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EIFL General Assembly 2012

We will be visiting Armenia this year. American University of Armenia has generously agreed to host this year’s GA, 3-5 July. We are honored that our GA will be a part of the larger Yerevan World Book Capital programme. The theme for this year’s GA is: “From Gutenberg to the Internet - A New Renaissance for Libraries”

We are extremely grateful to the Armenian Ministry of Culture for their financial contribution towards this event and Tigran Zargaryan, Director of the National Library of Armenia, EIFL country coordinator and EIFL Advisory Board member, for making this possible.

Dynamic Coalition for Libraries at IGF

Within the context of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), no arena currently exists for the discussion of Internet governance issues relating to public access intermediaries such as public libraries. Public access to the Internet is tackled in a cross-programme sense, but the sheer reach of libraries - there are over one billion registered library users on the planet – demands that special attention be paid to the challenges and opportunities faced and offered by these crucial institutions. Everyday libraries face challenges offered by serving disparate user groups – children and young people, the unemployed, the elderly, the disabled and many other mainstream and marginalised groups. They may be the only places in communities that allow access to social media or Internet telephony, or provide gateways to e-government services. Public library staff must be aware of and able to serve the needs of users, while at the same time remaining aware of privacy and human rights issues.
EIFL and IFLA jointly, and in close partnership with other stakeholders, have submitted to the IGF secretariat the proposal to establish a Dynamic Coalition for Public Access in Libraries, with the main aims to place public access to the Internet through public libraries on the agenda of the IGF as a cross-cutting issue on a number of IGF key themes e.g. Internet Governance and Development; Access and Diversity; Security, Openness and Privacy, Youth, and to create a dialogue between library representatives and policy makers on the potential of public libraries in major policy areas such as social cohesion, education, employment, community development, health and agriculture, in pursuit of sustainable funding and favourable policies towards libraries.

We are pleased to report that this Dynamic Coalition (DC) has been authorised by the IGF secretariat, and that IFLA and EIFL are now continuing to work together to fulfil obligations of DC by creating a mailing list, website, prepare for this year’s IGF meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan and monitor national and regional IGF meetings. Soon you will hear more on how to join Dynamic Coalition for Public Access in Libraries.

**Background**

In 2010 and 2011 EIFL organised workshops as part of the Internet Governance Forum, reaching out to policy makers, civil society and the private sector that convene once a year in this multi-stakeholder forum. The 2010 workshop at the IGF Vilnius “Why We Need an Open Web: Open Knowledge Governance for Innovation” advocating for open access and 2011 workshop at IGF, Nairobi: “Do policymakers understand the role of libraries in mobilising the Internet as a catalyst for development, innovation and freedom?” The themes of these workshops underlined the need for a shared vision and dialogue by policy makers, civil society, private industry and librarians, of Internet enabled public libraries that contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The discussion focused on the public library as a trusted place for the community to learn about the world of digital information, how to harness ICT’s and the Internet for social well-being and economic livelihoods, the potential to reach out to poor and marginalised communities and help them bridge the digital divide through innovative library services, thus catalysing change.

This workshop is now available to watch in its entirety on the IGF’s YouTube Channel.

For those unable to spare an hour to watch the full video, read the transcript.

Read the full description of the workshop.

The participants of the workshop unanimously agreed that the formation of a new Dynamic Coalition on Public Access and Libraries will make a space within the IGF to address the Internet governance issues relating to public access, and enable a discussion to take place about how the existing expertise, networks and infrastructure offered by public libraries can contribute to the goals and spirit of the WSIS process. This discussion will be truly multistakeholder – public libraries are funded by the taxpayer and embedded in government infrastructure, they are frequented by members of civil society and the entrepreneurs behind SMEs, and their building and buildings and services. A Dynamic Coalition on Public Access and Libraries will benefit from the participation of representatives from all these groups.

**EIFL open access advocacy grants deliver big results**

Open access (OA) seeks to remove price and permission barriers that prevent knowledge from being shared. OA increases visibility, usage and impact of research and provides significant economic, social and educational benefits.

The EIFL-OA programme harnesses these opportunities to make open access a new norm.

Through EIFL-OA, 11 library consortia and libraries in Africa and Eastern Europe were awarded small grants in 2011 to implement national and institutional OA advocacy campaigns to reach out to research communities.

As a result of the grants, over 1700 national policy makers, research administrators, researchers, students, journal editors and publishers, and librarians attended workshops or other outreach events; educational materials in seven languages have been developed, including six short videos; 30 new OA repositories were set up and there was an increase in research output deposited in existing OA repositories; and three Universities launched new OA publishing initiatives.

**Library Consortia in Botswana, Estonia, Ghana, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia and Ukraine**

Advocate for OA

National library consortia engaged in OA awareness-raising and advocacy activities and reached a broad audience that included policy-makers, researchers and librarians across the country and, in some cases, the general public. All of which resulted in increased understanding and awareness about OA.

The Botswana Library Consortium organized celebrations for the first ever national OA Week during which they held a series of meetings with policy and decision-makers. Dozens of university and government departments contributed to and attended the programme; in particular the Department of Agricultural Research at the Ministry of Agriculture showed a strong commitment and has already begun work on an OA repository for their research output.

Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Ghana ran a high-level meeting, backed by the Association of.
African Universities (AAU), attended by about 100 heads of tertiary institutions, directors from ministries, departments and agencies, and researchers and librarians from Ghana and other African countries.

Professor Olugbemiro Jegede, Secretary General of the AAU, stated in his opening remarks that Africa cannot attain sustainable development without access to knowledge and information sharing and also that knowledge sharing is important to higher education to facilitate national development.

Some immediate impacts of their advocacy efforts, include the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) repository being designated as the national OA repository for institutions currently without OA repositories; and KNUST introducing an OA theses mandate.

In Botswana and Ghana, through radio interviews, they also engaged with the public in order to spread the word about the inaccessibility of African research and therefore the pressing need for OA to scholarly output.

For Estonia their activities -- OA Week events, an international conference, and the creation of an OA website -- proved to be a turning point for OA developments. Today, the University of Tartu Library takes part in the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research programme for monitoring Estonian research policies and is involved in national OA policy discussions. Furthermore, it has become a centre of learning and knowledge sharing for other institutions seeking advice in the field of OA.

Similarly, in Slovenia, when the consortium of 13 major research institutions (representing almost all active researchers in the country) launched a national website on OA, OPENACCESS.SI, the project attracted attention, support, and cooperation of all major national actors in R&D, including the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, the Slovenian Research Agency, and the Science and Technology Directorate at the Ministry. A core group of OA advocates has been set up acting as the advisory body on OA in Slovenia.

In addition to websites, some campaigns made use of multimedia and other new media to educate researchers about OA and share best practices.

For example, in Lithuania, the Lithuanian Research Library Consortium created videos based on interviews with well-known policy-makers, researchers, librarians and publishers in addition to organizing a conference attended by over 100 participants. The Lithuanian research community and policy-makers became better informed about OA benefits and new possibilities for the research dissemination and sharing.

“In my opinion, if there is no classified information, the results of scientific research should be freely accessible. The research is paid from EU funds or from the budget of Lithuanian Republic, so it should be freely available.” said Nerija Putinaitė, Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Education and Science.

Likewise, a promotional film in Ukrainian “OA in Ukraine: from islands to global village” was produced that provides an introduction to OA and showcases prominent researchers and research administrators discussing the benefits of OA. The video, along with workshops attended by over 530 researchers, university administrators, journal editors and publishers, and librarians helped to change the university management's point of view concerning OA.

“The presentations about OA inspired us to create a new OA journal Tobacco Control and Public Health in Eastern Europe Journal - and register it in the Directory of Open Access Journals”, said Tatiana Andreeva, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, the journal Editor-in-chief.

The Nicolaus Copernicus University and Akademia Gorniczo-Hutnicza University of Science and Technology in Poland collaborated to raise OA awareness by creating an e-learning course, the first of its kind in the country. The course, “Open Access - Open Science”, provides students, researchers and librarians with high quality materials for self-learning and re-use. It has already gotten over 500 user visits and Silesian University of Technology will launch the course for their students in the next academic year.

Open Access Advocacy at national universities in Latvia, Malawi, Sudan and Zimbabwe

Institutional advocacy campaigns resulted in a deeper understanding of OA and its benefits by researchers, librarians and administrators at national universities.

University of Zimbabwe’s OA advocacy campaign “Say No! to secret knowledge: Support OA” proved to be very successful. The Vice Chancellor approved an OA policy for theses and dissertation and an OA policy for research articles is being written (a draft should be available by June 2012). Librarians were able to reach a great number of faculty by holding both one-on-one meetings as well as organizing OA workshops attended by over 300 faculty members (from six of the 10 faculties).

The university community has fully embraced the OA concept and several researchers have seen an increase in usage and global visibility of the articles deposited in the OA repository.

Justifying the OA advocacy project was easy in Malawi as many researchers at Kamuzu College of Nursing (KCN) had experienced first-hand not being able to access research produced by their own researchers. The advocacy campaign effectively reached faculty members by organizing a series of ‘research lunches’. As a result, the most distinguished KCN researchers are now depositing their publications into the OA repository, and the faculty decided to launch a new OA Malawi Nursing Journal. In addition, the KCN Principal has proposed that the University of Malawi amend the rules for promoting academic staff to recognize depositing in OA repositories and OA publishing efforts.

In both Latvia and Sudan new institutional repositories were launched that now provide OA to scholarly research outputs.

In May 2011, the University of Latvia launched its OA institutional repository and faculty and students are now better informed about OA and equipped with a wide range of information about OA in Latvian.

The first Sudanese OA institutional repository at the Faculty of Science, University of Khartoum
DSpace@ScienceUofK launched. Its contents are steadily growing and there has been an increase in usage and a marked improvement in the UofK ranking in the Webometrics edition of the Ranking of World Universities. The Dspace@ScienceUofK was designed as a seed repository – once it proved successful, it would eventually spread to other UofK Faculties and universities across Sudan. In addition, a proposal for a UofK OA policy is under discussion.

Finally, the project attracted national attention with the Sudanese Council of Ministries Documentation Department naming it a project of significant, national importance.

Read more about results and lessons learned, all 11 case studies available here: http://www.eifl.net/eifl-oa-case-studies.

The EIFL-OA programme is supported by the Information Programme, Open Society Foundations.

Welcome to Namibia

The Namibian Library and Archives Services NLAS, a directorate within the Ministry of Education, has taken the decision to partner with EIFL in creating a Namibian library consortium and bringing the benefits of EIFL’s programmes and services to library users across Namibia.

The main aim of the Ministry of Education through the directorate Namibia Library and Archives Service and Namibia Library consortium is to facilitate long term millennium Goals and Vision 2030 of transforming Namibia into a knowledge based economy by providing timely and relevant information to all citizens through shared resources acquisitions and inter lending services including scholarly and research community needs of member libraries.

“We anticipate to benefit from our participation in EIFL’s global network in a number of ways”, says Ms. Veno Kauaria, the director of NLAS, “such as being able to access a wider number of electronic resources at substantially lower cost and better licensing terms. Sharing cost on a consortium basis for staff development, technical and training support will enable us to increase our efficiency and effectiveness.”

NLAS has oversight of 312 school libraries and 64 community libraries, the National Library and the National Archives. “The future consortium plans to include also our sister libraries from the institutions of higher learning, such as the libraries of the University of Namibia” informs Ms. Margaret Ndala, the freshly nominated EIFL country coordinator.

Please join us in welcoming Namibia into the EIFL family!

EIFL-Licensing Update

Renewal agreement for SAGE Premier

EIFL has signed a renewal agreement with SAGE Publications for SAGE Premier.

The agreement runs until 31 December 2014 and is open to EIFL-partner consortia in the following countries: Belarus, Botswana, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Maldives, Moldova, Palestine, Serbia, Slovenia, and Ukraine.

The complete 2012 SAGE Premier package includes access to 608 leading international peer-reviewed journals in a wide range of subject areas, including business, humanities, social science, and science, technology and medicine.

Find out more about the EIFL-negotiated agreement for SAGE Premier

EIFL-OA Update

Open Access Advocacy: How students can get involved

On January 31 we hosted a webcast with Nick Shockey, Director, Right to Research Coalition and Director of
Student Advocacy, SPARC. It was targeted to students and young researchers who want to get engaged in Open Access, educate their peers on the severe barriers to access to the latest research, the benefits of Open Access, and to get involved that the student voice for Open Access becomes louder and stronger.

**The Problem:** Students can’t access essential research...

As a student, it’s no secret that academic journals are crucial to our research, our papers, and our understanding of both fine details and the larger, overall picture of everything we study. Yet, students often run into access barriers while trying to do research, forcing us to settle for what we can get access to, rather than what we need most. Over the past two decades, the price of subscriptions to academic journals has increased tremendously, to the point where they’re often out of reach for students, even at the most well-funded institutions.

**The Solution:** Open Access

Luckily for students, doctors, patients, and everyone else who relies on academic journals, there is a proven alternative to costly subscription-based based journals. Using the Internet, research can be distributed to a wider audience at a very low marginal cost — the difference between what it costs to distribute an article to one person or to one million people is very small. Instead of locking information behind price barriers, research can reach anyone who needs it, regardless of university affiliation, geographic location, or ability to pay. It’s time for a new model — it’s time for Open Access.

**Resources from the webcast**

Slides [pptx], Nick Shockey "Open Access, the Right to Research Coalition" available here.

**Session recording** available here.

**Take action**

Get involved in Open Access! Nick Shockey set up a dedicated webpage EIFL Student Webcast on January 31, 2012: http://www.righttoresearch.org/act/eifl where you can register if you want to stay up-to-date on significant developments from the Right to Research Coalition; if you are interested in advocating for your university to adopt an institutional Open Access policy; if you are interested in translating Right to Research Coalition resources into another language; and share any ideas for how you might promote Open Access on your campus.

**Join the Right to Research Coalition**

Formal membership in the Right to Research Coalition is only open to student organizations. join here. However, students and non-students alike, can sign The Individual Statement on The Right to Research.

The event was organized within 15th annual workshop Informational resources for education and scholarship in Ukraine organized by National University Kyiv-Mohyla Academy with the partners: NGO ElibUkr “Electronic Library of Ukraine”, NGO “Informatico-Consortium” Association, EIFL, Ukrainian Library Association (University Libraries section).

**Open Access publishing in Lithuania and Serbia: Case studies**

EIFL has provided small grants to support Open Access publishing initiatives in Lithuania and Serbia and now Eleonora Dagiene, Chair of the Council at The Association of Lithuanian Serials, and Pero Šipka, CEON/CEES, describe the results.

**Promoting Open Access through Implementation of Open Journal Systems (OJS) in Lithuanian Research Journals: A Case Study from Lithuania:**

**Key achievements:**

- Over 130 participants involved in publishing attended training events and learnt about OJS and on-line publishing. Seminar materials are available from the website of the Association.
- Lithuanian OJS version and guidelines for journal editors and publishers have been released and disseminated.
- Digital Object Identifier (DOI), and Cited By (by crossref.org) have been added to the OJS installations in the Lithuanian and English languages. Promoting plagiarism detection tools (CrossCheck) (by crossref.org and iThenticate).
- 22 OJS installations (and counting) implemented at seven research institutions:
  - Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (VGTU): Coactivity: Philosophy, Educology; Coactivity: Philosophy, Communication; Business: Theory And Practice; Science – Future of Lithuania; Evolution of Science and Technology; Business, Management and Education.
  - The Lithuanian Statistical Society: Lithuanian Journal of Statistics
  - The International School of Law and Business: Current Issues of Business and Law
  - The Journal “Sveikatos moksli” (Engl. Health Sciences) (non-for-profit organization): Health Sciences
  - The Association of Lithuanian Serials: Development of Public Law
  - Scientific methodical centre “Scientia Educologica”: Problems of Management in the 21st Century
- 11 journals owned and published by Kaunas University of Technology

- More journals started to work on OJS installations in 2011, however, haven’t gone live yet.
- All these journals are in the process of being registered in the Directory of Open Access Journals.
- Improved online visibility and accessibility of the Lithuanian research journals.
- The OJS system made it considerably easier for journal editors to manage manuscript submissions, reviewing and publishing. For example, after the OJS installation the journal “Sveikatos moksli” (Engl. Health Sciences) changed its frequency from four to six issues a year.
- Libraries assisted the journals with OJS installations and expanded their services to new areas and new
communities. For example, Kaunas University of Technology, that owns 11 journals, had one OJS installation before the project started and within the project all eleven journals started using OJS.

Read the case study here [PDF]

**Supporting Serbian Journals Publishers to Switch to Article Processing Charges OA Model: A case study from Serbia**

**Key achievements:**

- Serbian Open Access (OA) journal publishers were provided with software and organizational ‘know how’ to collect article processing charges (APCs) from the authors or their affiliated institutions.
- A partnership with publishers was established based on a public call followed by an internet survey, and with an in-depth CEON/CEES analysis of the journals potentials of switching to the new model. More than 40 representatives of publishers and editorial boards have been trained to practice APCs.
- An immediate result of this project is that five journals switched to the new business practice (Serbian Journal of Experimental and Clinical Research; PONS - Medicinski časopis; Acta Chirurgica Iugoslavica; Vojnosanitetski Pregled; and Vojnotehnički Glasnik), and enrolled additional 21 journals into preparatory programme.
- The project provides a new model for Serbian journals publishers, which will lead to their long-term economic independence.
- A proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Education and Science to support journals in transition to new business models (pending decision).

This week we have started releasing 13 case studies describing the results of 13 EIFL-funded projects that implemented national and institutional Open Access advocacy campaigns to reach out to research communities and Open Access publishing initiatives. Through small grants and support from their own institutions, the projects engaged in a wide variety of campaigns and activities, including: holding workshops, creating websites, building institutional repositories, creating an e-learning course, and implementing an open access publishing platforms. All of which resulted in increased awareness about and understanding of Open Access.

The EIFL-OA programme is supported by the Information programme, Open Society Foundations.

See Open Access - Open Science project: A case study from Poland released yesterday and ten more case studies are coming this week.

**BOAI-10th Anniversary**

February 14, 2012 is the tenth anniversary of the launch of the Budapest Open Access Initiative, which resulted from what the BOAI web-site describes as “a small but lively meeting convened in Budapest by the Open Society Institute (OSI) on December 1-2, 2001”.

EIFL staff was privileged to participate in that meeting and is happy to be present today in Budapest. EIFL-OA programme manager, Iryna Kuchma, is attending a meeting to mark the 10th anniversary of the declaration and excited to be discussing what we have learnt over the past ten years and how we can navigate the next ten.

Read OSI blog post ‘Ten Years On, Researchers Embrace Open Access’ by Melissa Hagemann

**Budapest Open Access Initiative**

EIFL was among the first signatures of the declaration, the Budapest Open Access Initiative which invites ‘governments, universities, libraries, journal editors, publishers, foundations, learned societies, professional associations, and individual scholars who share our vision to join us in the task of removing the barriers to open access and building a future in which research and education in every part of the world are that much more free to flourish.’

**Call for proposals: Open access advocacy campaigns**

Open access is the immediate, online, free and unrestricted availability of peer-reviewed, research literature. It provides the means to maximize the visibility and use of research output. We advocate for open access to promote knowledge sharing.

**EIFL Open Access (OA) programme in action ...**

- Empowering library professionals, researchers and students to become open access advocates.
- Advocating nationally and internationally for the adoption of open access policies and mandates.
- Offering training, supporting knowledge sharing, and providing expertise on open access policies and practices (open access journals, open access repositories, open access books, open data and open educational resources).
- Building capacity to launch open access repositories and open access journals and to ensure their long-term sustainability.

**Call for proposals**

Following the success of last year's grant competition, the EIFL-OA programme invites new proposals for
organising national or institutional open access advocacy campaigns to reach out to research communities. We particularly wish to involve active researchers and students, research administrators and policy makers, university presses, society publishers, researchers/research groups as publishers and journalists.

Some examples of the advocacy actions that could be implemented in partnerships with senior management and open access champions from the faculty:

- expanding educational materials on open access targeted toward researchers;
- preparing and distributing open access brochures along with supporting web and multimedia materials;
- using new media to educate researchers about open access and share best practices;
- presentation series at faculty meetings;
- hosting workshops and events;
- collaborating with university presses and scholarly societies on campus-based publishing partnerships;
- developing case studies to illustrate successful open access projects;
- describing business models and sustainability plans for open access initiatives;
- promoting the adoption of campus-based, faculty-driven open access policies;
- collecting success stories, forming collaborations and networks that can deliver joint advocacy efforts;
- building national communities of open access practitioners;
- embedding research repositories into institutional processes, systems and culture (library management systems, research information systems, other internal and external databases) ensuring that the repository is seen by both researchers and senior managers as part of the institutional research infrastructure and as a natural tool for disseminating research and for raising researchers profile.

Application procedure

Proposals should:

- Provide an overview of current open access activities in your country and institution.
- Describe your advocacy strategy: how do you plan to reach out to research communities.
- Describe your project work plan and time frame. Note that the duration of the grant can be from three to seven months.
- Describe how your advocacy work will improve the current situation or how it will add to the evidence base.
- Describe your goals and the measurement(s) of success that you will use.
- Provide a budget to support your action plan. Note that EIFL financial contribution is limited up to 4,000 USD.
- Be written in English.

Application deadline is Monday, April 2nd, 2012.

We encourage you to read EIFL-OA case studies describing the results and lessons learnt of 13 projects supported in 2011 that implemented national and institutional open access advocacy campaigns to reach out to research communities and open access publishing initiatives: http://www.eifl.net/eifl-oa-case-studies.

You can also see other recommended resources:

- Open Access Week;
- Repository Support Project (RSP);
- RSP’s practical guide to embedding research repositories into institutional processes, systems and culture;
- Nزویهال Project Training Activities;
- SPARC;
- Open Access Scholarly Information Sourcebook (OASIS).

The EIFL-OA programme manager will be available to support your work during implementation of your projects.

Who can apply

Libraries and organisations from EIFL partner countries are eligible to participate. Applications are invited from any individual libraries and organisations or pairings or groups of libraries and organisations under EIFL partner consortia umbrella.

How to apply and deadline

1. Please fill in the application form that can be downloaded here [DOC].
2. Then, you MUST submit your project application online here.
3. In case you have technical problems, you can send your project application to iryna.kuchma[@]eifl.net

Application deadline is MONDAY, APRIL 2nd, 2012.

Programme support

This programme is supported by Information programme, Open Society Foundations.

Evaluation procedure and publicity

Funding is granted on a competitive basis. Winners will be notified by April 16, 2012.

Grant recipients will be featured on the EIFL website and Open Access Scholarly Information Sourcebook (OASIS).

Contact person

If you have any questions or need clarifications, please contact the EIFL-OA Programme Manager, Iryna Kuchma (iryna.kuchma[@]eifl.net).
Developing a Library Copyright Policy. An EIFL guide.

Announcement: Developing a Library Copyright Policy. An EIFL guide.

This new guide is intended to highlight issues when considering the creation of a copyright policy for your library, how to go about drafting a policy and the elements that a library copyright policy might contain, such as:

I. What is a library copyright policy?
II. Why do libraries have one?
III. Do I need a copyright policy?
IV. Creating one
V. What do other library copyright policies look like?
VI. FAQs
VII. How to go about drafting a library copyright policy
VIII. Education and promotion

Browse the guide online or download.

Libraries or librarians from EIFL partner consortia are free to contact the EIFL-IP Programme for advice or support on developing their own policy. We hope the guide is useful for libraries that are considering developing a copyright policy.

Congratulations to Winston Tabb, 2012 Patterson Copyright Award winner

EIFL congratulates Winston Tabb as the 2012 recipient of the American Library Association’s L. Ray Patterson Copyright Award: In Support of Users’ Rights. As well as his many other roles including Dean of Libraries and Museums at Johns Hopkins University, Winston serves on the EIFL-IP Advisory Committee and plays a full part in international library activities at WIPO.

The Patterson Copyright Award recognizes contributions of an individual or group that pursues and supports the Constitutional purpose of the U.S. Copyright Law, fair use and the public domain. The award is named after L. Ray Patterson, a key legal figure who explained and justified the importance of the public domain and fair use.

Read more about the 2012 Award.

EIFL works to promote and protect users’ rights through its programme on copyright and libraries (known as EIFL-IP).

EIFL welcomes decision to postpone Africa IP Forum

Following strong criticism by civil society organisations around the globe, including EIFL, the proposed Africa IP Forum has been postponed. The organisers, led by the U.S. Department of Commerce with WIPO, France and Japan, say that the event will be rescheduled and that they are “committed to ensuring that all stakeholders - in government, private business, the arts and the development community - are represented and engaged in the conference organization and agenda.”

EIFL welcomes the postponement, and wonders how such a programme could have been conceived in the first place.

U.S. Department of Commerce announce Africa IP Forum postponement.
EIFL voices concern over proposed Africa IP Forum.

Read comments by EIFL and other NGOs, and news stories.

EIFL-FOSS Update

Case studies document FOSS solutions for libraries

Through its pilot project programme, EIFL-FOSS encourages implementation of FOSS solutions in libraries. In 2011, new pilot projects from Armenia, Nepal, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Zimbabwe were selected to demonstrate implementation of a service that addressed their local needs. They then evaluated and documented their experiences.

The pilots addressed a range of challenges facing libraries; from tools to support users by enhancing access to library resources, such as guided searching software or disability aids, to software to enable the library to operate digitally such as Integrated Library Systems (ILS) software or digital repository tools. Read their case studies.

CUFTS

Case Study: full case study
Compiled by: Andrew Sokolov, Scientific Library of St. Petersburg State University, Russia.
About CUFTS: A serials management and link resolver that enables users to discover and access e-resources, and librarians to manage expanding e-resource collections cost-effectively. Learn more

Disability tools

Case study: overview | full case study
Compiled by: Yeukai Chimuka, Tendai Mataranyika and Darlington Musemburi, University of Zimbabwe
About Disability tools: Tools that support library users with disabilities. These include tools to aid viewing of the screen (such as magnification, colour change), tools to aid usability (e.g. making the cursor more visible), tools to aid reading (e.g. text-to-speech tools in many languages), information presentation tools (e.g. mind mapping software) and more. Learn more

**J-ISIS**

Case study: overview | full case study
Compiled by: Tigran Zargaryan, National Library of Armenia
About J-ISIS: It is a general purpose Open Source database system entirely written in Java and based on existing and solid FOSS software packages, such as Berkeley DB and Lucene, from the Apache Foundation. Learn more

**KOHA Union Catalogue**

Case study: overview | full case study
Compiled by: Dibyendra Hyoju, Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya (MPP), Nepal
About KOHA: It is an Integrated Library System with a full range of features including, MARC based cataloguing, circulation, Union Catalogue facility, customizable search, cataloguing module with integrated Z39.50 client, and a simple acquisitions system for the smaller library. Learn more.

**OpenBiblio**

Case study: overview | full case study
Compiled by: Tigran Zargaryan, National Library of Armenia
About OpenBiblio: It is an Integrated Library System created under a GNU General Public License (GPL). Written in PHP, it contains OPAC, circulation, cataloguing, and staff administration functionality. It is designed for small libraries and is based on MARC21 cataloguing. Learn more.

**SimpleSAMLphp**

Case study: full case study
Compiled by: Simon Ball, EIFL-FOSS programme manager, based on presentations and materials provided by Stanislav Tymbalov, American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan
About SimpleSAMLphp: It is a tool that builds onto existing databases of users (e.g. LDAP or radius) to support single sign-on local authentication for remote access to e-resources. Learn more.

**SubjectsPlus**

Case study: overview | full case study
Compiled by: Amos Kujenga, NUST Library, Zimbabwe
About SubjectsPlus: It allows librarians to easily create web pages that display their online resources in a customised format, including A-Z lists, resources by subject or by course. Learn more.

**Past pilot projects**

Additional case studies from past pilots projects are available for Koha and Evergreen.

**EIFL-PLIP Update**

**Berd Mayor agrees to support library service for farmers**

The Municipality of Berd (Armenia) has agreed to fund renovation of a room in Berd Public Library to house the library’s new computer laboratory for farmers.

The agreement is the outcome of successful advocacy by a team comprising librarians and representatives of the library’s partner organization, the agricultural support agency, Green Lane. Mayor Andranik Sharyan responded quickly and positively to the team’s request:

‘I am very glad that the municipality will contribute to this project, as supporting farmers is a high priority for us,’ he said.

‘Though a large part of the population of Berd and surrounding villages depends on farming, farmers and rural people are mostly deprived of access to up-to-date agricultural information, consultancy and services. Modernizing the library and turning it into a fully functional information centre, which will work in close cooperation with the Agricultural Department of the Municipality, will open new perspectives not only for the community of Berd, but also for the region itself,’ he said.

Berd is a remote town in Tavush Marz, Armenia. The public library, which serves Berd and 16 surrounding villages, is housed on the ground floor of an old building, and is struggling to survive the economic crisis and to adapt to the digital era. But a team of seven enthusiastic women, led by the library’s director, Ms Alvard Adanyan, are doing their best to keep the library’s doors open.

Read more about Berd Public Library’s service for farmers

**EIFL-PLIP grantees wins national award**
EIFL-PLIP grantee Pasvalys Mariaus Katiliškio Public Library in Lithuania has won a national award for starting three innovative services.

The three services are the EIFL-PLIP supported service for farmers, which includes a web-portal for mobile phone services, space for events and a publishing centre; a service that aims to build young people’s entrepreneurial and business skills, and a service that opens access to local cultural heritage.

The award is presented by M.Mazvydas National Library, which runs the programme, ‘Bibliotekos pažanga’ (Libraries for Innovation), for libraries in Lithuania. The prize includes an Oscar statuette and a voucher of 1000LT (about US$390) to shop online at the superstore Pigu.Lt, which offers a variety of computer equipment and accessories. Awards will be presented at an event titled Modern Library for Modern Society on March 1.

Competition was tough. In all, 170 libraries from all over the country entered the contest. Only sixteen were shortlisted, four in each of the categories Open opportunities, Innovative solutions, Social responsibilities and Future is being made today.

Pasvalys Mariaus Katiliškio Public Library won in the category, Future is being made today, for innovative services that have just begun. Voting was hosted by the news portal, Delfi, and took place online. In addition to first prize in its category, the library won the Delfi award for receiving the most votes in the contest. Read more about Pasvalys Mariaus Katiliškio Public Library’s innovative service for farmers.

‘Good advocacy comes from the heart’

‘To advocate well, you must be sure that your project is producing positive change in your community. You must speak from the heart,’ said Ms Amela Hodžić, director of Zavidovići Public Library in Zavidovići, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Ms Hodžić was speaking at a seminar at which three experienced librarians told stories about the power of successful advocacy. The aim of the seminar was to share knowledge with EIFL-PLIP’s 14 new grantee libraries.

Positive media - Zavidovići Public Library (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

The library’s successful Youth Corner and Multimedia Centre, an attractive space where young people who would otherwise be loitering at the bus station can learn new skills, has won funding support from the support of the Mayor of Zavidovići and the district’s Canton government. In 2011, the municipality gave a special donation of €200 (about US$270) to the Youth Corner, and the Canton government donated €500 (about US$670). In addition, the municipality has agreed that part of the library’s budget should fund the Youth Corner in future.

Media was a crucial advocacy tool: ‘We made a video which showed the importance of the Youth Corner. When we heard that a national TV station was coming to Zavidovići to interview the Mayor, we offered them our video material. They liked it so much that they decided to broadcast it during the show where the Mayor was being interviewed. In this way, we promoted the library and at the same time captured the support of the Mayor,’ said Ms Hodžić.

Leverage - Public Library Radislav Nikčević (Serbia)

Rural libraries in Serbia were struggling as a result of economic recession. Without support, many closed and had fallen into disrepair. They were battling to convince local government to keep them open. Then Public Library Radislav Nikčević in the town of Jagodina was awarded an EIFL-PLIP grant for the AgroLib-Ja service for farmers. The delighted librarians successfully used the award as leverage.

‘We informed local self-government that we had won the grant, and they were very impressed with the international attention we were receiving. At first they were reluctant, but when we said it was important for the farmers to have somewhere comfortable to learn, they decided to repaint four village libraries for AgroLib, and equip them with furniture. They also made sure the libraries were properly staffed,’ said Ms Jelena Rajić.

After 12 months, during which the library gathered evidence to show how the farmers’ new computer and Internet skills were improving productivity and how the AgroLib online market was increasing sales of farm produce, the local self-government
decided to renovate an additional library to extend the AgroLib-Ja service. Now the AgroLib network for farmers works through five village libraries.

The library made good use of media in their advocacy strategy: ‘We did not need to put pressure on the local self-government through meetings and explanations. Instead, the project spoke for itself. Whatever we did was in the media all the time. People talked about the project, and the town representatives soon realized that our village libraries are valuable for the local community.’

On their own initiative, farmers started advocating for better library services. ‘People from other villages visited the Mayor several times. They put pressure on him to renovate the libraries which had closed long ago in their villages - and the Mayor is considering their request. And farmers also signed a petition asking for faster internet connections in their villages – and now it is being set up,’ said Ms Rajić.

**Constant flow of information - Public Library Braka Miladinovci (Macedonia)**

Advocacy was a constant part of the library’s Creative Minds Create Job Opportunities service for the unemployed. ‘We kept the mayors of Radovis and Konce informed about every achievement and development in regular meetings and on the phone,’ said Ms Ivanka Sokolova, who coordinates the service.

In just one year, the service trained 82 unemployed people. Of these, 39 – almost half – found jobs. The Mayor of Konce was so impressed with the service that he started coming to the library for advice.

‘When the Mayor received a grant from the European Union to construct a new building, he asked us what he should use the building for – an NGO or a library? We said a library, of course! And now they are creating a new library in Konce!’ said Ms Sokolova.

The library also won the support of Radovis municipality, which has made library funding one of its priority areas for its 2012 budget.

The advocacy strategy also succeeded with the biggest employer in the area, Buchim Copper Mine. The mine funded equipment for an electronic reading room, which the library uses in training programmes. The mine also now regularly supports repairs and maintenance in the library. In return, the library is working to develop a website that will help the mine recruit young unemployed people, and has provided free membership for about 500 mine employees.

All three libraries implemented their new services from April 2010 to May 2011 with grant funding from EIFL-PLIP (up to US$30,000 each).

**New! Awards for innovative public libraries**

EIFL’s Public Library Innovation Programme (EIFL-PLIP) is preparing to launch an exciting new series of awards for innovative public libraries in developing and transition countries.

Innovation awards of US$1,500 will be presented to public libraries that have made a valuable impact and difference in the lives their communities. In addition to the cash prize, winners will have the opportunity to attend an international conference or gathering to present their services.

To enter the competition, libraries will have to tell us the story of their chosen service and show how the service has improved people’s lives. EIFL-PLIP will publicize the stories widely to showcase the many ways in which public libraries are contributing to community development.

The four award categories are: economic wellbeing; community health; social inclusion and open government. There will be more than one award in each category.

Learn more.

**Events**

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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 55 developing and transition countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America, EIFL enables access to knowledge for education, learning, research and sustainable community development.