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Tribute to Aaron Swartz

EIFL was greatly saddened to learn of the untimely loss of Aaron Swartz. Aaron cared deeply about the values that EIFL holds dear – to create equal access to information for people in developing and transition countries. We were privileged that Aaron, and Quinn Norton, joined an EIFL retreat in 2008 at the Eremo dei Frati Bianchi, a tranquil restored monastery, to help us craft our vision and set our strategy for the next years. Aaron was thoughtful and bright. When put on the spot to give "the young person's viewpoint" on future libraries and knowledge sharing – as he was several times – he was funny. But he seemed wise beyond his years, and we paid attention to what he said. At times he forced us to re-think our perceptions. He questioned established mores, and was impatient for change. Aaron penned the Guerilla Open Access Manifesto while at the Eremo.

Libraries need activists like Aaron who understand MARC records and coding and the online world, who are passionate and articulate about social justice and access to knowledge, who question and challenge authority (libraries included). We mourn his loss. As a lasting tribute, we encourage everyone to make their own work open access, and to follow the #pdftribute campaign on Twitter.

EIFL-Licensing update

New agreement for Pediatric Neurology Briefs

EIFL has signed a new agreement with Pediatric Neurology Briefs Publishing for the Pediatric Neurology Briefs (PNB).

The agreement runs until 31 December 2015, and is open to members of all 48 EIFL-partner consortia in the following countries:

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

PNB is a continuing education service designed to expedite and facilitate the review of current scientific research and advances in pediatric neurology and related subjects. The editors provide subscribers with detailed monthly summaries of published articles, followed by commentaries based on their experience and corroborated by appropriate supplementary citations.

PNB covers a comprehensive group of subject areas related to progress in child neurology. An edited selection of these topics includes: pediatrics, neurology, neuropsychology, neurophysiology and epilepsy, neurosurgery and other related disciplines.

- Find out more about the EIFL-negotiated agreement for Pediatric Neurology Briefs.

EIFL-OA update

COAR Training materials

We are happy to report that COAR (Confederation of Open Access Repositories) Working Group "Repository and Repository Networks Support & Training" chaired by EIFL released a collection of training materials on operational issues required to install, implement and deploy open access repositories. Topics include the following:

- Introduction;
- Setting up open access repositories;
- Running open access repositories;
- Copyright clearance and digital rights management;
- Advocacy: advocating to different stakeholders, introducing open access policies and mandates;
- Research data management and repositories;
- Interoperability; and
- National overviews.

On 4 December 2012, EIFL hosted a COAR webinar "Towards repository interoperability: unleashing the true value of open access for open science". The recording of the session, slides and more information is here.

COAR is a young, fast growing association of repository initiatives launched in October 2009, uniting and representing 90 institutions worldwide (Europe, Latin America, Asia, and North America). Its mission is to enhance greater visibility and application of research outputs through global networks of open access digital repositories. EIFL is a founding membe of COAR.

Implementing OA Mandates in Europe: OpenAIRE Study

"Implementing Open Access Mandates in Europe: OpenAIRE Study on the Development of Open Access" is a new book co-authored by Birgit Schmidt (Goettingen State and University Library) and Iryna Kuchma (EIFL-OA Programme Manager), published in November 2012 by Universitätsverlag Göttingen (Goettingen University Press)

Full-text of the book is available free here (PDF, ca. 2 MB).

This work provides a unique overview of national awareness of open access in 32 European countries involving all EU member states and in addition, Norway, Iceland, Croatia, Switzerland and Turkey. It describes funder and institutional open access mandates in Europe and national strategies to introduce and implement them. An overview of the current European repository infrastructures is given, including institutional and disciplinary repositories, national repository networks, information portals and support networks. This work also outlines OpenAIREplus, a continuation project which aims to widen the scope of OpenAIRE by connecting publications to contextual information, such as research data and funding information. Opportunities for collaboration in order to achieve European and global synergies are also highlighted.

The OpenAIRE project, a joint collaboration among 38 partners from 27 European countries, has built up a network of open repositories providing free online access to knowledge produced by researchers receiving grants from the European Commission or the European Research Council. It provides support structures for researchers, operates an electronic infrastructure and a portal to access all user-level services and works with several subject communities.

University of Nairobi Open Access Policy

In December 2012 the University of Nairobi adopted an Open Access Policy and launched an open access repository.

Policy Statement

Policy Goals
- To provide open access to scholarly output resulting from academic activities undertaken at the University
- Promote high standards in the management of research outputs
- Provide long-term preservation of the University's research outputs
- Increase the visibility and impact of the University's research outputs
- Enhance collaboration with the global research community

Policy Declaration

The University of Nairobi is committed to free and open access to scholarship for all and takes responsibility for the dissemination of its own research outputs. This commitment is rooted in the University Mission and is undergirded by its core values of innovativeness, professionalism and corporate social responsibility.

In keeping with this commitment, the University adopts the following policy:
- All members of the University Community will be required to submit their scholarly output to the University of Nairobi Digital Repository.
- Each member of the University Community grants to the University of Nairobi a non-exclusive, irrevocable, world-wide license to exercise any and all rights under copyright relating to their scholarly articles in any medium, provided that the articles are not sold for a profit, and to authorize others to do the same.
- The University of Nairobi requires its members to comply with the policies of research funders with regard to open access archiving in line with University of Nairobi relevant and related Policies.
- The University encourages members of its community to publish their scholarly work in peer-reviewed Open Access journals. A member of the UniversityCommunity who publishes in an Open Access Journal shall not be disadvantaged during promotion and tenure considerations.
- Peer reviewed articles for uploading to the repository shall be deposited at the time of acceptance for publication or no later than the date of publication.
- This policy applies to all scholarly works completed before and after the adoption of the policy.
- The University will constitute a University Open Access Committee. The Committee will inter alia be responsible to Senate and the Vice-Chancellor for vetting the content, interpreting the policy, determining embargo issues and dealing with disputes.
- The University of Nairobi Digital Repository shall be coordinated and managed by the Repository Administrator under the supervision of the University Librarian with the participation of stakeholders in liaison with the Office of the Vice-Chancellor.
- The right to amend this policy shall vest with the Council of the University of Nairobi on advice from the Senate.
- This policy applies to all University of Nairobi community, visiting staff and students.

We congratulate the University of Nairobi staff and thank Peter Suber and Harvard Open Access Project (HOAP) for the valuable advice!

Read more about open access policy discussions at the University of Nairobi here (the case study is forthcoming, stay tuned!). The discussions were part of the EIFL project 'Knowledge without boundaries: Advocacy campaign in Kenya for OA and institutional repositories'. Also check out two other open access mandates in Kenya adopted by Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology's (JKUAT) Senate in April 2012 and Strathmore University in 2011 as well as an excellent guide to Good practices for university open-access (OA) policies released by the Harvard Open Access Project in October 2012.

EIFL starts an OA project in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

"Open access: knowledge sharing and sustainable scholarly communication in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda" is a new EIFL regional project funded by Spider, the Swedish Program for ICT in Developing Regions DSV, Department of Computer and System Sciences, Stockholm University. The aim of the project is to raise visbility and accessibility of research outputs in three countries. It builds on previous work of EIFL in the region and combines awareness raising, policy work and practical training to promote, support and establish open access (OA) journals and OA repositories at institutions of higher learning.

Currently there are seven OA repositories in **Kenya**, but only three academic institutions have OA policies (Strathmore University, Jomo Kenyatta University for Agriculture and Technology and the University of Nairobi). International Research Institute (ILRI, Kenya-Ethiopia) has also adopted a policy to use an open license for its published research. In **Tanzania**there are two repositories but there have been no OA policies in the country as of yet and the situation is similar in**Uganda**, with three live repositories.

There are 13 OA journals published in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Some journals in the region have already demonstrated OA benefits, for example African Crop Science Journal reported 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. And another OA journal - Pan African Medical Journal – has proved that an African OA journal can attract large numbers of manuscripts in a very competitive environment.

This new project will run until June 2014 and will be implemented in partnership with EIFL partner consortia: Kenya Library & Information Services Consortium (KLISC), Consortium for Tanzania Universities and Research Libraries (COTUL) and Consortium of Uganda University Libraries (CUUL) . Stay tuned for news and updates!

EIFL-IP update

Libraries and RROs - an EIFL guide

A Reproduction Rights Organization (RRO) licenses the copying of published copyright protected works on behalf of its members. "How to negotiate with your national Reproduction Rights Organization. An EIFL Guide" is intended as a practical guide for libraries if they are approached by an RRO, or when they need to approach an RRO themselves. It sets out the role and tasks of an RRO, the types of licences on offer and highlights issues to consider when negotiating a licence. The Guide contains a checklist and offers tips for libraries to obtain the most suitable terms of use and value for money for the institution.

The guide is available online here. We hope it is a useful resource.

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Public Domain webinar - slides available

Update Check out authors that entered the public domain on 1st January 2013, read vignettes about 12 such noteworthies, or read what *could* have entered the public domain in the US under the law that existed until 1978...

The public domain is the name given to creative works that are not protected by copyright law. When a work is in the public domain, it is free for anyone to use for any purpose without restriction under copyright law. The public domain is considered to be part of our common cultural and intellectual heritage and is a source of inspiration, imagination and innovation for creators.

The aim of the webinar held on 29 November organized by EIFL-IP was to raise awareness of the public domain and to help celebrate "Public Domain Day" on 1 January 2013. The first of January is the day each year when copyrights expire and relevant works enter the public domain. The one hour session covered the definition of the public domain, its importance, threats to access and re-use of public domain material, and possible solutions.

Our guest speaker was Lucie Guibault, Assistant Professor of copyright and intellectual property law at the Institute for Information Law, University of Amsterdam.

You can download Lucie's slides here. The recording is available on request - please contact Teresa Hackett, EIFL-IP Programme Manager <teresa.hackett [at] eifl.net>.

EIFL welcomes groundbreaking WIPO decision

EIFL wholeheartedly welcomes the decision by WIPO Member States to convene a Diplomatic Conference – the final phase of treaty negotiations – to create a global legal framework facilitating access to copyrighted works for blind, visually impaired and print disabled people. The decision to hold the Diplomatic Conference from 16-30 June 2013 in the city of Marrakesh in Morocco, the first Arab country to host a high level WIPO negotiation, was taken on 18 December 2012 at an Extraordinary General Assembly in Geneva after more than four years of negotiation.

Libraries are major providers of information services to blind and visually impaired people worldwide, 90% of whom are estimated by the World Health Organization to live in the developing world. EIFL, and its member library consortia in developing and transition countries, support the creation of a binding international legal standard to increase the availability of books for people with print disabilities in support of education, learning, creativity and development. As a result, lives will be transformed and everyone will benefit. Together with our partners, we will be working hard over the next six months to ensure that the text of the treaty delivers on these outcomes.

WIPO press release and video report.

KEI collection of interviews, blogs, news reports.

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"CFL - the essential handbook" launches
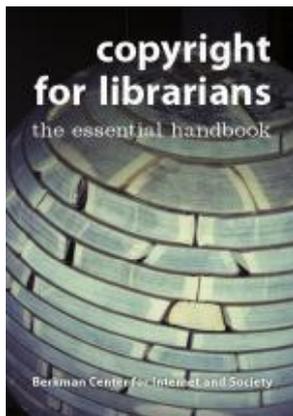
"Copyright for Librarians" (CFL) is an online open curriculum on copyright law that was developed jointly with Harvard's Berkman Center for Internet and Society.

Re-designed as a brand new textbook, "**Copyright for Librarians: the essential handbook**" 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.

Delve into copyright theory or explore enforcement. With a new index and a handy Glossary**,**the Handbook is essential reading for librarians who want to hone their skills in 2013, and for anyone learning about or teaching copyright law in the information field.

"...What makes this volume so special – and so uniquely valuable – is that it puts reliable guidance in the framework of a broader analysis of copyright policy, focusing attention on the role that librarians can play. As the book makes clear, library patrons benefit from national laws that balance protection and access, and librarians can help assure that their own national legislation fits this description. This is a book that everyone concerned with the future of libraries everywhere will want to consult again and again in the years to come."

Peter Jaszi, Professor of Law, American University Law School

Read the reviews, purchase online or download for free. Check out other languages and formats.

EIFL-FOSS update

Eduroam webinar: Collaborative Internet Access

Eduroam (education roaming) is a secure wireless server, developed for the international research and education community to support the mobility needs of staff, students and researchers.

The initiative allows people from participating institutions to obtain Internet connectivity through wireless (wifi), on their home campus, around town and abroad. In fact thousands of locations in over 58 countries offer this service.

Participating institutions are typically universities and other research and educational organisations. eduroam allows a user belonging to one institution to get network access when visiting another institution. Depending on local policies at the visited institution, the visitor may also have additional resources (for example printers) at their disposal.

The visiting user (to a participating institution) is authenticated using the same credentials (username and password) that they would at their home institution.

For further information please see our main Eduroam page.

Webinar November 2012

EIFL-FOSS organised a webinar in November 2012 to introduce eduroam to EIFL libraries. The guest speaker was Brook Schofield of TERENA based in the Netherlands. TERENA is all about collaborating, innovating and sharing knowledge in order to foster the development of internet technology, infrastructure and services to be used by the research and education community.

You can download Brook's presentation.

You can access the recorded session (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).

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Islandora webinar: Building digital repository ecosystems

Islandora combines the Drupal and Fedora open software applications to create a robust digital asset management system that can be fitted to meet the short and long term collaborative requirements of digital data stewardship. Additional open source applications are added to this core stack to create 'Solution Packs'. Islandora operates under a GNU license, and was created by (and is still being actively developed and improved by) the Robertson Library at the University of Prince Edward Island, Canada.

Islandora may be used to create large, searchable collections of digital assets of any type and is domain-agnostic in terms of the type of content it can steward.

You can see more details of Islandora on our main Islandora page.

Webinar

EIFL-FOSS organised a webinar in November 2012 to introduce Islandora to EIFL libraries. The guest speaker was Mark Leggott, University Librarian at Prince Edward Island, Canada. Mark was one of the driving forces behind the creation of Islandora and now also runs a company called Discovery Garden offering commercial services to support users of the framework.

You can download Mark's presentation slides.

You can access the recording of the session (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).

First EIFL-FOSS webinar in Russian takes place

CUFTS / GODOT Webinar in Russian

Today saw the delivery of another free EIFL-FOSS webinar, this time focussing on CUFTS and GODOT e-resource management tools. It was the first ever such webinar to be delivered entirely in Russian, courtesy of our guest speaker Andrew Sokolov, of the St. Petersburg University Library in Russia (Andrew is also the EIFL-FOSS Coordinator for Russia)

CUFTS Electronic Resource Management services and GODOT Open Source Link Resolving are modules of the reSearcher Software Suite.

CUFTS and GODOT is an integrated suite of open source products for locating and managing electronic information resources. A great advantage of using CUFTS in consortia or in an association of institutions is: using a single central point every institution can activate only the needed part of a global serials knowledge base, create their own electronic resource database, customize search interface and so on. For librarians the CUFTS ERM provides a technical service backbone for controlling the entire life cycle of an electronic resources subscription.

You can see more details on our CUFTS information page.

Russian version of the above text

Система управления электронными ресурсами CUFTS ERM и конструктор ссылок GODOT - это интегрированный набор программ с открытым исходным кодом, предназначенных для эффективного управления информационными ресурсами организации. В связи с тем, что данные системы разрабатывались для библиотечной сети университетов Британской Колумбии, Канада (British Columbia Electronic Library Network, Canada), огромное достоинство их состоит в возможности

коллективного использования в рамках национальных и региональных консорциумов или других объединений организаций.

Каждая организация имеет возможность активировать и предоставить пользователям необходимую часть глобальной базы электронных журналов, вести собственную базу электронных ресурсов, настраивать внешний вид поисковых интерфейсов систем и т.п. Сотрудникам библиотеки предоставляются инструменты управления полным жизненным циклом электронного ресурса, начиная от оформления подписки до автоматического сбора статистики использования и формирования отчетов.

Данные системы успешно используются Научной библиотекой им. М.Горького Санкт-Петербургского государственного университета в течение последних 5 лет.

Webinar details

You can see a recording of the webinar here.

You can download Andrew's slides here.

OpenBiblio webinar: Software to digitise small and rural libraries

OpenBiblio

EIFL-FOSS held a webinar looking at OpenBiblio, an open source integrated library management system of particular interest to small libraries with limited technical expertise and resources of less than 50,000 volumes.

OpenBiblio is based upon MARC21 record format but any compatible format records may be imported (the session also mentioned MarcEdit, free software for helping to get records into a format suitable for importing - see our main OpenBiblio page for further details). OpenBiblio contains modules for OPAC, circulation, cataloguing, administration and reporting from the database. It has been translated (localised) into Spanish and Armenian and is distributed under the GNU General Public License, meaning it can be freely used and shared by anyone. It is used widely, for example by regional and municipal libraries in Armenia and by primary schools in Chile.

You can see more details of OpenBiblio, including step-by-step installation instructions, on our main OpenBiblio page.
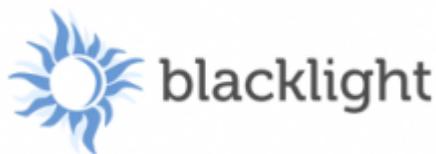
Webinar

In December 2012, EIFL-FOSS held a webinar on OpenBiblio. Our first speaker was Tigran Zargaryan, Director of the National Library of Armenia and also EIFL FOSS Coordinator for Armenia. He led a project for EIFL FOSS in 2011 to roll out OpenBiblio to small and rural libraries in Armenia (you can download his report below).

Our second speaker, Irakli Garibashvili, the EIFL FOSS Coordinator for Georgia, will report on his work using OpenBiblio with both public and academic small libraries in Georgia, as well as how he used OpenBiblio to introduce the very concept of Integrated Library Systems (ILS) software to libraries who had never used one before, because OpenBiblio is so easy to use and understand.

- You can access the recording of the session here.
- You can download Tigran's slides here.
- You can download Irakli's slides here.

Blacklight: a solution for a unified discovery interface

EIFL-FOSS has organised a free webinar looking at Blacklight, the discovery interface software. This webinar focussed specifically on running Blacklight as a unified discovery solution for many institutional repositories.

Blacklight is used as a collection discovery interface by Stanford University Library and by many other libraries and cultural heritage institutions around the world. It provides relevancy ranked search via solr; the user interface can be easily translated to other languages; it provides faceted browse; and it has undergone significant usability testing and design validation. However, the focus of this webinar was on its potential as a unified discovery solution for many repositories.

You can find out more about Blacklight here.

Bess Sadler was the guest speaker at the webinar - she is a software engineer at Stanford University, California, USA, having moved in 2010 from the University of Virginia, where she was the Chief Architect for the Online Library Environment. Bess is also a long-standing member of the EIFL-FOSS Advisory Board. After a presentation outlining Blacklight's possibilities and how it could be used to potentially create a unified discovery systemn for a range of repositories, the webinar was opened to participants to ask questions. Q&A was vibrant and lasted over half an hour. We discussed issues such as:

- What does it take to index local content from systems like Greenstone, DSpace, ContentDM, or other digital library applications, into a centrally hosted discovery environment?
- What are the export requirements and formats?
- What would be the benefits of having a single discovery interface administered by a central organisation like EIFL or ADLSN to provide access to the collections of many institutions?

You can download Bess' presentation slides.

You can access the recording of the session (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).

Webinars create a buzz about FOSS in libraries

Also available in PDF version **high res** | **low res**

An brief overview of EIFL-FOSS webinars from 2011 and 2012...

Access to knowledge is fundamental to education and research, and thereby socio-economic development.

Students and scholars in developing and transition countries often rely entirely on the library for learning and research materials. Libraries equipped with modern Information Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure and skilled staff, offering comprehensive digital collections, can provide this essential support.

Libraries in developing and transition countries cannot afford to keep up to date with technologies as licenses for proprietary software can be very expensive. There are a lot of FOSS (free and open source software) tools available that can enhance library services to their user communities. FOSS technologies potentially put a great deal of control into the hands of librarians - however not every librarian has technical knowledge and the people who make decisions about which technologies to implement can find it difficult to obtain the information they need to make such decisions. It was the aim of the EIFL-FOSS programme to provide a series of free webinars to increase awareness and encourage usage of FOSS in libraries. This activity sparked interest among libraries in downloading and trialling different software tools and advocating at management level for allocating resources to implement FOSS tools. A total of 12 webinars were held in 2011 and 13 in 2012.

Each webinar features either an expert in a particular FOSS library software tool, or someone who has led an implementation pilot, with often a case study from a library that has implemented the tool in question and been using it for some time followed by a question and answer session. After the webinar, a recording of the

session and presentation slides (if any) are made available on the EIFL website along with further information about the software, where it can be downloaded, how library staff can access support mailing lists, etc. Three webinars illustrate the buzz created around FOSS for libraries by the webinar series.

In January 2011 EIFL-FOSS' very first webinar was delivered by Simon Ball (EIFL FOSS Programme Manager, and also Senior Advisor for JISC TechDis in the UK - an advisory service on accessible technologies). Many free tools for supporting disabled library users were showcased. The webinar featured a pilot project at the University of Zimbabwe, where several key disability support tools (such as a virtual magnifying glass and text-to-speech software) were piloted. The interest around the use of free tools to support disabled library users has grown tremendously over the last two years, to a point where EIFL has developed a Step-by-Step user guide to the most useful software of this type.

In October 2011 EIFL's webinar featured the developer of SubjectsPlus, Andrew Darby (University of Miami Libraries, USA), and the leader of a pilot project to implement it, Zimbabwe's EIFL FOSS Coordinator Amos Kujenga (National University of Science and Technology, Zimbabwe). SubjectsPlus is a FOSS tool that enables libraries to create and manage online research guides, exposing the full range of the electronic resources to users. Due to strong interest in this tool we have overseen implementations in Cambodia and Kyrgyzstan in 2012 and EIFL commissioned Mr. Kujenga to compile a Step-By-Step user guide to assist those who would like to implement the software but would benefit from technical guidance. Mr. Kujenga is also running an online wiki to create a community of interest around SubjectsPlus across the EIFL network.

In 2012 a webinar on VuFind delivered by Mark Williams (Swansea University, UK) was followed, due to popular demand, by a Q&A webinar with the developer of VuFind, Demian Katz (Villanova University, USA). VuFind is a library resource portal to enable all library users to search and browse through all of the library's resources by replacing the traditional OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog). It provides a flexible search engine for finding both metadata and full text.

The March 2011 webinar by Kevin Stranack (Simon Fraser University, Canada) focused on CUFTS and GODOT. These are e-resource management tools which enable library staff to manage e-resource collections cost effectively while enabling library users to discover and access e-resources simply and easily. The webinar proved so popular that in November 2012 the EIFL-FOSS Coordinator for Russia, Andrew Sokolov (St. Petersburg University, Russia), delivered our non-English webinar when he presented a webinar in Russian detailing his library's implementation and use of CUFTS over the last five years.

So far the webinars have attracted a total of over 450 participants, with hundreds more accessing the recordings after the event. The full list of webinars, including the recordings and further information about the tools, can be found on a separate page for each year on the EIFL website:

- 2011: www.eifl.net/foss-themed-weeks-2011
- 2012: www.eifl.net/eifl-foss-webinars-2012

'The webinars have been informative in nature, helpful and they have provided knowledge on a wide scope of software to choose from. The recorded webinars have provided ample time to review and further understand the presentations.'

Judith Nannozi, Librarian
Uganda Martyrs University, Uganda

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'The webinars I attended were of great value. I learned and shared the output with my colleagues.'

Mandy Taha, Senior Librarian
Library of Alexandria, Egypt

'This is very fast and easy way to learn. More of such webinars should take place next year.'

Richard Bruce Lamptey, IR Librarian
KNUST, Ghana

"The webinars are a terrific move in promoting open source. I have met many who have praised them."

Edmund Balnaves, Information Coordinator
IFLA IT Section

EIFL-PLIP update

New! Award for library open government services

EIFL's Public Library Innovation Programme (EIFL-PLIP) is now inviting applications for a new award – for innovative library services using information and communication technology (ICT) to contribute to open government.

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 is 3 March 2013 – so start preparing your application now!

EIFL-PLIP is accepting applications in English, French, Russian and Spanish.

This is the fourth award in EIFL-PLIP's exciting series of Innovation Awards. Through the awards, EIFL-PLIP finds and shares stories about the positive impact that innovative library services have in their communities.Governments are increasingly using ICT to deliver services online, to encourage citizen participation and to make government more visible and accessible. This award is for libraries offering services that enable people to take full advantage of open and e-government opportunities.

Click here for details of how to apply for the new Open Government Innovation Award.

Lithuania library service inspires major funds

Inspired by the success of Marius Katiliskis Public Library's innovative EIFL-PLIP funded Libr-A service for farmers, the Pasvalys municipality saw an opportunity to reach out to entrepreneurs and to boost local economic growth.

They chose the library to host a cross-border business information centre that will serve farmers and entrepreneurs in Pasvalys District and across the border in Latvia. The library is now undergoing renovation costing 700,000 lita (about US$265,400). Funds are allocated by the municipality, using a grant from the European Regional Development Fund.

The Libr-A service for farmers includes an agricultural website with an online market where farmers can advertise their products; free internet access and training, and a desktop publishing centre where farmers can print leaflets and product labels.

In less than a year, the service trained over 120 people. Librarians report that in just six months, over 100 people registered to use the online market, which has published over 60 advertisements. The desktop publishing centre is extremely popular and librarians have worked with farmers to produce 600 leaflets and 200 product labels.

The service has also inspired a second major grant. In partnership with their main partner, the District Local Action Group, the library applied for funding to extend the Libra-A service. DLAG received a grant of 147,000 lita (US$55,700) from the European Union-funded Rural Development Programme 2007-2013.

DLAG will use the funds to deepen its involvement in Libr-A, to reach out to entrepreneurs and to strengthen and improve the Libr-A website.

From this year (2013), Libr-A will operate from the new business information centre. Over 70% of people in Pasvalys district are farmers. Pasvalys municipality aims to modernize farming, stimulate competition and strengthen links between farmers and the business, manufacturing and tourism sectors. The Libr-A service for farmers supports these goals.

Library inspires ICT grant for Kazakh villages

Seventeen villages in East Kazakhstan will soon have free internet access in their local libraries as a result of Pushkin Library's innovative youth internet skills training and employment information service, which is funded by EIFL's Public Library Innovation Programme (EIFL-PLIP).

Each village library will receive computers and a multifunctional device (printer, scanner, photo-copier) as a result of a US$200,000 grant from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to the East Kazakhstan Administration. Satellite internet equipment will be installed in villages that that do not have telecommunications infrastructure.

'We are extremely happy that equipment will be placed in rural libraries,' said Ms Bibigul Shagiyeva, deputy Director of East Kazakhstan Oblast Pushkin Library, which will manage the grant and roll out of equipment. 'The authorities have recognized libraries as partners in e-government,' she added.

The agreement was inspired by East Kazakhstan Oblast Pushkin Library's Youth-IT Yurt service, which builds young people's information and communication technology (ICT) and job-seeking skills. Training takes place in a yurt, a traditional round tent used by Kazakh nomads, and specifically targets marginalized and

vulnerable young people. Over 50 trainees have found jobs, improved their positions at work or entered colleges for further study.

'Regional leadership and the Provincial Department of Culture saw the results and impact of our project. So when we developed a project for rural libraries, they promoted it to the UNDP,' said Ms Bibigul Shagiyeva, deputy director of the library.

'We are currently entering into partnership agreements with the village libraries, other regional cultural offices, rural business and youth initiatives. This project will mean a lot of work, and places great responsibility on our shoulders. It is the biggest project we have managed!' said Ms Shagiyeva

Kenya advocacy team wins funds for two libraries

Library advocates in Kenya have successfully won funding worth US$52,000 (about 4.5 million Kenya shillings) from the Constituencies Development Fund (CDF) to re-house two libraries in new buildings.

The funding results from successful proposals by the Kenya Awareness Raising Group, an advocacy team comprising government policy-makers, library leadership, librarians and media representatives.

With support from EIFL's Public Library Innovation Programme (EIFL-PLIP), the group advocates for policy change and increased funding for public libraries. They also raise awareness about the ways in which well-resourced libraries, with computers and internet connections, can improve lives in their communities.

Moyale Public Library, serving the market town of Moyale on the Kenya-Ethiopia border, is soon to relocate to brand new premises. The new premises, on a site allocated by the town council, are funded by a grant of US$29,000 (2.5 million Kenya shillings) from the Moyale CDF.

Nyilima Community Library in Rarieda constituency in western Kenya, will also very soon have new premises following a donation of US$23,000 (2 million Kenya shillings) from the Rarieda CDF. In addition, the Kenya National Library Services Board has donated US$29,000 (2.5 million Kenya shillings) because the Nyilima library building is 'dilapidated beyond repair,' said Ms Nancy Ngugi, spokesperson for the Kenya Awareness Raising Group.

The group approached Members of Parliament, who were instrumental in facilitating the allocation of funds, said Ms Ngugi. The CDF is a statutory fund set up to ensure that money earmarked for development reaches all parts of Kenya. In each constituency, the fund is managed by community committees.

Events

9 Jan 2013   Libraries and Librarians: Adjusting to Changing Expectations. Location: Online

15 Jan 2013   Supporting Higher Education and Research in Kosovo. Location: Prishtina - Kosovo

29 Jan 2013   29th Seminar of Higher Education Library Cooperative. Location: Lampang - Thailand

7 Feb 2013   Beyond Access partner meeting. Location: Washington DC - United States

7 Feb 2013   OpenAIRE interoperability workshop. Location: Braga - Portugal

13 Feb 2013   Final EIFL webinar on Strategic Planning. Location: Online

14 Feb 2013   Macedonia libraries meet to promote innovation. Location: Radovis - Macedonia

25 Feb 2013   Investigative visit to Burma. Location: Yangon and Mandalay - Burma

27 Feb 2013   Dialogue: perceptions of public libraries in Zimbabwe. Location: Harare - Zimbabwe

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