

CENL/ FEP Committee on Electronic Publications

Annual Report 2005-2006

- Following the revision of the CENL/ FEP statement on the Development and establishment of voluntary deposit schemes for electronic publications in 2004-2005, **the final text of August 22, 2005 was endorsed** at the FEP November 24-25, 2005 Brussels General Assembly and at the CENL September 29-30, 2005 Luxembourg General Assembly. The new statement was given publicity via a **press release** issued in February 2006 and its **posting to the FEP and SNE websites**. Its communication in non English speaking countries should be facilitated by some **translations**: the Russian version is already available, the French one is being prepared and the Spanish one is being considered.
- The statement also recommended that the Committee continues its work. Moreover, **several issues of common interest arose at the end of 2005**: the consultation and the establishment of a High Level Expert Group concerning the **“i2010: Digital libraries”** Communication of the Commission, the discussions at the Council and Parliament levels, and in the member states (steering committee of the French Ministry of Culture). Besides, several **digitization initiatives** were launched, including Google Print for Libraries which led to complaints by authors and publishers for copyright infringement. The **decision to pursue the activity of the Committee** was ratified at the Brussels December 15, 2005 meeting.
- The second meeting of this period took place in the Hague on May 11, 2006 and allowed the Committee to approve its **working programme for 2006/2007** drafted by Gerard van Trier. It decided to focus its activities on the following issues:

- **Monitor deposit practices and legislation:**

The Committee regularly reviewed the **preparation of new laws and statutory regulations** on legal deposit for electronic publications, notably in Germany, France and in the UK, as well as the **experiences concerning web harvesting** in the Netherlands. In order to identify countries which may need specific help, it decided to undertake a **survey of the situation of legal deposit in different countries**, on the basis of a document provided by Pat Manson of the European Commission and data gathered by CENL and FEP.

- **Give advice on deposit practices:**

On the basis of the results of this survey, the Committee committed to promote and raise awareness about the statement, by giving **advice to CENL and FEP members upon their request**. It may particularly target New Member States as their legislation often requires that an excessive and therefore burdensome number of copies may be deposited. As a first step, it decided on May 11, 2006 to meet **Slovene librarians and publishers on October 19, 2006** in order to exchange information and discuss common issues. Then a visit to Slovakia may be considered.

- **Function as a platform for discussion and as an exchange of information on matters of common interest:**

The Committee discussed the various initiatives related to digital libraries, and notably invited Jill Cousins of **The European Library (TEL)** to the May 11, 2006 meeting to make a presentation of this service, which was designated by the European Commission as the basis for the European Digital Library.

- **Produce clarifications, definitions, agreements on issues of mutual interest to national libraries and publishers:**

During the May 11, 2006, meeting, it was decided to discuss pragmatic solutions on **orphan works**, and notably the US proposal on this issue. The result of such discussions could be used to bring some common input to the High Level Expert Group of Commissioner Reding.

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