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EIFL update

EIFL Director receives Hakob Meghapart Jubilee Medal

EIFL Director Rima Kupryte has been awarded the 'Hakob Meghapart' Jubilee Medal for her personal and EIFL's overall contribution to development of the Armenian library system.

The award was presented by the Director of the National Library of Armenia, Dr Tigran Zagaryan, during the EIFL General Assembly, in celebration of the 500th anniversary of Armenian Printing and within the context of UNESCO's designation of 'Yerevan as World Book Capital 2012'.

'Rima Kupryte, starting from 2001, was actively involved in consulting Armenian librarians and IT specialists on building the Armenian Libraries Computerized network. Successful realization of this project allowed Armenian libraries to start joint activities through Electronic Libraries Consortium of Armenia (ELCA). EIFL sparked a lot of innovations in academic, research and public libraries all over Armenia.' said Dr Zagaryan as he presented the award.

Ten years of continued Armenian library development culminated in the Armenian library service hosting the EIFL General Assembly (GA) 2012. With the theme *From Gutenberg to the Internet - a New Renaissance for Libraries,* the EIFL GA was hosted in splendid fashion by the National Library of Armenia, ELCA and the American University of Armenia, and sponsored by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia.

The GA programme included an inspiring presentation by Dr Zagaryan, *Partnering with EIFL in building a national Armenian Repository for Education and Research - the path to success*, which demonstrated the close and beneficial partnership between ELCA and EIFL, and its visible impact on the modernization of the Armenian library network, including ICT infrastructure, competencies and skills, services and access to content.

Hakob Meghapart, after whom the impressive bronze medal is named, published the first Armenian book in 1512 in Venice, called «Ուրբաթագիրք» (Urbatagirk - 'Friday Book'). His publishing house produced five Armenian books from 1512-13, which are normally safe-guarded in the National Library of Armenia. However, to celebrate this important cultural and historic anniversary, the five books are currently travelling the world, being shown in exhibitions in Venice, Amsterdam and Yerevan.

The National Library of Armenia awards the 'Hakob Meghapart' Jubilee Medal to people who make significant contributions to Armenian cultural patrimony and the promotion of the printed word. Since its establishment in 1990, the medal has been awarded to some 240 people.

Dr Zagaryan graciously also awarded the medal to Monika Elbert, EIFL team member, who has accompanied Armenian library development over many years through EIFL, TEMPUS projects, and assistance in integrating the Armenian National Library into Europeana, the European Digital Library.

Spotlight on the GA 2012

PDF version: low res | high res

The General Assembly (GA) is the major knowledge-sharing event of the year for EIFL. Coordinators from EIFL partner countries and invited guests meet to discuss EIFL activities and strategies, and to debate state-of-the-art issues and developments with resource persons, representatives from key international initiatives and publisher partners.

Entitled "From Gutenberg to the Internet - A New Renaissance for Libraries", the GA was part of the official programme of celebrations for the UNESCO World Book Capital awarded in 2012 to Yerevan, Armenia. The theme of the GA reflected the transition from print to digital content, and explored challenges and new opportunities for libraries. Interactive sessions included open access book publishing, advocacy for consortia, and issues to consider when adopting e-books and undertaking digitization projects.

This year's GA was attended by 71 participants from 43 countries, and 13 publisher partners.

EIFL was honoured that the GA was attended by Hasmik Poghosyan, Minister of Culture of Armenia, who gave a welcome speech on the role of libraries in today's society. We are most grateful to the Ministry of Culture for also providing financial support.

"We were proud to host the GA because, in addition to the rich professional experience it offers, we had the privilege of introducing the EIFL community to the culture, history, tradition and soul of Armenia, one of the ancient civilizations of the world." Tigran Zargaryan, Director, National Library of Armenia (left)

"The thing that impressed me most about the EIFL GA was how well the group works together given the vast differences in local situations, the ability to focus on common issues and the sharing of experiences - it really highlights the value of networks." Michael W. Carroll (right), Professor of Law, American University Washington College of Law, USA who gave the keynote speech on the promise of open access for development.

An ever popular feature of the GA is speeddating. Participants have an opportunity to spend 15 minutes with each publisher and also EIFL programme managers to learn about new products and developments, discuss any problems, or to simply catch up!

"This was my first EIFL GA and hopefully not my last! There is a real sense of community, and the 'speed dating' sessions enabled me to meet and talk to all the participants. From a publisher's perspective, this is very beneficial and very rare for a gathering of this size." Niall Culligan, Journals Sales Executive, Taylor & Francis

"The EIFL GA is always a great conference to attend as you get the chance to meet and talk with representatives from over 40 countries! It's one of those events that you really shouldn't miss." Marcin Kwiatkowski, Sales Manager, SAGE Publications

(below left)

We were pleased to welcome those attending their first GA.

"I was very impressed by all the presentations, particularly those focusing on what countries have already done or achieved. The EIFL GA was a very useful experience for me, as the Chairperson of a consortium. The GA is not only a knowledge sharing event but it inspires those who work closely with libraries." Baljid Dashdeleg, Chairperson, Mongolia Libraries Consortium (right)

"The GA has been immensely useful for me and by extension for all my colleagues, because I intend to share widely the knowledge I have gained when I am back home." Mesfin Abera, Chairperson, Consortium of Ethiopian Academic and Research Libraries (left)

"Why have I never been to a GA before? I should have come much earlier to benefit from all the knowledge we are learning and sharing." Isaac Safari, Executive Secretary, Consortium for Tanzania Universities and Research Libraries

"The GA is a wonderful mixture of the highly professional and the very friendly - a great environment for international cooperation." Rusudan Asatiani, Leading Specialist, National Parliamentary Library of Georgia

We were also delighted to celebrate the achievements of two consortia which have shown exceptional increases in uptake and usage of commercial e-resources available through the EIFL-Licensing Programme.

Marika Meltsas (right), EIFL Country Coordinator for Estonia, won the award for the best overall performance over the last five years which was sponsored by Burgundy Information Services.

"We were delighted to sponsor this award, particularly as we celebrated our fifth birthday during the GA. Throughout this time we have worked closely with EIFL to provide low cost access in many countries, including Estonia." Paul Calow (right), International Sales Director, Burgundy Information Services

Rosemary Otando (left), EIFL Country Coordinator from Kenya, won the award (sponsored by JSTOR) for the best performance over the last year following an annual increase in downloads of over 13,000%.

"The GA guides us through the most current issues facing libraries, enabling participants to share experience and providing a great sense of working towards a common goal. Esprit de corps is our power." Gintare Tautkeviciene, Chair, EIFL Advisory Board

"The theme of this year's GA was e-books and the digitization of content. Marking 500 years of printing in Armenia - the new media of its day - the development of libraries was revolutionized. Today libraries are undergoing another transformation. We were inspired and enlightened by the presentations taking us on the path from print to digital – a testimony to the work of EIFL!" Tseli Moshoeshoe-Chadzingwa, Member, EIFL Advisory Board (right)

"The EIFL GA is different from our usual local and regional events. People from many different countries come together to share their practices which we can use in our consortium or library. It is diverse yet unified, professional yet personal, and very, very friendly. A truly unique event!" Elena Sipria-Mironov, Project Manager, University of Tartu Library (left)

"What struck me most about the EIFL GA was such a diversity of people with such a commonality of purpose." Ronald Snijder, Project Manager Digital Publications, OAPEN Foundation (right)

Photos from the General Assembly are now available here.

EIFL-Licensing update

New agreement signed with Cengage Learning

EIFL has signed a new agreement with Cengage Learning for a range of Gale e-resources:

- Biography in Context (*new*)
- Business Insights: Global (*new*)
- General OneFile
- Global Issues in Context
- GREENR (*new*)
- Student Resources in Context (*new*)
- World History in Context (*new*)

The agreement runs until 31 December 2015 and is open to EIFL-partner consortia in the following countries:

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Georgia, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

▸ Find out more about the EIFL-negotiated agreement for Gale e-resources from Cengage Learning.

New agreement for SAGE Research Methods

EIFL has signed a new agreement with SAGE Publications for SAGE Research Methods.

The agreement runs from 1 September 2012 to 31 December 2015, and offers discounted pricing to EIFL-partner consortia, and member institutions, in the following countries:

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Cameroon, Estonia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Kenya, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Moldova, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Palestine, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Zambia, Zimbabwe

SAGE Research Methods is an innovative online tool designed to help researchers, faculty and students with their research projects across a wide range of subject areas.

Users can explore methods concepts to help them design research projects, understand particular methods or identify useful new methods. It also helps users conduct their research, and write up their findings.

It offers access to over 120,000 pages of SAGE's renowned book, journal and reference content and provides advanced search and discovery tools.

▸ Find out more about the EIFL-negotiated agreement for SAGE Research Methods

New agreement for IMF eLibrary

EIFL has signed a new agreement with IMF Publications for the IMF eLibrary, the IMF's premier research tool.

The agreement runs from 1 September 2012 to 31 December 2014, and offers free or highly discounted access to members of EIFL-partner consortia in the following countries:

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Cambodia, Cameroon, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Kenya, Kosovo, Krygyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Moldova, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Palestine, Poland, Russia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, Sudan, Swaziland, Syria,

Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Zambia, Zimbabwe

The IMF eLibrary provides powerful and convenient online access to the complete collection of authoritative global economic content published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

With more than 11,000 text publications and full access to the IMF's statistical database, the IMF eLibrary is an important resource for economic study and analysis.

▸ Find out more about the EIFL-negotiated agreement for the IMF eLibrary

EIFL-OA update

EIFL welcomes the EC Communication and Recommendation

EIFL warmly welcomes the European Commission Conclusion and Recommendation to Member States on the European Research Area (ERA), outlining measures to improve access to scientific knowledge produced in Europe to make it easier for researchers and businesses to build on the findings of publicly-funded research, providing a policy framework for improving access to and preservation of scientific information in EU Member States, and setting out open access policy objectives for the research funded by the Commission through Horizon 2020.

As one of the partners in the EU-funded OpenAIRE project (Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe), which provides e-infrastructure and a network of experts to support the researchers towards meeting open access policy requirements for research funded under FP7 programme (known as the FP7 Open Access Pilot), EIFL promotes open access policies and the interoperability of data infrastructures and strongly supports the Commission's statement that policies on open access to scientific research results should apply to all research that receives public funds.

EIFL especially welcomes the Commission's step to make open access to scientific publications a general principle of Horizon 2020 (the EU's Research & Innovation funding programme for 2014-2020) and the Commission's recommendation that Member States take a similar approach to the results of research funded under their own domestic programmes. As of 2014, all articles produced with funding from Horizon 2020 will have to be openly accessible either immediately by the publisher (up-front publication costs can be eligible for reimbursement by the European Commission) and/or researchers will make their articles available through an open access repository no later than six months (12 months for articles in the fields of social sciences and humanities) after publication. As the Communication states, the goal is for 60% of European publicly-funded research articles to be available under open access by 2016.

Promoting open access to research data (experimental results, observations and computer-generated information etc.) and setting a pilot framework in Horizon 2020, taking into account legitimate concerns in relation to privacy, commercial interests and questions related to large data volumes, is another Commission's step that EIFL strongly supports.

EIFL joins the Commission in its call to research stakeholder organisations including research funders to
- define institutional policies for the dissemination of and open access to scientific publications; and establish implementation plans at the level of those funding institutions;
- encourage researchers to retain their copyright while granting licences to publishers;
- support and reward researchers who participate in a culture of sharing the results of their research, in particular by ensuring open access to their publications and by developing, encouraging and using new, alternative models of career assessment, metrics and indicators.

We will be working with stakeholders in Member States to ensure that this recommendation is put into practice as national policies are developed. And we hope that more and more research articles and data that result from publicly funded research become publicly accessible, usable and re-usable through digital e-infrastructures.

EIFL
Rome, 18 July 2012
Contact: Rima Kupryte, Director, rima.kupryte@eifl.net

EIFL is an international not-for-profit organisation based in Europe with a global network of partners. Working in collaboration with libraries and library consortia in more than 60 developing and transition countries in Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America, EIFL enables access to knowledge for education, learning, research and sustainable community development. For further information about EIFL Open Access Programme: http://www.eifl.net/openaccess

July Open Access Discussions in Uganda

On July 9-11, 2012, Makerere University hosted the Consortium of Uganda University Libraries (CUUL) and EIFL workshop "Open Access (OA) and the Evolving Scholarly Communication Environment". It was the first event of the EIFL-funded project, "Promoting the adoption of campus-based, faculty-driven open access policies". The presentations from the workshop are available here.

OA for researchers and publishers: increased readership, visibility, usage and impact

Dr. Paul Nampala (African Crop Science Journal and the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture) highlighted challenges and opportunities of scholarly publishing in Africa: the benefits of OA for African Crop Science Journal, such as increased visibility and submissions (increasing number from outside Africa), cost reduction in publishing (up to 70%), time saving (the time required for production and dissemination are much less when publishing online - the Editorial Board is now considering publishing more issues), and discouragement of plagiarism.

Allan Mwesiga (Editor of the Pan African Medical Journal) shared his experiences with sustainability of OA publishing in Africa. Some lessons learnt: an African OA journal can attract large numbers of manuscripts in a very competitive environment; an increase in submission volumes comes with an increase in challenges (need for staff, system upgrade, change in procedures) which should be anticipated.

OA for research institutions: increased visibility and impact

Currently there are three OA repositories in Uganda: Uganda Scholarly Digital Library (USDL) at Makerere University, Ecommons at the Aga Khan University and at Uganda Martyrs University (in progress). Plans are underway to establish OA repositories in other institutions. Vice-Chancellor of Makerere University has already publicly acknowledged that OA institutional repository and OA journal – African Crop Science Journal – contributed to the high ranking of Makerere university in the Ranking Web (Webometrics Ranking) of World Universities.

Agnes Namaganda (Makerere University Library) presented the role of CUUL in OA institutional repositories development and suggested the following collaborative activities: advocacy-meetings with Vice-chancellors' Forum; librarians' round tables; sensitisation seminars/training /workshops; model sample policies which can be customised by institutions; setting up a forum for discussion/share skills; setting up a Functional Committee on Institutional Repositories at CUUL; fundraising/proposal writing; etc.

At the final session, "Planning check-lists and strategies for collective advocacy of OA to research results in Uganda", over a dozen universities and research organizations presented their plans on: institutional OA advocacy campaigns; setting up OA repositories; and adopting OA policies. Strategies for collective advocacy of OA to research results in Uganda were discussed. These included: model OA briefs for vice-chancellors, model OA repositories proposals, collaboratively designed OA promotional materials and training materials for repository administrators and managers, signing the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities, and OA Week celebrations.

Discussing OA policies and strategies with regional research networks and national policy makers

On July 12-13, EIFL and CUUL discussed OA policies and strategies with regional research networks and national policy makers – Inter-university Council for East Africa, National Council for Higher Education, National Information Technology Authority Uganda, Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture, Research and Education Network of Uganda and Uganda National Council for Science and Technology.

EIFL and CUUL will be working together to implement all the plans, stay tuned!

e-Health – the first OA repository in Tanzania launches

e-Health is a digital open access repository of published and unpublished material contributed by government, researchers, academics, students and others interested in health in Tanzania. It is coordinated by Ifakara Health Institute, runs on EPrints and is hosted by the University of Southampton. Currently there are over 140 research outputs in biomedicine, environmental sciences, health systems, impact evaluation, interventions and policy translation from years 2001 to 2012 and growing.

EIFL wishes success to the first open access repository in the country and its manager Paul Muneja, EIFL Open Access country coordinator in Tanzania.

EIFL-IP update

New workplan for libraries and archives at WIPO

The WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR/24) met in Geneva for 10 days, ending in the early hours of 26th July 2012 after tough negotiations on the meeting conclusions. The meeting had three agenda items - the protection of broadcasting organizations, the contribution of the SCCR to implementation of the Development Agenda recommendations, and exceptions and limitations. Exceptions and limitations is concerned with libraries and archives, blind and visually impaired people, while three extra days were dedicated to educational and research institutions and persons with other disabilities.

On libraries and archives, the Committee agreed to adopt its provisional document (SCCR/23/8) setting out eleven topics for future discussion, and to work towards an international legal instrument for libraries and archives by May/June 2014 (SCCR/28).

On blind and visually impaired people, Member States agreed to hold an extra session in October 2012 to finalise the text of an instrument, then to convene an extraordinary General Assembly in December 2012 in order to decide on whether to hold a Diplomatic Conference (the final stage before a treaty) in 2013.

On education and other disabilities, the Committee adopted a provisional document (SCCR/24/7) with proposals and textual comments, and agreed to continue discussions with a target to submit recommendations by May/June 2015 (SCCR/30).

EIFL welcomes the progress made on all exceptions and limitations and the adoption of a workplan on libraries and archives. We especially welcome that a door has been opened for a treaty for blind and visually impaired people, supported by all regional groups from the developing world, but are disappointed that there is less agreement on the text under negotiation since the last SCCR.

Read the EIFL statements here.

Read the meeting conclusions here.

Watch the meeting here.

EIFL-IP librarian upskills over the summer

In July 2012, Barbara Szczepańska, EIFL-IP coordinator from Poland benefited from attendance at a summer course on international copyright law at the Institute for Information Law (IViR) at the University of Amsterdam.

This year the annual course gathered twenty-five participants from three continents. Over five days, students were treated to nine seminars delivered by renowned international copyright scholars and practitioners from Europe and the United States. Each seminar focused on one specific issue of copyright law, which participants explored in depth with the lecturer.

The course aims to give valuable insight into the most crucial current issues of copyright law, examined from a comparative law perspective and in the light of recent international and regional developments. Seminars on exceptions and limitations by Lucie Guibault, Assistant Professor, University of Amsterdam, and copyright issues in mass digitization projects by Prof. Pamela Samuelson, University of California illustrate how library-related topics are high on the international copyright agenda. Other seminars included copyright and competition law, database protection, collective administration of rights and enforcement.

"The course showed how copyright is truly international, based on treaties and other international norms. It was also extremely helpful to learn how national practices influence international law and, by extension, how influencing such developments is within the reach of the library community", said Barbara Szczepańska.

Barbara's participation was sponsored by the Open Society Foundations (OSF).

"Copyright for Librarians" in print

A new print version of "Copyright for Librarians", the open curriculum developed jointly with Harvard's Berkman Center for Internet and Society will shortly be available. Entitled "Copyright for Librarians. The essential handbook", the online version has been re-designed into a textbook that can be used as a stand-alone resource or as an adjunct to the online version which contains additional links and references for students who wish to pursue any topic in greater depth.

A limited number of copies have been printed for distribution to multipliers such as libraries in the EIFL-IP network, library schools and law schools. It will also be available for purchase via a print on demand service.

We are looking forward to launching our new book and hope that it will reach an even wider audience.

The first three people to get in touch will receive a free copy! Just email the EIFL-IP Programme Manager, Teresa Hackett (teresa.hackett [at] eifl.net), with your full name and institution address, saying why you would like a copy.

EIFL-FOSS update

VuFind - search engine and portal software

VuFind is a library resource portal designed and developed by Villanova University library. It is designed to enable all library users to search and browse through all of the library's resources by replacing the traditional OPAC.

VuFind operates with a simple Google-like interface, offering keyword searching, faceted searching, suggested resources, personal organisation (eg favourites tagging or commenting features), and offers versions in several languages including French, Chinese and Hebrew.

On July 26th 2012 Mark Hughes, Head of Collections at Swansea University Library, and Luke O'Sullivan, Library Systems Developer at Swansea University, delivered a webinar for EIFL FOSS introducing VuFind and describing which of its functions they had implemented in their library, how they had used it to create a multiple library single-search function, and how they are actively contributing to its development as they explore other features and develop functionalities.

You can access the recording of the session here

You can download Mark and Luke's presentation presentation here [PDF]

Xerte Online Toolkits Webinar: Creating E-Learning Resources

Xerte Online Toolkits is an easy-to-use tool developed by the University of Nottingham, UK, which helps non-technical staff to create accessible, multimedia e-learning materials (including, for example, web guides, 'how to' guides, demonstration materials, as well as more traditional e-learning materials for teaching purposes).

Once you have installed Xerte Online Toolkits on your server, all objects created in Xerte Online Toolkits are given a stable and unique URL. The software automatically builds into all objects the option for users to change the colour of the background, the size and type of text, the ability to navigate entirely by keyboard, and text-to-speech (currently only when viewed in Internet Explorer) to read aloud the object's contents.

The EIFL-FOSS Library Advocacy Resource is an object built in Xerte Online Toolkits, so you can test out some of the accessibility features by viewing that resource, and also check out some of the different ways information can be presented. This object uses only 8 of the 65 posible page templates, so it does not display well the full possibilities of Xerte Online Toolkits. To see an object that displays many of the potential page types, view this promotional object from the University of Nottingham.

For further information about Xerte Online Toolkits see http://www.eifl.net/xerte-online-toolkits-creating-e-learning-resource

Webinar August 2012

EIFL-FOSS held a webinar on August 16th 2012 on Xerte Online Toolkits. The webinar focussed on:

- Getting started with Xerte Online Toolkits
- Creating your first object
- Adding pages to your object
- Incorporating multimedia
- 'Hidden' features such as Narration
- Other FOSS tools that help you get the best from Xerte

You can access the recording of the session here (if your connection is too intermittent to view the recording online, we can provide it to you as a Zip file to download and view offline - just contact simon.ball [at] eifl.net)

You can download the slides from the presentation here.

Overcoming barriers to wider FOSS use in African libraries

In November 2011, with support from UNESCO, EIFL-FOSS organised a regional training seminar in Tanzania, bringing together FOSS librarians and library directors from 14 African countries for two days of training and activities (read the original news item).

As part of the follow-up activities from that event, we surveyed the participants, asking questions about their progress in a variety of areas since the event. Twenty-four of the 26 participants responded, representing 13 of the 14 countries in attendance.

We asked the participants a variety of questions about both their achievements and any barriers to further success they had identified.

The responses suggest that much is happening with FOSS in African libraries. No less than 17 of the 24 respondents stated that they had held workshops on specific FOSS tools since the event, with the most common focus being Koha (7) or DSpace (4). Five countries had held national FOSS workshops focussing on a variety of tools.

However the number of implementations since the event is even more impressive. Across 13 countries that responded to the survey, there were reported over 50 implementations in total since the event, with no country reporting zero implementations. Again Koha was the most common (18) along with DSpace (14), but other software seemed to be in high demand, including Greenstone (5), SubjectsPlus (4) as well as seven other tools.

Other positive developments reported demonstrated a lot of positivity about the future, some respondents reporting having obtained funding for key projects (such as installing FOSS repository software at 10 institutions) while others had applied for funding and were awaiting responses (such as for country-wide training initiatives). One country is planning to visit a neighbouring country to gather information on how it has achieved its successes. Another country that has created a union catalogue across three libraries is taking that knowledge out to more institutions while at the same time forging ahead with federated access technologies in the same three libraries.

However many successes there are, barriers still remain in some areas. Two barriers were reported more widely than any others:

- there remains a lack of face-to-face training opportunities for librarians. Many participants reported that often librarians are not sufficiently confident to download an installation guide and attempt installation alone, they prefer face-to-face training to build their confidence, or at least a step-by-step guide with access to an individual for support;
- although library directors are starting to become aware of FOSS and what it means, there is still a common perception that "sending someone on a training course" is sufficient to enable a library to maximise the potential of FOSS. Continued advocacy work is required to not only explain the full range of FOSS possibilities to library directors but also to help them to understand the much longer term commitment that is needed from them in order for their library to fully utilise all that FOSS technologies have to offer.

Other barriers were reported much less commonly by the survey respondents. These included infrastructure issues (insufficient networked PCs, internet speed and reliability); difficulty in establishing working relationships between libraries and their institution's IT teams; and a lack of FOSS coverage in Library and Information Systems courses.

Despite the continuing presence of barriers to progress, respondents were incredibly upbeat about the future. When asked if another FOSS training and networking event in a few years' time would be useful, there was an overwhelmingly positive response. When asked what the focus of the event should be, the three most popular responses were:

- Training on the latest FOSS tools at that time,
- Bringing together EIFL FOSS people from across the full EIFL network (not only Africa),
- Reporting success stories of implementations as a result of the seminar in Tanzania.

Four libraries win EIFL-PLIP economic wellbeing award

EIFL's Public Library Innovation Programme (EIFL-PLIP) is delighted to announce the winners of the first Innovation Award – for library services that improve community economic wellbeing.

Congratulations to four libraries in four continents:
- Africa - Kawempe Youth Centre in Uganda for their ICT and financial literacy education service.
- Asia - Agyauli Community Library and Resource Centre in Nepal for their Equitable Access to Information service which improves farmers' yields and livelihoods.
- Europe - Belgrade City Library in Serbia for their Novcici service that improves financial literacy.
- Latin America - Public Library No. 56 El Bollenar in Chile for the Moonlight Women's Workshop, which uses modern ICT and traditional handicrafts to improve women's income.

In addition to a prize of US$1,500, winners are invited to showcase their winning services at the Beyond Access Conference 2012 in Washington in October.

Thanks to the winners, and to all the other libraries that applied, for sharing their stories with us.

The EIFL-PLIP Innovation Awards recognize innovative services that use ICT to improve lives and livelihoods. The awards are open to all public and community libraries in developing and transition countries.

Read more about the winners of Award No. 1 and the other awards…

Mongolia library success sparks law change

All blind and visually impaired people in Mongolia now have the legal right to be issued with a free DAISY talking book player following a change in the law.

'This represents a huge opportunity for blind and visually impaired people to have equal access to the information and knowledge which they so desperately need to improve their lives,' said Mr M. Tsengel, DAISY Expert at Ulaanbaatar Public Library (UPL).

The law change is a result of intensive advocacy by the Mongolian National Federation of the Blind (MNFB), and the success of UPL's DAISY Talking Books service. There are an estimated 300,000 blind and visually impaired people in Mongolia.

With support from EIFL's Public Library Innovation Programme (EIFL-PLIP), UPL installed a digital recording studio and has recorded about 90 books into DAISY format. UPL also teaches people how to use DAISY players (readers). The MNFB is the library's main partner in implementing the service.

'Our task now is to get ready for the thousands of blind and visually impaired people who will be coming to our libraries and asking for digital talking books. Our digital talking book recording studio will be working full time!' said Mr Tsengel.

'Our production of numerous books in DAISY format greatly influenced the legal adoption of DAISY players,' he added.

The Social Welfare Law of 2009 entitled blind and visually impaired people to receive a white cane, a Braille watch, other Braille devices like paper and a typewriter, and a tape recorder every five years. The amended law replaces the tape recorders with DAISY talking book players.

DAISY stands for Digital Accessible Information System. A DAISY book is a digital talking book that may contain both sound and text. The main advantage of DAISY is that the audio files are structured so that they can be navigated and used in a similar way to a printed book. For example, people using DAISY can add bookmarks and jump from page to page and chapter to chapter quickly and easily.

The new law came into force on July 1. To ensure that distribution of DAISY players is well organized, national and city government labour and social welfare departments will sign an agreement with several non-governmental organizations that serve blind and visually impaired people.

Read more about Ulaanbaatar Public Library and their successful talking books service…

Two libraries win EIFL-PLIP health award

EIFL's Public Library Innovation Programme (EIFL-PLIP) is proud to announce the winners of our second Innovation Award – for library services that contribute to the health of the community.

Congratulations to two public libraries in Africa and Europe –
- Hoima Public Library in Uganda for their Improving Community Health Through ICT service, and
- 'Gh. Asachi' County Library Iaşi in Romania for their First Aid Toolkit service

Winners receive a prize of US$1,500 and an invitation to showcase their winning services at the Beyond Access Conference 2012 in Washington in October.

Thanks to the winners and to all the other libraries that applied for sharing stories about their innovative health services with us.

The EIFL-PLIP Innovation Awards recognize innovative services that use ICT to improve lives and livelihoods. The awards are open to all public and community libraries in developing and transition countries.

Read more about the winners of Award No. 2 and the other awards…

Innovation Award for social inclusion - call coming soon

On October 1, EIFL's Public Library Innovation Programme (EIFL-PLIP) will launch its third Innovation Award, for libraries that contribute to social inclusion in the community.

The award, which includes a prize of US$1,500, is open to public and community libraries in developing and transition countries. The deadline for submitting applications will be November 30, so there will be just two months to apply. To see if your library is possibly providing a service or an activity within the scope of the award, visit here.

Applications will be accepted in English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Don't miss this opportunity! Check our website on October 1 for details of how to apply or – to be the first to know – stay in touch through Facebook, Twitter or RSS.

Library consortia news

Three library consortia celebrate 10 years of service

In 2012, three EIFL partner consortia in very diverse regions will be celebrating their 10th anniversary. The first to celebrate will be Kyrgyzstan Library Information Consortium (KLIC) at the beginning of October. Zimbabwe University Libraries Consortium (ZULC) will follow with celebrations scheduled for the end of October. And finally, the National Electronic Information Consortium (NEICON) in Russia will commemorate the occasion at the end of November.

A library consortium is a group of libraries that share common goals. Library consortia can speak with one voice to policy makers and funders – to advocate for libraries - and can share resources and activities – to build capacity and expand access for users. The consortium can have one type of member e.g. university or public libraries, can focus on a particular subject area, and can serve a region or a whole country. They have become a major force in the purchase of electronic resources from commercial vendors, especially in negotiating licensing terms and conditions and influencing pricing models; consolidating technical services such as union catalogues and collaborating on digitisation projects; undertaking professional development and training; but most of all, a consortium can be a tremendous force in advocating for better policies and funding for modern libraries.

EIFL's unique approach is to partner with libraries organised in national consortia in developing and transition countries, thereby effectively reaching millions of users. EIFL provides training, advice, consultancy, and resources for consortium management to assist in building sustainable consortia, as well as a range of programmes in leading-edge information issues. EIFL now works with consortia in more than 46 countries - from Albania to Zimbabwe - many of whom received start-up grants to establish the consortium and expand access to electronic resources in support of science, research and education. Three former grantees are celebrating their 10th anniversaries in 2012.

Kyrgyzstan

'EIFL membership offers an unequalled opportunity to be in touch with colleagues all around the world, a platform to share new ideas, initiatives, professional experiences and innovations, and to provide new resources and services to the users.' - Sania Battalova, EIFL Country Coordinator for Kyrgyzstan

Since Kyrgyzstan's independence in 1991, the library community has been much influenced by the general problems faced by the country in its transition: poor economic situation, break down of connections with the former Soviet countries, lack of coordination and collaboration, very low level of technological development, and very limited support from the state and local governments for library development. In hopes to tackle these challenges, the Kyrgyzstan Library Information Consortium (KLIC) was formed in 2002. After only 4 years of KLIC's inception, the number of computers in libraries were increased to 300 compared to 70 in 2000. Other accomplishments in the past 10 years also include: access to e-resources (12 vendors in 2012 from 0 in 2002); an "Open Repository of Kyrgyz Scientists" (started in 2009) to develop a comprehensive and modern digital storehouse to collect and organize scientific information; and numerous activities for professional development for librarians.

KLIC will begin its10 years anniversary celebration during the annual international conference "Libraries and Democratization of Society", which will be held in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan from October 1-5, 2012. Celebrations are planned to continue with round tables discussions with the government, NGOs and libraries in the course of November /December 2012.

Он-жылдык маарекенер менен куттуктайбыз!

Russia

The National Electronic Information Consortium (NEICON) was established on 25 November 2002. It began as a small

organisation with staff of 3 with the mission to unite Russian libraries, to lead them in their work with e-resources, to educate librarians, and to overcome e-information illiteracy in Russia. Ten years later and the organisation has over 25 staff and 787 members. 'NEICON is now nationally and internationally recognized. We even represent Russian libraries in a number of international advisory committees,' says Irina Razumova, NEICON Deputy Director and EIFL Country Coordinator for Russia.

Since 2005, it has been executing contracts given by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation and subscribes nearly 400 Russian institutions to dozens of scholarly resources by leading global publishers. Annually NEICON signs and executes about 2500 site licenses. And since 2010 it has been developing its own online platform with different types of services and resources including complete archives of leading publishers. NEICON has also established a training centre and conducts annually about 50 training all over Russia.

NEICON will celebrate its 10th anniversary at a conference to be held for the conclusion of one of its biggest projects with the Ministry for Education and Science of the Russian Federation on 6-8th November in St. Petersburg.

Поздравляем с 10-летним юбилеем!

Zimbabwe

'In the past ten years, ZULC has amply illustrated that the most important development in this knowledge era is the move by academic libraries from organisational self-sufficiency to a mutual cooperation and collaborative survival mode.' - Lawrence Chikwanha, ZULC Chairperson

The Zimbabwe University Libraries Consortium (ZULC) was officially launched on 31 July 2002 at the Zimbabwe International Book Fair. When it began its mission 10 years ago, ZULC had seven members and there was no common platform for addressing similar challenges. Members were working on building individual success stories especially in the provision of electronic information resources and in introducing library automation in their libraries. Since then, ZULC's achievements are numerous, including membership of 12 universities and 6 Colleges who are associate members. These institutions have access to over 50 scholarly databases which include 15 000+ electronic journals and 50 000+ eBooks. ZULC organises at least eight workshops every year and has run over 50 workshops in ten years for different levels of library staff and in some cases for ICT colleagues and academics. It has also drawn up standards for university libraries in the country.

Celebrations are being scheduled for its 10th anniversary to take place during the ZULC Conference on Open Access that will be held on 25th to 26th October 2012 in Bulawayo. There will be a formal panel discussion followed by a dinner or cocktail event.

Happy 10th Anniversary!

EIFL would like to congratulate KLIC, NEICON and ZULC on 10 years of success. Join us in thanking them for their service to the library community and in wishing them many more years of accomplishments and achievements. EIFL and its partner consortia are most grateful to the Open Society Foundations, for their long-standing commitment to libraries.

September 2012

PDF version: low res | high res

Events

5 Sep 2012	Regional Consultation on OA Concept and Policies. Location: Minsk - Belarus
12 Sep 2012	An EIFL presentation on ebooks. Location: Online
14 Sep 2012	JKUAT OA Institutional Repository workshops, Kenya. Location: Juja - Kenya
18 Sep 2012	African Public Library Summit. Location: Johannesburg - South Africa
21 Sep 2012	Q&A Webinar with VuFind lead developer Demian Katz. Location: Online
1 Oct 2012	13th International Conference "Issyk-Kul 2012". Location: Issyk-Kul - Kyrgyzstan
1 Oct 2012	Beyond Access Conference. Location: Washington DC - United States
15 Oct 2012	Ghana meeting to promote innovative libraries. Location: Accra - Ghana
16 Oct 2012	Tanzania Perceptions of Public Libraries. Location: Dar es Salaam - Tanzania
17 Oct 2012	Webinar - Strategic Planning II: Developing Your Plan. Location: Online
22 Oct 2012	Open Access Week 2012. Location: all over the world
22 Oct 2012	China Open Access Week. Location: Beijing - China
22 Oct 2012	Zimbabwe International Conference on Open Access. Location: Harare - Zimbabwe
24 Oct 2012	OA drive & Digital Scholarship in Africa, Botswana. Location: Gaborone - Botswana
29 Oct 2012	Bosnia and Herzegovina consortium meeting. Location: Sarajevo - Bosnia and Herzegovina

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EIFL is an international not-for-profit organisation based in Europe with a global network of partners. Working in collaboration with libraries in more than 60 developing and transition countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America, EIFL enables access to knowledge for education, learning, research and sustainable community development.

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Through your generous contributions, EIFL will continue doing what it does best - creating strong library communities that provide top quality electronic information to millions of students, scholars, researchers, and professionals in transition and developing countries across the world.

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