EIFL (originally called EIFL Direct) is created as an initiative of the Open Society Institute (OSI), now Open Society Foundations (OSF), a private grant-making foundation that is part of the Soros Foundation.
The Open Society Institute and EBSCO Publishing Create the Largest Information Consortium

IPSWICH, Mass. - **October 5, 1999** - In an unprecedented initiative called Electronic Information For Libraries Direct (EIFL Direct), libraries in 39 countries will have access to a wealth of electronic full-text scholarly journals. This is by far the largest information consortium in the world. This initiative is a result of a joint project between the Open Society Institute (OSI), a part of the Soros foundations network, and EBSCO Publishing (EBSCO), a leading provider of reference resources.

Countries in the consortium include 27 from Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, 10 from Southern Africa as well as Guatemala and Haiti. All academic, research (non-corporate), medical, national and public libraries in these countries are welcome to join the consortium.
EBSCO and OSI Creating Global Library Consortium

Dubbed Electronic Information for Libraries Direct, members from 39 countries will have access to 3200 journals, CD-ROMs, and DVD-ROMs. OSI is pooling its resources with the Open Society Institute (OSI) to create a service that libraries can use to identify and locate documents electronically. OSI is the largest organization of its kind in the world. The OSI is a multimillion-dollar project that includes "academic, research (non-corporate), medical, national, and public libraries" in 39 countries. The service expands on EBSCO's existing service, EBSCOhost, which provides access to 1000 journals, CD-ROMs, and DVD-ROMs. OSI's director, Michael Kay, has stated that the service offers a "powerful tool" for libraries to access information electronically. The service is expected to be available in October 1999.

Electronic Information For Libraries Direct--EFLD Direct

Historic Electronic Information Project

On September 1, 1999, OSI and EBSCO Publishing agreed to collaborate in a project to create the largest information consortium in the world. The joint multimillion-dollar initiative, called Electronic Information for Libraries Direct (EFLD Direct), will make information available electronically to academic, medical, national, and public libraries in 39 countries.

EBSCO Continues International Expansion with 39-Country Consortium Deal

Continuing its aggressive international expansion strategy, EBSCO Publishing has signed a deal with the Open Society Institute (OSI) to provide electronic access to scholarly journals in 39 countries. The new deal will allow libraries in these countries to access a vast collection of academic journals. The OSI has joined forces with EBSCO Publishing to create a service that will provide access to over 3000 scholarly journals. The OSI has also committed to funding the project over the next three years. The service is expected to be available in the fall of 1999.

KIFAS Newsletter

November 1999
Full Text Articles Downloads 1999-2000 (total 1,230,895)

- South Africa, 445,183 (36%)
- Ukraine, 13,345 (1%)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina, 19,783 (2%)
- Bulgaria, 52,573 (4%)
- Czech Republic, 68,450 (5%)
- Estonia, 87,026 (7%)
- Hungary, 73,144 (6%)
- Latvia, 22,845 (2%)
- Lithuania, 73,934 (6%)
- Poland, 205,479 (17%)
- Russia, 83,630 (7%)
- Romania, 10,091 (1%)
- Slovenia, 13,593 (1%)
- Slovakia, 42,039 (3%)
- Other (25 countries), 19,783
Full Text Articles Downloads 2018 (total 5,807,164)

- Lithuania, 1,003,588 (17%)
- Poland, 831,438 (14%)
- Slovenia, 678,492 (12%)
- Kenya, 503,021 (9%)
- Latvia, 350,018 (6%)
- Ghana, 343,506 (6%)
- Ethiopia, 225,532 (4%)
- Serbia, 151,392 (3%)
- Georgia, 30,280 (1%)
- Nepal, 30,947 (1%)
- Palestine, 78,477 (1%)
- Uganda, 133,031 (2%)
- Zambia, 87,778 (2%)
- Zimbabwe, 301,693 (5%)
- Estonia, 448,160 (8%)
- Other (20), 172,143 (3%)
- Azerbaijan, 47,434 (1%)
- Botswana, 144,436 (2%)

Total downloads: 5,807,164
Total number of full text article and book chapter downloads

57,854,054
Over the past 20 years, EIFL has been a forum for sharing knowledge and new ideas within a strong international community, helping make access to library e-resources in Slovenia considerably more effective.

Karmen Štular Sotošek
EIFL Country Coordinator in Slovenia

EIFL helped solve challenges faced by Nepalese researchers and scholars by providing access to online databases.

Jagadish Aryal
EIFL Country Coordinator in Nepal
EIFL has uncovered a treasure trove of e-Resources for teaching, learning and research in Myanmar, leading to a dramatic change for universities and academic libraries.

Myat Sann Nyein
Local Coordinator EIFL eLibrary Myanmar Project

EIFL continues to play a prominent role, developing a culture which encourages the use of electronic information resources in Ukraine and other Eastern European countries.

Oleksii Vasyliiev
EIFL Country Coordinator in Ukraine
EIFL was one of the original signatories to the Budapest Open Access Initiative, which first coined the term "Open Access".
Awareness raising, advocacy and training OA:

From 2004 to 2018, EIFL:

• Trained 250,000+ people in open access, open data and open science;
• Led or organized 1,100+ training events;
• Reached 69 countries in Africa, Asia and Europe.
Setting up infrastructure for open access through institutional repositories

- 2005 first OA repository at the University of Zimbabwe
- In 2019 we have 1,100+ in our network.
Established two entities / founding members of

- **COAR** - an international association that brings together the repository community and major repository networks in order to build capacity, align policies and practices, and acts as a global voice for the repository community

- **OpenAIRE** - European Open Science Infrastructure for open scholarly communication
Advocated for and supported drafting of institutional and national open access policies mandating open access to research outputs

- **158** institutions in the EIFL network have adopted OA policies.

- **6** national OA policies: Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Lithuania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia
Thanks to EIFL, Kenya has significantly advanced openness in science and research and benefited from free and affordable subscriptions.

Arnold Mwanzu
EIFL Country Coordinator in Kenya

EIFL has helped Palestinian universities to set up institutional open access repositories and open their research and publications to the world.

Diana Sayej Naser
EIFL Country Coordinator in Palestine

Since joining EIFL Uganda has seen a tremendous increase in open access awareness and implementation.

David Bukenya
EIFL Country Coordinator in Uganda
• In 2005, observer status at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
• Libraries on the WIPO agenda! We have a draft ‘Treaty Proposal on Limitations and Exceptions for Libraries and Archives (TLIB)’.
• Supported ‘The Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled’ at WIPO and contributed to ratification of the Treaty by 17 EIFL countries (20% of overall countries):

  Azerbaijan, Botswana, Estonia, Ghana, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Malawi, Moldova, Mongolia, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Thailand and Uganda.
Produced many resources to support advocacy and capacity building of librarians – 143 in 14 languages

The most famous:

• Copyright for Librarians, available in 9 languages.
• EIFL Draft Law on Copyright & Rate My Copyright Law & The EIFL Core Library Exceptions Checklist
• EIFL Handbook on Copyright and Related Issues for Libraries, available in 7 languages
• The Marrakesh Treaty: an EIFL Guide for Libraries, available in 8 languages
• Getting Started. Implementing the Marrakesh Treaty for Persons with Print Disabilities, available in 4 languages
Helped shape copyright laws or draft laws of 14 countries

- Laws adopted: Poland, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Moldova, Ukraine, Myanmar, Kuwait
- Draft laws: Armenia, Belarus, Botswana, Kenya, Palestine, South Africa and Nigeria
Created a network of copyright librarians who are knowledgeable about copyright and can advocate with their governments for change.

In order to achieve library friendly copyright legislation EIFL has helped Estonia form a clear and understandable position by encouraging and supporting action.

Karmen Linask
EIFL Coordinator in Estonia
In Poland EIFL taught us the importance of advocacy, invested in the education of local leaders and experts and built structures and networks for the benefit of libraries, librarians and local communities.

Barbara Szczepańska
EIFL Coordinator in Poland

EIFL has empowered librarians in Botswana through building skills in areas such as copyright and open access. This made them better able to serve their communities, especially in the provision of digital knowledge.

Kgomotso Radijeng
EIFL Coordinator in Botswana

EIFL has been a great source of information and help to me in my work, it has been very supportive of our Copyright Amendment Bill and has provided useful resources and documents.

Denise Nicholson
former EIFL IP coordinator in South Africa
In 2009 libraries were about books and reading. Now many of them are equipped with technology -
From 2009 - 2019 the EIFL Public Library Innovation Programme worked with 869 public libraries in 27 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America.

1224 public librarians directly benefited from EIFL-PLIP training:
• use of technology
• developing and managing new library services;
• advocacy.
In Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Ghana, Zambia:

- Improved library infrastructure (connectivity and computers)
- Trained 75 librarians to serve as trainers
Public libraries have been recognized as partners in development.
Since our first PLIP grant in 2010 we have been innovating in bigger and better ways, pushing the boundaries of library impact in Africa!

Jane Kinney Meyers  
President, Lubuto Library Partners

I have definitely become a better librarian and leader after the training. Thank you EIFL for including me as a participant in this life-changing program, my life will never be the same!!!

Fatima Demohey  
Chief Librarian, Lusaka City Council
The 'IT Yurt' project, which EIFL-PLIP funded, was copied in all public libraries in our region and today they are all training people to use computers and enter the modern virtual space. We constantly track innovations through the EIFL-PLIP website and are inspired by the achievements libraries in other countries.

Bibigul Shagiyeva
Deputy Director, East Kazakhstan Regional Public Library

The EIFL Public Library Innovation award has put us on the map in our country (Philippines), enabling us to inspire other librarians to replicate our activities and practices!

Jessica Clarito
Officer in charge of Butuan Public Library, Philippines
EIFL STAFF MEMBERS OF VARIOUS BOARDS
EIFL as an organization and its staff won numerous awards.
August 14, 2008

**EIFL Director receives IFLA Medal**

Director of EIFL, Rima Kupryte, receives the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) medal for her contributions to international librarianship and sharing information at a global level.

Rima Kupryte (left) holds her IFLA medal with Claudia Lux (right), IFLA President 2007-2009.
July 4, 2011

EIFL Open Access programme recognized by SPARC

EIFL Open Access programme chosen as the winner of the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) Europe Award for Outstanding Achievements in Scholarly Communications.

Emilia Banionyte, EIFL Open Access Advisory Board member, received the award certificate and a bottle of champagne on behalf of EIFL OA Program manager Iryna Kuchma.

Photo: Inge Angevaare
EIFL Director receives Armenian Jubilee Medal

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

Rima Kupryte (right) receives the 'Hakob Meghapart' Jubilee Medal from Tigran Zargaryan, Director of the National Library of Armenia.
February 13, 2013

**EIFL staff wins EPT Award for support of open access**

Iryna Kuchma, EIFL Open Access Programme Manager, receives the Electronic Publishing Trust (EPT) for Development’s Annual Award for Individual Effort in Support of Open Access.

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Leslie Chan, EPT Trustee, presents the 2012 Open Access Award to Iryna Kuchma (right), EIFL Open Access Programme Manager.
EIIFL wins prestigious WSIS Prize

EIIFL wins the prestigious World Summit on the Information Society Project Prize (WSIS), in the capacity building category. The award was in recognition of our Public Library Innovation Programme.

Rima Kuprytė (left), Director of EIIFL, is presented with the WSIS Project Prize by Dr Hamadoun Touré (right), Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) at the opening ceremony of the WSIS Forum 2013 on May 13, 2013.
ASAP recognizes EIFL as 'high-impact open access organization'

The Accelerating Science Award Programme (ASAP) selects EIFL to be one of seven high-impact Open Access organizations, among public action advocates.
July 4, 2014

SPARC recognizes EIFL with its 2014 Innovator Award

SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) recognizes EIFL with its July 2014 Innovator Award.

EIFL staff (top left to bottom right): Rima Kupryte, Teresa Hackett, Iryna Kuchma, and Monika Elbert.
November 30, 2015

**EIFL copyright programme manager awarded Shuttleworth grant**

Teresa Hackett, EIFL Copyright and Libraries Programme Manager, has received a Shuttleworth Foundation Flash Grant in recognition of her work. Flash Grants are awarded on the basis of nominations by Shuttleworth Fellows – smart people implementing ideas for social change.
August 29, 2018

EIFL Copyright and Libraries Programme Manager receives IFLA Medal

EIFL Copyright and Libraries Programme Manager Teresa Hackett receives the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Medal in recognition of her distinguished contribution to IFLA and international librarianship, particularly in the field of copyright and for her commitment to enabling equal access to information.

Teresa Hackett, Copyright and Libraries Programme Manager.
MAJOR PRIVATE DONORS IN THE US AND EUROPE
EIFL has become a “window to Europe” for academic and university libraries from Moldova.

**Silvia Ghinculov**
*EIFL Country Coordinator in Moldova*

EIFL has greatly supported us in Ethiopia over the years.

**Derib Erget**
*EIFL Country Coordinator*

EIFL has enhanced access to electronic information in Malawi’s libraries, increasing internet bandwidth and enabling universities to establish important open access policies.

**Geoffrey Salanje**
*EIFL Country Coordinator*
EIFL is a key partner in Latvia, the warmest of thanks to EIFL staff for travelling on the road with us towards modern and advanced libraries!

Agrita Sagalajeva
EIFL Country Coordinator

EIFL has paved the road to help all countries reach the same level as other well-developed nations, for a fraction of the price.

Emilija Banionytė
EIFL Copyright Coordinator in Lithuania
EIFL played a significant role in establishing the Zambian library consortium!

Eness Chitumbo
EIFL Country Coordinator

EIFL is one of the best things that happened to Northern Macedonian librarianship in the past two decades.

Miodrag Dadasovic
EIFL Country Coordinator
20 years of EIFL – remembering our meetings
GA2010 – Lund, Sweden
GA2013 – Istanbul, Turkey
WELCOME TO BISHKEK!