



Newsletter

eIFL Newsletter - SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2004

General Assembly

Final programme and presentations will be available from Monday, 4th of October at http://www.eifl.net/members/members_assembly.html. We had representatives from 37 countries and 7 countries could not be present. Special thanks to Jan Andrzej Nikisch and his team for organising a splendid event as well as finding funds to cover all local costs.

eIFL Advisory Board

The eIFL.net Advisory Board elected Jan Andrzej Nikisch as new Chair of the Board for a period of two years. Please join us to congratulate him in his new role. He will be attending Issyk-Kul international conference in Kyrgyzstan in his new capacity representing eIFL.

Minutes of the Board meeting that took place on 9th and 12th of September in Poznan, are available at: http://www.eifl.net/members/members_board.html

General Assembly in 2005

eIFL is looking for hosts for its General Assembly in November of 2005. Countries willing to host and seek for local sponsorship, please get in touch with us by November, 2004.

eIFL and Advocacy

eIFL.net has signed ICOLC Statement of current perspective and preferred practices for the selection and purchase of electronic resources. To read the statement and sign it, please go to:

<http://www.library.yale.edu/consortia/statement.html>.

eIFL.net also endorsed Geneva Declaration on the Future of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). To find the text of the Declaration and background docs with an email to sign up, please go to:

<http://www.cptech.org/ip/wipo/genevadeclaration.html>

Workshop on institutional repositories

The workshop on institutional repositories prior to the General Assembly was attended by 11 eIFL member countries. Resource people from Holland, India, Germany and Scotland shared their experiences in setting up repositories and lessons learned. This event was organised in cooperation with the OSI Open Access program. Workshop program and all its presentations will be available on the members only section from Monday, 4th of October at: http://www.eifl.net/members/members_assembly.html

eIFL Africa meeting in Uganda

The deputy secretary of the Inter-university Council for East Africa set the tone of the eIFL Africa Assembly by stating that librarians lead the knowledge society and are critical to achieving its goals, such as the democratisation of knowledge... On July 1st eIFL country coordinators from Cameroon, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Zambia and Uganda presented their national progress in consortium building. Senegal, Botswana and Swaziland could not send their representatives. Everybody interested in learning about our African colleague's work, please visit the program of the Kampala event : http://www.eifl.net/members/members_knowledge.html#presentation

Open Access workshop in South Africa

The very first eIFL-OSI Open Access collaborative workshop program and presentations are now available

through SABINET institutional repository that South African's are experimenting as a result of the workshop : <http://www.sabinet.co.za/oai>

The program covered issues such as how to launch a new Open Access Journal, how to convert a subscription based journal into Open Access, Guide to institutional repositories software, presentations of various ongoing digitization projects in South Africa. We look forward to organising more joint events with the OSI Open Access Programme in other eIFL member countries.

OSI Open Access Program Announces New Grants Program

A total of \$50,000 is available to support authors from developing and transition countries to have their articles published in open access journals. To read more about the program, please see: <http://www.soros.org/openaccess/grants-journals.shtml> Applications due October 26, 2004; Awards announced November 15, 2004.

Workshop on Preservation and Access in China

Workshop material covering various aspects and strategies of digital preservation are now available at: http://www.cSDL.ac.cn/meeting/cedp/index_en.html

OHIOLINK unveils program to support Public Library of Science

The Ohio Library and Information Network (OhioLINK) has announced a program to support open access publisher the Public Library of Science (PLoS). Under the program, OhioLINK will fund half of the publication fee for all faculty and researchers at OhioLINK member institutions who choose to publish articles in PLoS journals. The PLoS currently publishes one journal, PLoS BIOLOGY with a second, PLoS MEDICINE, set to debut this fall.

Wikipedia

Wikipedia is an encyclopedia written collaboratively by its readers and it is free to access. Wikipedia contains a huge amount of information on all sorts of subjects ranging from politics, geography, history, music, religion, and sports to everything and anything in between. The English edition started in January 2001 and contains 358126 articles. Encyclopedia is also available in many languages and includes most of our member country languages. Wikipedia is run by non-profit Wikipedia Foundation, which operates several other multilingual and free content projects: Wiktionary (dictionary and thesaurus); Wikibooks (free textbooks and manuals); Wikiquote (a collection of quotations), etc.

To access Wikipedia, please go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

The effect of Open Access on Citation Impact

Brody, T., Stamerjohanns, H., Vallieres, F., Harnad, S. Gingras, Y., & Oppenheim, C. produced a study called "The effect of Open Access on Citation Impact" in 2004. This study was presented at the international meeting on 19 February 2004 in Southampton: National Policies on Open Access (OA) -Provision for University Research Output. This type of information is essential to understand how beneficial it is for academics to publish in Open Access. See the study at: <http://www.ecs.soton.ac.uk/%7Eharnad/Temp/OATAnew.pdf>

In order to read the complete article The Access/Impact Problem and the Green and Gold Roads to Open Access, please go to the website of ECS, the School of Electronics and Computer Science at the University of Southampton, and view page: <http://www.ecs.soton.ac.uk/%7Eharnad/Temp/impact.html>.

Institutional Archives Registry at the University of Southampton

Tim Brody of Southampton University has now created a Registry for Open Access Eprint Archives -- both GNU EPrints archives and other archives. The only requirement is that they be open-access and OAI-compliant. The registry is available at: <http://archives.eprints.org>. Tim Brody also has charts plotting Eprint Archive growth <http://archives.eprints.org/eprints.php?action=analysis>, both in number of archives and in number of papers in the archives. View the analysis at: <http://archives.eprints.org/index.php?action=analysis> (or by clicking on Analysis on the Homepage toolbar).

The Registry also makes it possible for you to add any Eprint Archive you know of that is not yet in the Registry. Please do so at: <http://archives.eprints.org/index.php?action=add> (or by clicking on Register an Archive on the Homepage toolbar)

OAIster™s project of the University of Michigan Digital Library Production Services

<http://www.umdl.umich.edu/>

Originally funded through a Mellon grant, OAIster is a project from the University of Michigan Digital Library Production Services, aiming at creating a collection of freely available, difficult-to-access, academically-oriented digital resources that are easily searchable by anyone. On the 7 June of 2004, the collection has 3,273,233 records from 301 institutions. Search for digital resources on OAIster website at <http://www.oaister.org/o/oaister/> and find the pearls.

BBC is planning to open source its archive data

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), one of the world's largest public service networks, will shortly launch what it hails as a pioneering new approach to public access rights, and it is turning to the open source [software] community to contribute to its successful rollout.

Announced last year, the Creative Archive initiative aims to put the entire archive of BBC material online. The first phase will launch this fall, with about 2,000 factual clips of up to three minutes long, mainly from its natural history archive. To read more please go to : <http://trends.newsforge.com/article.pl?sid=04/09/14/0715249>

Useful resource

Information Automation Limited, a consultancy company is keeping a regularly updated bibliography on e-books - it is a summary of writings related to e-book, e-textbook and e-monograph publishing and use. For convenience it is divided into separate annual files starting from 2002; the 2004 bibliography is regularly updated. You can find it at: http://www.i-a-l.co.uk/resource_biblio.html

Coming events in September-October:

- On September 30, NEICON will be running a workshop for its members presenting eIFL.net GA overview focused at OA&IR issues.
- On September 30, Emilija Banionyte and Ausra Vaskeviciene will speak about eIFL and Lithuanian Research Library Consortium during the 7th Baltic Librarians Congress, Latvia
- On October 1-6 Jan Andrzej Nikisch will represent eIFL at Issyk-Kul International Conference, Kyrgyzstan. Our Central Asian colleagues will be present
- On October 21 Rima Kupryte will attend round table of international programs offering journal access programs for African University Libraries, London
- On October 21 Buhle Mbambo will be visiting Zambia library consortium
- On October 27-30 Rima Kupryte and Monika Segbert will attend ICOLC conference in Barcelona. A number of eIFL coordinator will be present

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

The eIFL Team