Tech Books Online and the Safari Business Books Online Collections, which cover topics such as applied sciences, artificial intelligence, business, certification, computer science, databases, desktop applications, desktop publishing, e-commerce, enterprise computing, graphics, hardware, human-computer interaction, Internet/online, IT management, markup languages, multimedia, programming, security, software engineering and others. You can find all the information at <http://proquest.safaribooksonline.com/> and countries interested should contact us.

Free trials for Cornell Project EUCLID

We are pleased to inform that EUCLID project has offered free trials to their EUCLID Prime collections, which is aggregated collection of 18 + titles in mathematics and statistics. To sign for 1 month free trials, please go to: <http://projecteuclid.org/Dienst/Referral/1.0/TrialForm>.

Any institution in your country consortium interested in free trials, can participate. As those are free trials, EUCLID is not collecting statistics, so in order for you to determine usefulness and interest, you have also to target professionals in those subject areas during the free trials.

4. Update on eIFL-IP

A2K in 35 eIFL Languages

The eIFL network gave a great response to the request to translate "Access to Knowledge" for a campaign on a Treaty on Access to Knowledge. Translations were sent in an impressive 35 languages! These are: Afrikaans, Albanian, Arabic, Bangla, Bulgarian, Chinese, Croatian, Diola, Georgian, Irish, Khmer, Kyrgyz, Laotian, Lithuanian, Luganda, Macedonian, Ndebele, Northern Sotho (Sepedi), Nyanja/Chichewa, Polish, Pular, Seereer, Serbian, Shona, Siswati, Slovenian, South Sotho, Tsonga, Tswana, Twi, Ukrainian, Venda, Wolof, Xhosa, Zulu.

CPTech, who are co-ordinating the campaign said "The response from eIFL.net has been tremendous. A2K is a global movement reflected in the range of languages. It's a great start to the campaign". Information on campaign material will be circulated as soon as it is available. You can still send a translation to teresa.hackett@eifl.net.

eIFL.net Makes the News in Uganda

In response to a report that Comesa (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa) are working with WIPO to run workshops on IP, eIFL.net co-authored a letter expressing our concern. This was published on 26 March 2005 in The Monitor, an independent daily newspaper in Uganda.

You can read the letter at http://www.eifl.net/services/ipdocs/monitor_mar05.pdf.

eIFL-IP Network Is in Place

Following a call for candidates in eIFL countries to develop expertise in copyright issues for libraries, we are pleased to announce that the network is in place with representatives from 42 eIFL countries. Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations. We would like to give a special welcome to those who are new to eIFL.net. Names and contact details will shortly be available on the eIFL-IP section of the website.

We are delighted at the quality of the network, especially the wide range of skills and experience which we hope to extend and share with the global network.

A dedicated mailing list provides the main channel of communication. First tasks are focussed on gathering information and establishing the situation in each country. Then it is hoped to move quickly onto substantive issues. Training workshops are being planned for the autumn.

For any questions eIFL-IP, please contact Teresa Hackett, eIFL-IP Project Manager, at teresa.hackett@eifl.net.

WIPO Development Agenda Meetings

eIFL.net was present at two key meetings in Geneva in April organised by WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization). The purpose of the meetings was to discuss proposals for a WIPO Development Agenda initiated by Argentina and Brazil at the WIPO General Assembly in September 2004. eIFL.net was one of 17 NGOs to get ad hoc accreditation to attend the meetings.

If accepted, the Development Agenda proposals could represent a watershed for WIPO as developing countries insist that the current "one size fits all" approach to copyright law must be adjusted and that WIPO should re-align itself with current thinking at other international organisations.

NGOs rallied around the proposals of the "Friends of Development Group" i.e. the governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Iran, Kenya, Peru, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania and Venezuela which received strong support from other developing countries during the meeting. Developed countries, on the other hand, were more cautious and preferred to beef up technical assistance programmes to developing countries.

It was decided that there will be two more Inter-sessional Intergovernmental Meetings (IIMs) in June and July to discuss the proposals more fully and to prepare a report for the General Assemblies in September 2005.

eIFL.net worked closely with IFLA so that there was a strong and visible library presence which made an impact over the five days in Geneva. It will be important to maintain the momentum established at IIM1 and so eIFL.net will attend the next meetings. There is still a lot of work to do!

eIFL.net made two statements setting out why WIPO work is important to libraries in developing countries and why the Development Agenda is good for WIPO.

To read more about the meetings and for the text of the eIFL.net statements in pdf format, see http://www.eifl.net/services/wipo_da.html. Please promote widely!

If you have any comments on the eIFL position on the WIPO Development Agenda, please contact Teresa

Hackett, eIFL-IP Project Manager, at teresa.hackett@eifl.net.

5. Open Access News and Useful Resources

JISC Overview of the Open Access

JISC, the Joint Information System Committee, has made available an interesting and thorough paper on the Open Access Movement in April. You can read the Open Access Briefing Paper at http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=pub_openaccess.

Sci-Dev Report on Open Access Archiving

This is an interesting article on the open access archiving, with a stress on benefits for research efforts in developing countries. Please see full report dated in March at <http://www.scidev.net/editorials/index.cfm?fuseaction=readEditorials&itemid=150&language=1&CFID=6558693>.

BBC Finally Launches Creative Archive

As anticipated in our September/October 2004 Newsletter issue, the BBC, the world's largest public-service broadcaster, has gone ahead with its Creative Archive Initiative which will allow broadband users within the UK to find, share, watch, listen and re-use BBC audio and video archives for own personal and not-for profit educational purposes. The Creative Archive License parallels with that of the US-based not profit organization Creative Commons in its support for more flexible copyright licenses in the world. You can get a flavour of this initiative at http://creativearchive.bbc.co.uk/archives/all_about_the_licence/index.html.

DARE about to Launch Cream of Science

Dutch DARE (Digital Academic Repositories) programme will launch its Cream of Science project on May 10. This initiative will provide access to the works of scholars from several Dutch Universities, KNAW (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences) and NWO (Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research), thus adding 25,000 records to the DAREnet, mostly full-text. Please read on at http://www.surf.nl/en/themas/index2.php?oid=7&inhoud_oid=40. SURF, the home to DARE programme, and eIFL are considering closer cooperation.

More Countries Endorsing Open Access

We announced a couple of issues ago that Norway was ready to commit itself to open access. Now the Swedish Research Council has declared its support for going open access (for the moment, news only in Swedish at <http://www.vr.se/press/arkiv/sida.jsp?resourceId=1006>), and so has the Ministry of Education in Finland. On March 18, the Finnish Open Access Scientific Publishing Committee released a report that encouraged open access archiving to researchers working at Finnish Universities or receiving Finnish public funding. The abstract of the report is available in English at <http://www.minedu.fi/julkaisut/tiede/2005/tr08/kuvailu.html>.

Full List of Highwire Online Free Full-Text Journals

Highwire Press, the largest archive of free full-text science on Earth, has prepared a list of all its online free full text journals. Please check it at <http://highwire.stanford.edu/lists/freeart.dtl>.

British Library and CURL to Facilitate Open Access to PhD Theses

The British Library and CURL (Consortium of Research Libraries) will jointly embark upon an 18-month project to create an online resource allowing full access to UK PhD theses. The British Library will be in charge of providing the technical infrastructure for the service, including a central electronic store and the means for searching for and accessing full text dissertations. This initiative aims to raise the national and international visibility of UK postgraduate research and will guarantee its long term preservation.

Nature Moves towards Self-Archiving Policy

The Nature Publishing Group (NPG) has encouraged authors of original research papers to submit their accepted, peer-reviewed manuscripts to their relevant funding body's archive, for release six months after publication. Authors will also be encouraged to leave their version of the manuscripts in their institution's repositories and their personal websites, again six months after publication. Please access to the full news at

<http://www.macmillan.com/10Jan2005NPG.asp>.

E-prints Network's Free Service

The E-Print Network (called the pre-print network before) is a gateway to over 16,100 Web sites and databases worldwide which is operated by the US Department of Energy's Office of Scientific and Technical Information. It provides open access to e-prints in basic and applied sciences, primarily in physics but also including subject areas such as chemistry, biology and life sciences, materials science, nuclear sciences and engineering, energy research, computer and information technologies. Please see <http://www.osti.gov/eprints/> to know more about this network.

FAO-IMARK Distance Learning Resources Available in English

IMARK is a new FAO initiative that aims to provide e-learning resources for information management and exchange. By building upon a virtual community of practice, IMARK has developed a series of CD-ROM and other training materials in four subject areas, namely Management of Electronic Documents, Digitization and Digital Libraries, Investing in Agricultural Information, and Building Electronic Communities and Networks. The IMARK module for Digitization and Digital Libraries results from a collaboration between FAO and UNESCO with the support of the National Center for Scientific Information (NCSI) at the Indian Institute of Science (IIS), and intends to train librarians and other information professionals in the digitization of collections and in the creation and provision of digital libraries. It is now available in English and can be supplemented by the module devoted to the Management of Electronic Documents. French, Spanish, Arabic and Chinese versions will be soon produced. In order to request a copy of this module, please write an email to IMARKenquiries@fao.org. Additional information on the IMARK Initiative can be found at http://www.fao.org/IMARK/index_en.htm.

Another Useful Website

Bangladesh-based Infosciencetoday provides noteworthy online resources which are continuously updated. There are links and rich information about librarianship and information society-related issues, such as databases and resources as regards to University and Information professionals, recommended sites, top links, details on upcoming conferences and related proceedings, articles, a listing of library software, information literacy and awards, together with sources for funding, a job site and a glossary. Please see it all at <http://infosciencetoday.org>.