eIFL.net

Annual Report 2004

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1   Introduction

This document provides a short report of the activities that have been carried out by eIFL from January up to December 2004. It covers eIFL.net internal organization and development, workshops, addition of new member countries, and signature of new agreements with publishers as well as new program areas in IPR, Open Access and development of Institutional Repositories.

2   Organization and development within eIFL

2.1   Advisory Board Meetings

Three Advisory Board meetings have taken place throughout 2004. The first and second ones were held at the eIFL.net office in Rome, on 14-15 February and 8-9 May, respectively. The last Board meeting just preceded the General Assembly in Poznan, Poland, on 9-12 September. On all occasions, discussion touched on a series of eIFL.net network core activities and the strategic revisioning process, including brainstorming on services to build digital libraries, awareness raising on copyright and related issues, cooperation with consortia and society publishers and the eIFL/OSI Open Access Initiative. Likewise, attention was paid to fundraising methodology and opportunities, including country participation fees. On the other hand, the eIFL.net geographical expansion, the process of elections, and the General Assembly content and structure were also on top of the discussion. Last but not least, debates also addressed progress of the Content and Technology Task Forces.

2.2   General Assembly

Poznan Foundation on Scientific Libraries, the home of the eIFL.net consortium in Poland, hosted our third General Assembly on 9-12 September. It managed to find sponsorship to cover hotels, the conference hall, equipment, lunches and snacks, coaches and dinners. We had 37 member countries present but unfortunately 7 countries (Namibia, Senegal, Swaziland, Sudan, Croatia, Zambia and Kyrgyzstan) could not send their representatives.

The series of related events began with the preconference Workshop on institutional repositories which made an introduction to the Open Access movement on broad terms; the analysis of the most important issues around the implementation of repositories alongside their technical and infrastructure considerations were equally under discussion. The workshop objectives were enriched with the presentation of several case studies, including DARE, DAEDALUS, ETD/NDTLD and developments in India.

For its part, the conference itself opened with a general eIFL.net Business and Updates sessions, which was followed by a detailed explanation of the upcoming eIFL.net areas of interest, namely copyright and related issues, the long term management and archiving of electronic resources, open access and its related business models. Experts in the field from different countries and institutions were invited to present their achievements and make contributions to the debate. Business planning for the sustainability of consortia was another matter that gathered much attention, shedding light on several eIFL countries' case studies and background information. eIFL.net vendors session provided an excellent opportunity to get overviews and updates from publishers such as Gale, the Economist Intelligence Unit, EBSCO, Oxford University Press, and ELIN and iPort portal solutions were presented. During the General Assembly the presentation of candidates and elections to the Board took place, too.

2.3   Fundraising

One of the main target activities for 2004 was the development and implementation of the fundraising strategy and action plan. A number of projects were approved and supported by other OSI entities- OSIWA granted funding for consortium building in 5 Western African countries (Ghana, Senegal, Mali, Cameroon and Nigeria). A new proposal to create a regional network of these eIFL.net West Africa consortia and to add other 4 countries (Togo, Chad, Ivory Coast and Benin) was sent to the OSIWA board to get reviewed; for its part, the OSI Middle East Initiative approved the grant for eIFL's activities in 5 countries in the region: Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt, Syria and Jordan; lastly, the OSI Burma Project supported consortium developments with grants to Cambodia and Laos. As a result of this overall fundraising effort eIFL.net received about €100,000 for its activities in new countries.

A database of potential fundraising agencies was compiled through desk research, and first contacts were taken with potential funding agencies. Next steps for fundraising include the production of an attractive brochure and annual reports, and the follow up to initial contacts.

2.4   Task Forces

The Technology Task Force met during the General Assembly to define next steps. A substantial report on portal management software, outlining options and recommendations for eIFL was presented by the Task Force for consideration. Together with an overview that aimed to explore open source options which could meet the needs of the eIFL members, an eIFL Technology Survey on the functional areas of the highest interest for the eIFL community was completed. Equally, a number of vendors were invited to present various portals and serials management solutions to eIFL.net members during the General Assembly.

The Content Task Force submitted an extensive report on current subscriptions by eIFL.net consortia, and addressed their needs for additional electronic resources. This report was presented and discussed during the General Assembly. As a result, it became clear from this research that there was still a considerable potential take up by countries of licenses available through eIFL.net, hence the eIFL.net team was to make another effort to urge countries to seize these opportunities.

2.5   Website

eIFL.net translated much of the information on the website into French, German, Russian and Spanish. This way our website looks more international and can reach out to a larger audience.

3   Workshops and Conferences

In 2004 eIFL.net organised a wide array of workshops which addressed issues such as consortium building and management, copyright matters, licensing and Open Access. Likewise, eIFL.net was invited to attend several international conferences.

CERN Workshop on Innovations in Scholarly Communication: Implementing the benefits of OAI	12-14 February	Geneva, Switzerland
Workshop on consortium management and digital resources acquisitions	10-11 March	Accra, Ghana

Workshop on copyright and licensing	29-30 March	Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Consortium building workshop	30-31 March	Dakar, Senegal
Consortium building workshop	6-7 May	Yaounde, Cameroon
Consortium building workshop	10-11 May	Bamako, Mali
All African Assembly	1 July	Kampala, Uganda
Standing Conference of African National and University Libraries in Eastern, Central and western Africa	2-4 July	Kampala, Uganda
Workshop on copyright during SCECSAL conference	5-9 July	Kampala, Uganda
Consortium building workshop	7-8 July	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Consortium building workshop	9-10 July	Vientiane, Laos
Chinese-European Workshop on Digital Preservation, CEDP	14-16 July	Beijing, China
Workshop on Open Access for South African librarians	29-30 July	Pretoria, South Africa
V International Conference for Librarians in Central Asian countries	1-6 October	Issyl-Kul Lake, Kyrgyzstan
Consolidating Zambian consortia	21 October	Lusaka, Zambia
Round Table of Similar Initiatives	21 October	London, UK
ICOLC Conference	27-30 October	Barcelona, Spain
Workshop on Laotian Library Consortium	5 November	Vientiane, Laos
Consortium Management Workshop	8 November	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Azerbaijan and Georgia Library Consortium members' study visit to the Lithuanian Research Library Consortium	5-12 November	Vilnius, Lithuania
Workshop on Consortium Building and Management for University Libraries in Nigeria	2 December	Abuja, Nigeria

4 New agreements with publishers

In 2004 eIFL.net completed negotiations with the following publishers, thus increasing the availability of electronic resources for eIFL.net participating countries:

Name of publisher	Date of agreement	Number of titles
BioOne	February 2004	69 journals

CUP social sciences and Humanities	February 2004	111 journals
Oxford Reference Online: Core collection, Premium collection, Oxford Dictionary of Quotations (Fifth edition)	May 2004	104 for Core Collection 123 for Premium Collection (In addition of the Oxford Companions series plus the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations fifth edition)
Integrum Techno	December 2004	22 databases

eIFL.net was engaged in negotiations with Lexis Nexis. As there was no interest to sign the agreement on a consortial basis, it was agreed that individual institutions that would like to have access would sign up separatedly.

All in all, nine participating countries subscribed to BioOne, whereas the number of countries that got access to Cambridge University Press amounts to twenty-three. For their part, thirteen countries joined the Institute of Physics Publishing, and four got access to Integrum Techno. Three countries subscribed to ProQuest while the list of countries with access to Oxford Reference Online rose to eighteen.

5   eIFL- Open Access cooperation

A series of activities was developed by the eIFL.net team in close cooperation with the OSI OA program in this area, as indicated below. Through the new eIFL-Open Access Program, eIFL.net members will build capacity on the issues related to Open Access to enable members to benefit from the content which is made freely available through Open Access as well as ensuring that the local content produced within their countries is widely distributed. This will be accomplished by promoting Institutional Repositories; by organising a series of training workshops on OA; by adapting guidelines and manuals on Open Access in developing and transition countries, and by the setup of pilot projects on a limited number of countries initially.

July workshop on Open Access - South Africa
September workshop on institutional repositories-Poland
September session on Open access during General Assembly-Poland
October workshop on Open Access –Lithuania

Zimbabwe University Library was identified as one of the first pilot projects for an institutional repository.

Overall, eIFL.net regards this area as a highly important sector in its future strategy and more activities and events will follow in this direction.

6   eIFL- Copyright and IPR cooperation

A project proposal was submitted to the OSI Information program in order to develop with and for the eIFL.net network a thorough program on copyright and IPR related issues. This proposal is overseen by a full time coordinator and the program will attempt to create a network of national experts in copyright issues for libraries; provide training and raise awareness in key issues for libraries; pro-actively monitor the latest developments and provide tools and specialist advice; represent the interests of members in international fora and create strategic partnerships.

Pending the outcome of the proposal, the following joint events had already happened:

July presentation during eIFL Africa meeting -Uganda

July workshop on copyright - Uganda, SANUL – ECS conference

September presentation during General Assembly-Poland

eIFL.net also considers this area a top priority for development and pro-active activities, in an attempt to empower the member consortia to lobby for fair and transparent legislation protecting the rights of libraries and their users in the digital age.