

CENL in 2007 – 2008

Foundation CENL

In 2007 CENL had 47 members from 45 European countries. Information on the Foundation CENL, its activities, working groups and projects can be found on the CENL website: www.cenl.org.

Annual Meeting

The CENL annual meeting 2007 took place from 27 – 28 September 2007 at the National Library of Finland in Helsinki. The main topics at the annual meeting were the creation of the European digital library, public private partnerships and long-term preservation of digital objects. The annual meeting was preceded by the workshop “The European digital library revisited – shaping the future” to open the discussion on how national libraries should ensure they keep their first mover advantage and on what shape the future should take. The CENL Board adopted six recommendations presented as results of this workshop, addressed to the European Commission and the national libraries. The key results were that the European Commission should fund large scale digitization, the user’s needs and wishes should be in the core of any digital library development and research activities, national libraries must continue to innovate and to do smarter marketing of their services, and that for a true European digital library the other cultural sectors must be taken on board.

At the annual meeting the CENL working groups gave an update on their activities. In 2007 the *CENL/FEP Working Group on Electronic Publications* started to update the data on the situation of legal deposit in European countries as the laws are under revision in many countries. The working group gave advice on deposit practices where needed and functions as a discussion platform on matters of common interest. It closely followed the activities of the Copyright sub-group of the EU High Level Expert Group on Digital Libraries. It commented on the reports on preservation, orphan and out-of-print works and on the model license for out-of-print works the High Level Expert Group elaborated.

The *Working Group on Persistent Identifiers* for National Libraries presented a recommendation for a “National Libraries Resolver Discovery Service” which was endorsed by the CENL Board and which can be found on the CENL website under “Working Groups”. The National Libraries Resolver Discovery Service will be implemented gradually within the framework of The European Library. As the Working Group saw its task to be fulfilled with this recommendation, it will be dissolved after a transition period to hand over the implementation to The European Library Office.

The *Working Group on Performance Evaluation* is in close contact with the Sub Committee 8 of the Technical Committee 46 of the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO TC 46, SC 8) Information and documentation – quality, statistics and performance evaluation and will act as an advisory body for the ISO work. The preparation of a technical report on performance indicators for national libraries will be done by the ISO group

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whereas CENL members will volunteer as evaluators of the proposed performance indicators.

In the framework of EDLproject the *Content Working Group* under the leadership of Hans Petschar, Austrian National Library, carried out a comprehensive survey on digitisation activities and strategies of the European national libraries. The full report can be found on the CENL website under "Working Groups". As these data, collected in the survey, are extremely useful for further strategy planning of digitisation activities, it was decided to collect them on a regular basis. The Content Working Group will elaborate a proposal on how to collect updates on digitisation activities and strategies from European national libraries on a regular basis.

The European Library

The European Library (www.theeuropeanlibrary.org), the web service of CENL, is a free service that offers access to the resources of the 47 national libraries of Europe in 20 languages. The resources can be digital or bibliographical (books, posters, maps, sound recordings, photos, videos, etc). The European Library successfully completed its first three-year-period and all founder members renewed their membership for another three years. Quite a number of new full members joined via the projects TEL-ME-MOR and EDLproject as well as on their own initiative, so that by the end of 2008 46 of the then 48 CENL libraries will be full members in The European Library. The National Library of the Netherlands prolonged the Service Level Agreement to host The European Library service until the end of 2009.

The European Library version 1.6 was released in December 2007. The changes involved significant lay-out improvements and reflect a constant care for understanding user needs. It also introduced the latest partners' collections and the first The European Library web-exhibition. Version 1.6 objectives were to cover the remaining challenges introduced by the 2007 Editorial Plan and to facilitate "search" patterns following the Metadata Working Group recommendations. Release 2.0 is under preparation.

In June 2008 327 collections from 33 libraries were available via The European Library, offering access to digital objects and to more than 150 million bibliographic records.

European digital library initiative

(http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/digital_libraries/index_en.htm)

The i2010 Digital Libraries Initiative is a flagship project of the European Commission's overall strategy to boost the digital economy, the i2010 strategy. The initiative aims at making Europe's diverse cultural and scientific heritage (books, films, maps, photographs, music, etc) easier and more interesting to use online for work, leisure and/or study. It builds on Europe's rich heritage combining multicultural and multilingual environments with technological advances and new business models. One of the key aims is to build a common European Digital Library which would serve as a multilingual internet access point to cultural collections from all Member States. On 27 September 2007 the European Parliament adopted a resolution that endorses the 2005 European Commission's Communication i2010: Digital Libraries supporting the digital libraries initiative. On 22-23 November 2007 the Council of the European Union adopted the Conclusions on scientific information in the digital age and thus

welcomed the Commission's Communication COM(2007)56. In its conclusions the Council invites the Member States and the Commission to work together at the European level on the accessibility and preservation of scientific information.

One of the foundations for the European Digital Library has been provided by CENL by its web service The European Library, as the EU Ministers responsible for culture clearly state in their Council conclusions of 13 November 2006. CENL shares the vision of a European Digital Library and has been working towards this goal by creating The European Library. CENL contributes to the vision with the projects EDLproject, EDLnet and TELplus as well as actively engaging in establishing a legal body for a European digital library, the EDL Foundation.

EDL Foundation (www.europeana.eu/edlnet/edl_foundation/purpose.php)

CENL has been encouraged by the European Commission to work towards the establishment of a legal body able to represent the four domains of archives, audio-visual archives, libraries and museums. As well as facilitating formal agreement across the four domains on how to cooperate in the delivery and sustainability of a joint access point, a legal body also has the advantage of being able to apply for funds to ensure an equal distribution of benefits to all cultural sectors and EU countries. In November 2007 the European Digital Library Foundation has been created and the CENL chair Elisabeth Niggemann was elected as chair of the EDL Foundation.

High Level Expert Group

(http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/digital_libraries/hleg/index_en.htm)

One of the activities of the European Commission within the framework of the i2010 Digital Libraries initiative was to set up the High level Expert Group on Digital Libraries (HLEG) to consult it in matters relating to the implementation of the Digital Libraries Initiative. Three CENL members are members of the HLEG, including the CENL chair Elisabeth Niggemann. In 2007 and 2008 sub-groups of the HLEG worked on the topics public private partnerships and copyright, focusing on orphan works and out-of-print works. In June 2008 the HLEG adopted the final report on digital preservation, orphan works and out-of-print works and a final report on public private partnerships which includes a set of recommendations. In relation to copyright issues, the HLEG adopted a final report in which it endorsed a new model license for making works that are out of print or out of distribution accessible for all on the internet. The HLEG also gave guidance on copyright issues related to the preservation of web-content by cultural institutions.

Furthermore a Memorandum of Understanding on orphan works was signed by representatives of libraries, archives, audiovisual archives and right-holders in the presence of Commissioner Viviane Reding on 4 June 2008, one of the undersigned being Elisabeth Niggemann on behalf of CENL. It will help cultural institutions to digitise books, films and music whose authors are unknown, making them available to the public online.

Projects

EDLproject (www.edlproject.eu)

The European Digital Library project (EDLproject) was an EU-funded project with the goal of extending The European Library service to the national libraries of

Belgium, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Norway, Spain and Sweden. It also addressed the enhancement of multilingual capabilities of The European Library portal, took first steps towards collaboration between The European Library and other non-library cultural initiatives, and expanded the marketing and communication activities of The European Library service. After 18 months it was successfully completed in February 2008.

On 31 January and 1 February 2008 the International Conference "One more step towards the European digital library" was held at the German National Library in Frankfurt. The EDLproject Conference aimed to present the results of EDLproject and to discuss strategic, technical and semantic interoperability between cultural heritage domains for the creation of a European digital library. During the conference the demo version or maquette of the Europeana (www.europeana.eu), the European digital library, was presented to the public for the first time and the audience had the opportunity to discuss and comment on this version during break-out sessions. A promotional video was shown which is also available via the Europeana website.

The expected number of participants was exceeded by far: 215 persons from 32 countries participated in the EDL Conference.

The conference was very successful. Feedback from the participants was very positive and enthusiastic. The presentation of the demo version of the Europeana and the opportunity for the participants to extensively discuss and comment on it was welcomed. For the further development of the prototype of the Europeana until its launch in November 2008 this first feedback was an extremely valuable input.

TELplus (www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/portal/organisation/cooperation/telplus) TELplus is a project to enlarge the functionality of The European Library and is 50% co-funded by the European Commission (eContentPlus). The work packages are:

1. OCR-ing of previously digitised material
2. Making library content OAI compliant
3. Clustering – a means of bringing together all the information on a subject in one set of results that is not listed by library
4. Semantic Interoperability – automatic mapping of metadata schemas, solvable multilingual issues
5. Developing and adding user services to The European Library
6. User personalisation and annotation services

The project started in October 2007 and will run for 30 months. It is jointly coordinated by the National Library of Estonia and Eremo srl.

Europeana: European digital library network (EDLnet, www.europeana.eu) Europeana – the European digital library, museum and archive – is a 2-year project that began in July 2007. Europeana is a Thematic Network funded by the European Commission under the eContent*plus* programme, as part of the i2010 policy. Originally known as the European digital library network – EDLnet – it is a partnership of 90 representatives of cultural heritage and knowledge organisations and IT experts from throughout Europe. They contribute to the work packages that are solving the technical and usability issues and developing the specifications for the prototype.

The project is run by a core team based in the national library of the Netherlands, the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, on behalf of CENL. It builds on the

project management and technical expertise developed by The European Library. Overseeing the project is the EDL Foundation, which includes key European cultural heritage associations from the four domains.

It will produce a prototype website giving users direct access to some 2 million digital objects, including film material, photos, paintings, sounds, maps, manuscripts, books, newspapers and archival papers. The prototype will be launched in November 2008 by Viviane Reding, European Commissioner for Information Society and Media.

The digital content will be selected from what which is already digitised and available in Europe's museums, libraries, archives and audio-visual collections. The prototype aims to have representative content from all four of these cultural heritage domains, and also to have a broad range of content from across Europe.

The interface will be multilingual. Initially, this may mean that it is available in French, English and German, but the intention is to develop the number of languages available following the launch.

The development route, site architecture and technical specifications are all published as deliverable outcomes of the project. After the launch of the Europeana prototype, the project's final task is to recommend a business model that will ensure the sustainability of the website. It will also report on the further research and implementation needed to make Europe's cultural heritage fully interoperable and accessible through a truly multilingual service. The intention is that by 2010 the Europeana portal will give everybody direct access to well over 6 million digital sounds, pictures, books, archival records and films.

FUMAGABA

(www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/portal/organisation/cooperation/fumagaba)

Thanks to the director of the Swiss National Library Marie-Christine Doffey and the former CENL secretary Geneviève Clavel, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation grants a second donation to CENL in 2008 – 2010. With this donation the Agency will fund the integration of the national libraries of the following countries as full members into The European Library: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia Herzegovina, Georgia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Ukraine.