



ANNUAL REPORT: 2008

## Electronic Information for Libraries eFL.net

# ADVOCACY FOR ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE

increase access to knowledge keep information free support public interest human rights capacity-building intellectual property public domain  
public domain bridge the digital divide public domain digital rights ridge the digital divide communication techn  
support public interest open access human rights capacity-building intellectual property copyright limitations and exceptions increas  
information and communication technology close the knowledge gap keep information free user rights intellectual property  
copyright limitations and exceptions increase access to knowledge keep information free open access global network sharing intellectual property  
increase access to knowledge support public interest human rights close the knowledge gap capacity-building intellectual property  
bridge the digital divide support public interest human rights close the knowledge gap capacity-building intellectual property  
copyright limitations and exceptions increase access to knowledge keep information free open access digital rights user rights  
digital rights increase access to knowledge keep information free open access global network sharing bridge the digital divide su  
and exceptions increase access to knowledge keep information free support public domain information free  
public domain to knowledge keep information free support public domain open access  
interest human rights close the knowledge gap information and communication technology public domain open access  
interest global network sharing open access intellectual property public domain increase access to knowledge bridge the dig

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT



In today's society, information is more valuable – and more powerful – than ever before. Yet many people around the world are at risk of being left behind in the information age. Without access to high-quality information and resources, many countries face a severe disadvantage when confronted with the need for well-informed citizens who can lead and tackle problems in their own societies. Helping to significantly reduce that gap is at the core of eIFL.net's existence.

Throughout 2008 we continued to raise awareness of our work. We helped more developing and transition countries to benefit from access to a global research information network in a sustainable way and to build their capacities in global knowledge sharing.

From Cambodia to South Africa, Senegal to Mongolia, we provided expertise, guidance and training for our network of library consortia – usually university librarians – in over 45 countries.

And our network is growing – in 2008 we welcomed the libraries of Nepal, Ethiopia and Kenya.

In this Annual Report, you will hear from some of the people we have helped. Their stories describe the difference eIFL.net has made to the service libraries can now offer to scientists, scholars, researchers and others in their countries.

We negotiate large discounts with publishers, provide training on software and on copyright laws, and participate in the open access movement, removing the barriers that create the information-rich and information-poor.

We also publish bi-monthly digital newsletters to keep people up to date on our activities. Anyone can register for these on our website: [www.eifl.net](http://www.eifl.net)

One of the highlights of 2008 was the award of the IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) Medal, one of the highest professional accolades. I was honoured to receive the award in recognition of the groundbreaking work with eIFL.net in sharing information at a global level.

We are a not-for-profit organization and are grateful to many partners for their grants and donations that allow us to continue our work. Thanks to their financial support, eIFL.net is behind some important national milestones – as you can read throughout the program sections in this report.

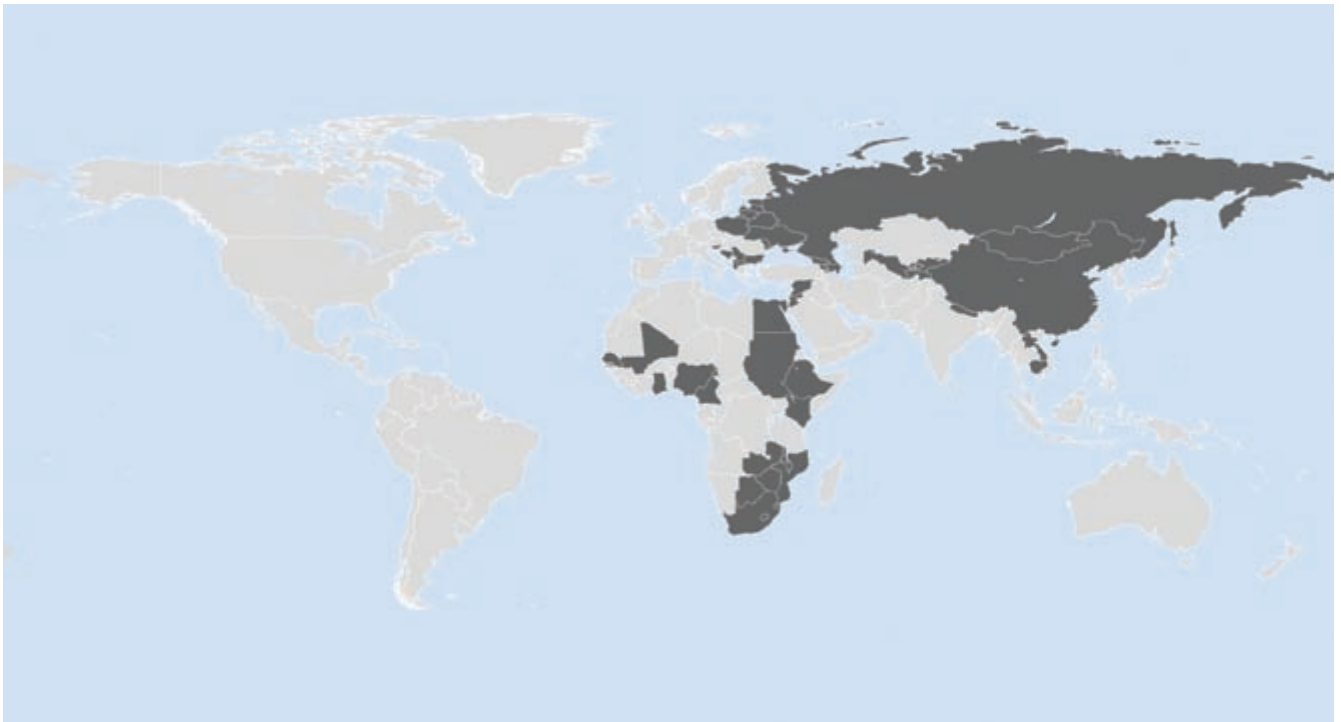
Thank you,

*Rima Kupryte*

Rima Kupryte, Director  
[rima.kupryte@eifl.net](mailto:rima.kupryte@eifl.net)



By the end of 2009/10, the eFL.net network is expected to grow to 50 countries.



### Map of eFL.net Member Countries

#### PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

In 2008, 46 countries were taking part in eFL.net:

Albania	Kenya	Poland
Armenia	Kosova	Russia
Azerbaijan	Kyrgyzstan	Senegal
Belarus	Laos	Serbia
Bosnia Herzegovina	Latvia	Slovenia
Botswana	Lesotho	South Africa
Bulgaria	Lithuania	Sudan
Cambodia	Macedonia	Swaziland
Cameroon	Malawi	Syria
China	Mali	Tajikistan
Egypt	Moldova	Ukraine
Estonia	Mongolia	Uzbekistan
Ethiopia	Mozambique	Zambia
Georgia	Nepal	Zimbabwe
Ghana	Nigeria	
Jordan	Palestine	

eIFL.net accomplishes its mission through five key programs: Open Access (OA), Free & Open Source Software (FOSS), Copyright for libraries (IP), Licensing of e-resources, and Growth of the network.

## PROGRAMS

### FREE & OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE (FOSS)



*Zimbabwe workshop on Greenstone software*

Allowing open access to millions of pages of online documents and data requires robust, affordable and easy-to-use software capable of being adapted to suit local needs and languages.

Often this is achieved through FOSS applications, available to all at no cost.

Training, however, is the key to getting the greatest benefit from FOSS. Without the necessary IT skills to deploy and manage FOSS applications, take-up will remain low.

Shared-support networks have been formed for FOSS users, who can talk directly with the software developers, get answers to their questions, share skills and contribute ideas.

2008 saw several training workshops for FOSS users, who are encouraged to pass their knowledge on to others in their institutions.

To coincide with the launch of the Integrated Library Systems (ILS) project, an intensive training course was held in Yerevan, Armenia. FOSS ILSs are now being piloted in Armenia, Georgia, Nepal, Malawi, Mali, Palestine, Zimbabwe.

As focusing on IT skills and tools helps to lower barriers to FOSS adoption, we launched the Skills & Tools workshops project in order to foster local development of library IT staff.

Another success for eIFL-FOSS was the launch of the Southern African Greenstone Support Network. Funded by the Koha Foundation, the network was formed by librarians and archivists from ten countries: Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Greenstone is an open source software that enables libraries to build large, searchable collections of digital documents.

A key highlight of the year was recognition by UNESCO of FOSS initiatives undertaken by Birzeit University in Palestine. Described in eIFL.net Spotlight article “Open Source Software brings a new lease of life to libraries in Palestine”, this project was selected as an illustration of good practice in using information for development.

#### Highlights from 2008

- UNESCO award for a Linux Thin Server Project at Birzeit University, Palestine to help libraries extend or maximize the usefulness of old computers.
- Launch of Integrated Library Systems (ILS) project.
- Seven ILS pilots ongoing evaluating migration to a FOSS ILS
- Success of the Greenstone pilot in Southern Africa, leading to the SA Greenstone Support Network.

#### Focus for 2009/10

- Secure funding for the continuation and possible expansion of eIFL-FOSS.
- Improve ways of working together, openly sharing our successes and difficulties across the eIFL-FOSS community.
- Organize wrap-up event for the ILS project to lay groundwork for future work in this area.

## *A Passion for FOSS*

One of the biggest challenges to electronic information in the Republic of Mali, West Africa, is the limited number of usable computers available in libraries.

Abdrahamane Anne is librarian at the faculty of medicine pharmacy and dentistry at the University of Bamako in Mali, where he has worked since 1998. He is also eIFL.net's Mali coordinator for Free and Open Source Software (FOSS).

"Our libraries don't have enough computers - and those that we have are mainly obsolete," says Anne.

Even though Mali's technology issues prevent its libraries from taking full advantage of eIFL.net's resources, Anne believes that eIFL has a very important role to play in the future of Mali's libraries.

"We can't yet access eIFL.net's resources, but we use them as an argument to support our need for more equipment. We show the authorities that there is so much good information available for free to Malian libraries and that, for our patrons to benefit, we need more equipment and internet connectivity."

Although eIFL.net isn't able to provide countries with computer hardware, it can help in many other ways. For example, eIFL.net's program manager for FOSS, Randy Metcalfe, heard of



*Abdrahamane Anne*

the difficulties facing Malian libraries and told Anne about the success in Palestine of the Linux Terminal Server Project where apparently obsolete computers were transformed into high-speed multi-purpose library terminals using open source software.

Says Anne: "This technology enables institutions to continue using their old computers. I tested it in my library and was able to 'bring to new life' computers that were almost trashed!"

Being able to benefit from eIFL.net's network of shared knowledge and experience – countries learning from each other – is very important to Anne.

He says: "We feel part of a community. We think more about common problems and sustainable solutions.

Through eIFL, we learn about what is happening in other countries. Their experiences are inspiring and help us to come up with alternative solutions to our problems."

So, with such a network and so many opportunities, what changes would Anne like to see in ten years' time in Malian libraries?

"I would like to see them more dynamic, playing key roles in providing access to information for economic and social development, and good governance."

"I would like to see libraries giving the citizens open technologies to publish online Malian intellectual, cultural and scientific output for a worldwide audience."

He believes that eIFL.net may certainly help Mali achieve these changes thanks to the sharing of information and experiences with other countries, developing skills in advocacy, planning and technical issues, and of course in providing Mali's libraries with the resources to help them secure funds for equipment and connectivity.

"eIFL FOSS is very important to me," concludes Anne. "Through my involvement with it, I am combining my passion for free and open source software with the desire to help and support my colleagues."



*eIFL-IP global conference,  
Istanbul, Turkey*

## COPYRIGHT FOR LIBRARIES

Copyright law governs the ownership, control and distribution of knowledge – intellectual property (IP). Since libraries provide access to knowledge and information, copyright is therefore a key issue for librarians and organizations representing libraries.

eIFL-IP seeks to maximize access to knowledge via libraries for education, research and the public through fair and balanced copyright laws that take into account the needs of their users .

One of eIFL-IP's major objectives is to raise awareness of libraries and copyright, and to empower the eIFL.net community to become advocates and proponents of fair access for all.

In our rapidly changing information environment, librarians must be able to contribute to current debates and provide input to national and international policy developments, especially for digital content.

In 2008, the first eIFL-IP global conference took place in Istanbul, Turkey. Librarians from over 40 countries attended the two-day event, learning and sharing experiences on the policy and practice of copyright law.

During 2008 eIFL.net staff, with coordinators from South Africa, Ukraine and Zambia, provided national copyright information for an important study on library copyright exceptions and limitations. The study was commissioned by the World Intellec-

tual Property Organization (WIPO) and published in October 2008. Covering 149 countries, it is a valuable new resource for librarians and policy-makers working with copyright.

Also in 2008, eIFL.net and the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA) agreed to cooperate on copyright and European bi-lateral trade agreements. Joint advocacy activities include drafting position papers, working with associates, meeting with the European Commission and raising awareness of issues among European and developing country library communities.

Whilst there are regional and national differences in copyright laws, librarians worldwide have one common goal – to provide access to knowledge to everyone who uses their libraries.

### Highlights from 2008

- Increase in knowledge and awareness of copyright issues for libraries.
- Held first annual eIFL-IP global conference, attended by over 40 countries.
- Joint eIFL/IFLA/EBLIDA conference on copyright and libraries with 50+ librarians from Moldova and region plus policymakers.
- First self-organised seminar by regional eIFL-IP representatives took place in Zambia in July 2008.
- Responded to European Commission Green Paper consultation on Copyright in the Knowledge Economy.

- eIFL-IP's Teresa Hackett gave the 18th Mortenson Distinguished Lecture "Libraries advocating for Access to Knowledge: our role in the global A2K movement".

### Focus for 2009/10

- Develop national growth and expertise on copyright through mentoring and additional training.
- Publish new translations of eIFL.net's Handbook on Copyright and Related Issues for Libraries (Arabic, Armenian, French, Russian).
- Develop FAQs for working with Reproduction Rights Organizations.
- Publish eIFL.net Draft Law on Copyright including Model Exceptions and Limitations for Libraries and Consumers.
- Launch "Copyright for Librarians", a distance learning curriculum developed in partnership with the Berkman Center for Internet and Society.
- Work with Electronic Frontier Foundation to build a central collection of national copyright legislation.
- Represent eIFL.net libraries at WIPO, to promote copyright exceptions and limitations.

## *IP IP Hooray for Hasmik*

Ask any librarian in Armenia for the name of the country's expert on copyright issues and just one person is mentioned: Hasmik Galstyan.

But when Hasmik became eIFL.net's intellectual property (IP) coordinator in 2006, she knew very little about the subject.

"eIFL has taught me so much about copyright," says Hasmik, who combines the eIFL.net role with her 'day job' as head of circulation and information at the Papazian Library of the American University of Armenia.

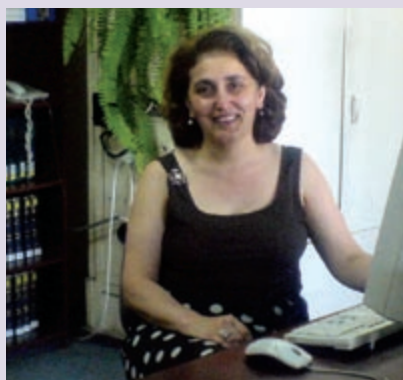
"Before being involved with eIFL IP I would not have thought it possible that a librarian without a legal background could deal with copyright issues."

Before 2006, Armenian librarians were excluded from national copyright decisions.

"The officials thought libraries had no copyright issues – but in fact, copyright is one of our biggest issues!" says Hasmik.

There was so little communication from the officials, that when Hasmik returned from her first eIFL.net conference in Kiev in 2006, she found that a new copyright law had been drafted - with many major changes already implemented.

"I had to quickly understand the new law, which had raised the copyright period from 50 to 70 years, then held workshops to pass my knowledge on to



*Hasmik Galstyan*  
other librarians."

Hasmik's expertise of copyright law has earned her great respect and she is now regularly consulted by copyright officials. "Now, there is real cooperation and much more activity," she says. "eIFL IP has made a big difference."

She regularly shares her knowledge by organising workshops and seminars for the Armenian library community, with close cooperation of the local copyright authorities

Hasmik is also often the first point of contact when universities and libraries need advice on the subject.

Universities in Armenia have asked Hasmik to put pressure on the authorities to change copyright laws for educational purposes. "In November 2008, with eIFL.net's support, I organised a round table discussion to look at the issues and see how we can help. It is so valuable to be able to share our problems with others who understand."

There won't be a quick solution for the universities though. "It will take a lot of time to make changes to copyright law."

The Electronic Library Consortium of Armenia (ELCA) was founded in 2003 with financial support from the Open Society Institute (OSI) and is part of eIFL.net's international consortium of libraries. Through its involvement with eIFL.net, ELCA provides an efficient use of available electronic resources including thousands of full-text e-journals.

Explains Hasmik: "eIFL.net's negotiating power with publishers gives us access to many online databases and documents that we could not otherwise afford."

Hasmik singles out the head of the eIFL IP program, Teresa Hackett, for particular praise. "Through her conferences, handbooks and reference guides, Teresa has helped create an international community of library copyright specialists."

"She also recently drafted a new law on copyright limitations and exceptions, and this will make such a positive difference for librarians across the world."

Hasmik has translated eIFL.net's *Handbook on Copyright and Related Issues for Libraries*, produced by Teresa Hackett, from English into Armenian and arranged for all libraries in Armenia to have a copy online.

The Handbook has also been translated into Arabic, Polish and Russian.





## OPEN ACCESS (OA)

Open access seeks to remove barriers that prevent knowledge from being shared digitally. For the first time, many researchers, students, librarians, doctors, lawyers, university administrators, policy-makers and general public in eIFL.net countries now have free and unrestricted online access to the research materials they need.

One of eIFL.net's most important achievements in 2008 was increased understanding of open access among the key players within the scholarly communications network: librarians, university administrators, authors, publishers, funders and policymakers. As well as a steady growth in the quantities and qualities of open repositories and open access journals in eIFL.net countries for example more than 100 open repositories from eIFL.net countries disseminate more than 450,000 research publications.

Many of the open access experts in these countries, trained by eIFL.net, are now sharing their knowledge with others – and not just those in their own countries. For example, an expert from Belarus helped to install the repository in Azerbaijan's university. A toolkit, policies and recommendations developed by the University of Pretoria helped Kenya and Malawi in setting up their open repositories.

For the developing world, open access will increase scientists and academics capacity to both access and contribute

to the global research community. Increased accessibility and visibility of current research outputs increases their impact on the sustainable development of the societies, accelerate innovations and development, helps to shape more effective government policies and brings more transparency to research institutions.

eIFL.net's network is behind some important national milestones, for example, Armenia, Serbia and South Africa are implementing national projects on open access journal publishing; Kyrgyzstan is building an open access repository for the Central Asia region; Lithuania and Ukraine have proposed national open access mandates; Hong Kong Universities and Poland's Ministry of Science and Higher Education are considering open access mandate for publicly-funded research.

### Highlights from 2008

- Big increase in global awareness and advocacy for OA, especially during International Open Access Day on 14 October, 2008.
- 18 awareness raising and advocacy events, for example in Armenia, Belarus, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Mozambique, Nigeria, Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.
- Growing number of open access mandates in eIFL.net countries.
- Increased deposit rates in open access repositories.

### Focus for 2009/10

- Open access policies to be adopted by research funding agencies, universities and research organizations in eIFL.net countries.
- Sustainability of open repositories within the eIFL.net region.
- Open Access Week, 19-23 October 2009.
- Evaluation of Institutional Repository Development in Developing and Transition Countries – a cooperative program between eIFL.net, the University of Kansas Libraries, the DRIVER project and Key Perspectives Ltd.
- Case studies on institutional repositories from eIFL.net countries.
- Turning pilot repositories into strong operational tools (open access resources create value through the impact they have on users): investigating what was planned to be shared in the repositories and what is actually shared; and producing a report on the implementation of open content licenses in developing and transition countries.
- 12 open access advocacy and capacity building workshops and events.



## LICENSING OF e-RESOURCES

Library users interested in any subject now have online access to millions of pages of information, previously not available to them. Access to research information traditionally depends on the ability to pay, which has a negative impact on developing countries.

Because we negotiate our license agreements centrally with publishers, we are also able to save libraries a lot of money. In 2008, we estimate to have saved them a total of around €165 million on e-journal subscriptions alone - an average of 95% off the list price. Many of them are working within tighter budget constraints than ever and therefore attach great value to being part of eIFL.net negotiations.

During 2008 we signed new deals and renewed or extended our existing agreements with publishers. Our list of available e-resources has now grown to include around 35,000 up-to-date and top quality e-journals and a range of e-book and reference resources available through 20 vendors.

Downloads continue to increase. In the year from 2007 to 2008, the number of full-text articles downloaded by library users increased by more than 47% to more than 4.4 million a year.

Acknowledging eIFL.net's expertise, the South African coalition responsible for licensing (SANLIC) asked us to help with their negotiations for a range of e-resources from many publishers that eIFL.net did not previously have agreements with.



*Speed dating with publishers during the General Assembly.*

To further improve eIFL.net's service to our library partners, we monitor usage of licensed e-resources and provide useful tools on costs savings. This data supports libraries in their advocacy efforts for better funding of libraries and their budgets for subscriptions of e-resources. In 2008 we improved the way we gather statistical information and will be making further improvements in 2009.

Through a survey we were also able to identify the main challenges in terms of the access and use of e-resources in certain countries, and addressing these issues will be a key part of strategy for 2009.

Through our strong network, libraries participating in eIFL.net are eager to share their knowledge and expertise. All our organized capacity-building events were conducted by colleagues from neighbouring countries or

regions. In addition, during 2008 the national library consortia provided more than 500 training events locally.

### Highlights from 2008

- Savings in excess of €165m – an average discount of at least 95%.
- Signed 9 new deals and renewed or extended existing agreements with publishers.
- 4.4 million full text downloads – an increase of over 47%.
- Enhancements to service, including improved statistical information and licensing procedures.

### Focus for 2009/10

- Increase awareness of e-resources available at deeply discounted prices.
- Encourage libraries to increase their promotion to end-users of e-resources.
- Offer more training and advice for consortia to ensure sustained access to e-resources.



## GROWTH OF THE NETWORK

---

eIFL.net covers a very wide spread of countries, situations, people, cultures, politics and financial circumstances. Building up, growing and sustaining such a large network is a major achievement, especially given today's difficult economic climate.

Competition for scarce resources, fragmented representation in policy-making fora and disjointed statements about library budgets characterize the situation of libraries in developing countries.

eIFL.net's model is unique in helping groups of libraries that share common goals to come together at the national or regional level to speak with one voice to stakeholders and funding agencies, to share resources and activities.

eIFL.net's support to create and manage sustainable library consortia runs throughout all programs, fostering a culture of cooperation in our core areas: capacity building, advocacy, and awareness-raising. Working as a library consortium enables many joint achievements, such as building repositories or pushing for fair licensing. Individual libraries would simply not be able to reach these achievements on their own.

Librarians and their stakeholders in the network have embraced this model and, with new countries wanting to join, eIFL.net is reaching out to more parts of the world each year. During 2008 only one country, Croatia, ceased its participation while three new ones joined: Ethiopia, Kenya, and Nepal.

While we expect to see more libraries facing the difficulty of achieving stable budgets, we believe at the same time that strong collaboration can overcome the challenges.

### Highlights from 2008

- Three new countries joined: Ethiopia, Kenya, and Nepal.
- All but one country renewed their participation.
- Latin American and South East Asian countries showed interest in joining eIFL.net.
- Cameroon, Mali, Nepal, Nigeria and Senegal were awarded small grants to build and strengthen their consortia.

### Focus for 2009/10

- Continue to work with countries whose ongoing participation is being challenged, largely because of funding.
- Increase awareness of the range of benefits of being part of the eIFL.net.

- Work closely with new countries to ensure their coordinators have the necessary training and skills to make the most of their participation in eIFL.net.
- Encourage country coordinators to pass their skills and knowledge on to other librarians in the country.
- Increase efforts to acquire funding for extra activities to build capacity in consortium management and service provision.

## Putting Kenya on the digital map

After working in Kenya's libraries for more than 30 years, Jacinta Were has seen many changes - but the biggest by far is the result of the digital revolution. Fortunately, libraries in Kenya, through the Kenya Libraries and Information Services Consortium (KLISC), are part of the global information consortia that have facilitated access to e-resources. KLISC has been a member of PERii coordinated by INASP for the last 6 years and this partnership has gone a long way to enhance access to e-resources for researchers and to improve ICT infrastructure in the libraries. In addition, KLISC joined eIFL.net last year and have since gained a lot from the partnership

"Electronic information has opened up many new avenues for us," says Jacinta, eIFL.net's country coordinator in Kenya, and deputy University Librarian at the University of Nairobi, Kenya.

Kenya is one of eIFL.net's newest countries, and Jacinta has no doubt about the important part it has to play in the development of the country's information services.

Jacinta believes that the greatest benefit is the fact that Kenya's library community - a strong consortium of over 50 libraries, universities and research institutes - is part of a consortium of developing countries.

"We are in a closer network with other developing countries. We can share our experiences with others who have had similar problems - particularly with issues around poor connectivity and



low bandwidth. Being able to do this is very valuable indeed," says Jacinta.

And that support isn't just available online. When Jacinta and her team were developing a proposal for the university's institutional repository, eIFL.net arranged for an expert from South Africa to give some guidelines. She presented an excellent paper that gave very relevant information on how to develop institutional repository. "We've had excellent guidance from eIFL.net in so many ways," says Jacinta.

As well as being country coordinator, Jacinta also supports Kenya's three eIFL program coordinators, who cover open access, free and open source software and copyright.

The subject of copyright for digital publications can be a nightmare for many librarians. However, eIFL.net's team of experts includes some of the world's leading authorities on the copyright of electronic information.

With their knowledge and support, librarians across the world are being helped through the legal minefield of copyright law.

The copyright coordinator in Kenya gets plenty of support and information from eIFL.net, and shares this knowledge with others through workshops and seminars. "We've just had one workshop with publishers, and another is happening today on digital information and copyright law. We're also planning a third soon with publishers and authors," says Jacinta.

She continues: "eIFL.net has helped us enormously with copyright. Beforehand, it was quite chaotic because librarians in Kenya didn't really understand about copyright, and didn't work together. Now, we are well-informed and able to approach the issue collectively as a consortium."

Being able to network with others, says Jacinta, is very important. Besides the support, seminars and workshops, she finds the online discussion forum immensely useful.

"eIFL.net facilitates sharing of common problems, experiences and solutions. It has helped us in many ways."

Kenya has not had the chance to participate fully in the activities of eIFL.net. "We are however confident that the benefits are many and that as we go along we shall become fully involved in the activities and take advantage of the available opportunities" says Jacinta.

"It's a pleasure to be a part of eIFL.net."

eIFL.net closed 2008 with a positive balance. We would like to thank the following donors for grants that support our activities:

Open Society Institute (OSI), Open Society Initiative for Western Africa (OSIWA), FOSI-Foundation Open Society, UNESCO, Tides Foundation, Ford Foundation, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation, Koha Foundation, and EC Tempus program.

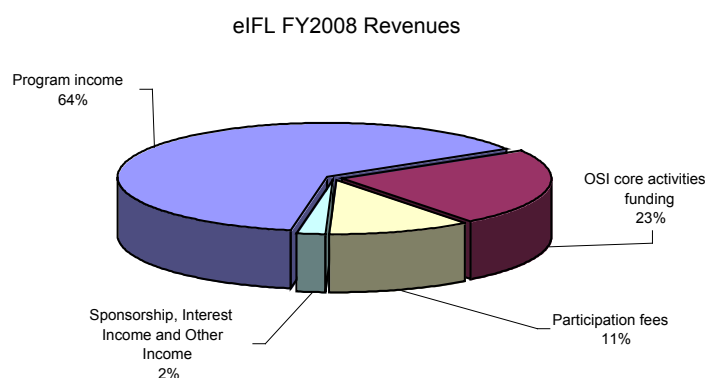
## FINANCIAL MATTERS

### eIFL.net Income vs. Expenses January 1 through December 31, 2008

Income	Received amount	%
Program income	€ 902.804	64%
OSI core activities funding	€ 329.128	23%
Participation fees	€ 157.334	11%
Sponsorship, interest income and other income	€ 30.606	2%

**Total**

**€ 1.419.872**

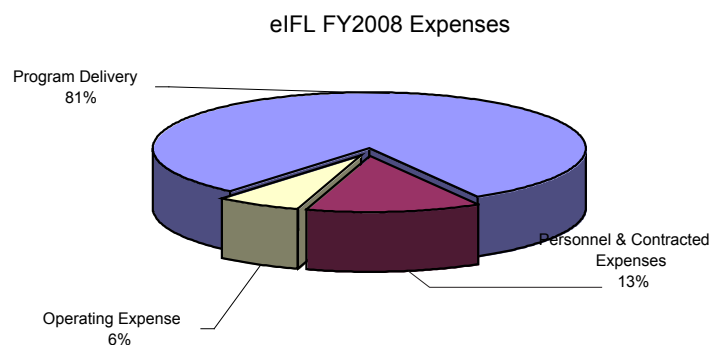


Expenses	Amount spent	%
Program delivery	€ 737.405	80%
Personnel and contracted expenses	€ 120.669	13%
Operating expenses	€ 58.740	6%

**Total**

**€ 916.815**

Committed to be spent in 2009 for program delivery € 511.089





## 2008 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 2008 annual General Assembly (GA) was another very successful knowledge sharing event.

Held in Sofia, Bulgaria from 6-8 November 2008, the event was hosted by the New Bulgarian University and Bulgarian Information Consortium (BIC).

It was attended by a record 105 participants from 45 member countries, together with eIFL.net staff, representatives from 20 scholarly publishers and guest speakers.

This year, 'speed dating' was introduced and had very positive feedback. Each 15-minute session ensured that all delegates had the opportunity to discuss their country situation in detail with representatives from eIFL.net and the publishers.

The 2008 General Assembly also introduced another successful 'first'. It held an open discussion session (also known as 'unconference') where topics were suggested from the floor. This meant that even if the main presentations didn't cover all the burning issues for participants, there was still a chance to raise them.

Feedback from the GA showed that 97.4% of respondents (39 out of 45 countries) found the event either "very interesting and useful" or "interesting and useful".

eIFL.net is very grateful to the following for their financial support towards the GA. Our thanks go to the New Bulgarian University, Bulgarian Infor-



mation Consortium, Open Society Institute, EBSCO Publishing, Institute of Physics Publishing, Oxford University press, Wiley & Blackwell, SAGE Publications, Cengage Learning, Project Muse, American Psychological Association, Nature Publishing Group, The New England Journal of Medicine, Royal Society Publishing, Encyclopaedia Britannica (UK), JSTOR, IBSS,

Emerald Group Publishing, Burgundy, Cambridge University Press, ProQuest and Wolters Kluwer/Ovid.

In addition, national consortia or home institutions met the travel expenses of coordinators from Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa and, partially supported coordinators from Russia and Swaziland.

## PARTNERSHIPS

We are proud of our relationships with the following organizations:

Abdus Salam International Center for Theoretical Physics  
Access to Knowledge (A2K) coalition  
Association of Research Libraries (ARL)  
Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard Law School  
BioLine International  
ccLearn – a division of Creative Commons  
Creative Commons  
Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)  
DRIVER project  
DSpace Foundation  
Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF)  
EnablingOpenScholarship (EOS)  
European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Centers (EBLIDA)  
InterAcademyPanel on Digital Knowledge Resources and Infrastructure in Developing Countries  
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)  
Networked Digital Library for Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD)  
Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association  
SPARC  
SPARC Europe  
Stichting SURF  
UNESCO  
UN World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)  
US Library Copyright Alliance (LCA)

## ACTIVITIES 2008

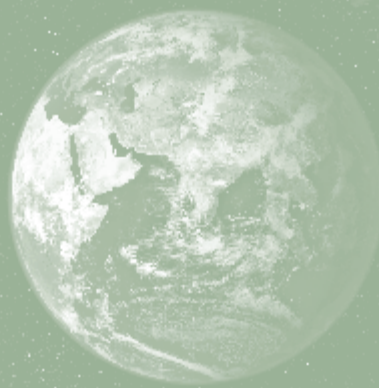
2008 was an exceptionally busy year for eFL.net, as the following extracts from our Activity Diary shows. We either organized or presented at the following events...

JANUARY	WHERE
Country visit to meet Nepal's librarians, NGOs and policymakers	Katmandu, Nepal
First DRIVER summit	Goettingen, Germany
Fundraising meetings with London-based potential funders	London, UK
2nd eFL.net staff meeting	London, UK
16th Advisory Board meeting	London, UK
Presentation at an event publicizing "One Laptop Per Child"	Windsor, Canada
FEBRUARY	
Ontario Library Association conference	Toronto, Canada
Meeting with UNESCO IFAP director Miriam Nisbet	Paris, France
Greenstone National Workshop	Maseru, Lesotho
MARCH	
Fundraising meetings with California-based potential funders	San Francisco, USA
First meeting of new WIPO Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP)	Geneva, Switzerland
Participation in eBook Phenomena discussion at University of Pretoria centenary event	Pretoria, South Africa
Attendance at WIPO standing committee on Copyright and Related Rights: 16th Session	Geneva, Switzerland
APRIL	
Poster session at Open Repositories 2008 conference	Southampton, UK
First eFL-IP global conference	Istanbul, Turkey
Meetings with publishers at London Book Fair	London, UK
National conference to discuss knowledge and information services for development and to launch national library consortium	Ulan Baatar, Mongolia
Update on eFL FOSS at the ICOLC Spring meeting	San Francisco, USA
Attendance at expert meeting "Copyright for Librarians: a Distance Learning Course" at Berkman Center for Internet and Society	Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA
Auditing	Rome, Italy
Attendance at 4th Nordic Conference on Scholarly Communication 2008	Lund, Sweden
Presentation of "Access to Knowledge in the Digital Environment - an introduction to eFL.net programs and services" and the workshop "How to make e-resources work for the librarian, scholar and institution?" as part of national seminar "Building an information society in Mozambique"	Maputo, Mozambique
eFL.net co-organized workshop "Open Access Repositories: New Models for Scholarly Communication"	Zaria, Nigeria





MAY	
Presentation at lecture series "Bridging the digital divide: how libraries are enabling access to knowledge" at Trinity College	Dublin, Ireland
SPARC Europe director David Prosser met with Lithuanian Ministry of Higher Education and Science to discuss open access policies	Vilnius, Lithuania
eIFL-OA national workshop	Tblisi, Georgia
Meeting with Peter Burnett, new INASP library program director	Rome, Italy
JUNE	
Presentation of "Copyright in the Digital Environment" at Nigeria national library association annual conference Libraries without Borders: Globalization of Library and Information Services	Kaduna, Nigeria
Attendance South African Online Users Group meeting	CSIR, Pretoria, South Africa
Product/database demo session for publishers	Pretoria, South Africa
Presentation of poster "ETDs in Developing and Transition Countries: Results of eIFL.net Activities" at the ETD 2008: Spreading the Light, the 11th International Symposium on Electronic Theses and Dissertations	Robert University, Aberdeen, Scotland
Presentation "eIFL-OA Program: Promoting and Advocating for Open Access in Developing and Transition Countries" at the open access seminar of Crimea 2008: 15th Jubilee international conference Libraries and Information Resources in the Modern World of Science, Culture, Education and Business	Crimea, Ukraine
First eIFL.net FOSS ILS workshop	Yerevan, Armenia
Study visit of Russian-speaking Institutional Repositories managers	Kyiv, Ukraine
Fundraising meetings	Los Angeles and San Francisco, USA
eIFL.net workshop on open access: New Models for Scholarly Communication in Moldova	Chisinau, Moldova
Presentation at International Relations Roundtable of American Library Association (ALA) devoted to collaboration & resource sharing in the digital age	Annaheim, USA
eIFL.net poster session at ALA	Annaheim, USA
JULY	
DRIVER Advisory Board meeting	Istanbul, Turkey
eIFL.net Advisory Board meeting and visioning retreat	Cupramontana, Italy
eIFL OA set of talks at Using Open Access Models for Science Dissemination at two weeks workshop	Trieste, Italy
Post Greenstone pilot project for Southern Africa meeting	Benoni, South Africa
Paper "Copyright and Access to Knowledge: global trends and library activism" at standing conference of African national and university libraries of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (SCANUL-ECS)	Lusaka, Zambia
Participation in discussion of SCECSAL conference topic "Libraries and Information Services Towards the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)"	Lusaka, Zambia
Presentation and workshop about open access at Wikimania conference 2008	Alexandria, Egypt
Workshop "How to use, manage and promote your e-resources effectively" for ZALICO consortium	Kitwe, Zambia



Attendance Academy of Sciences of South Africa: "Editorial Forum"	Pretoria, South Africa
Workshop on institutional repositories in Mozambique	Maputo, Mozambique
<b>AUGUST</b>	
Open Access and Web 2.0: Improving the scientific communications workshop and BarCamp Central Asia	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
IFLA academic and research libraries section satellite meeting: Consortia and Collaborative Arrangements	Quebec, Canada
Two business meetings for committee on IFLA Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM) and presentation at session no. 161 "Users rights: making copyright work for libraries"	Quebec, Canada
Paper at meeting of IFLA social sciences section for division on special libraries "Borderless collections in the social sciences: platforms for digital access, dissemination, and preservation"	Quebec, Canada
Videoconference with Jornada académica de coordinación de políticas de negociación y financiación para el acceso a la información científica y tecnológica, a meeting with ministry and library representatives from Colombia, Argentina, Mexico, Brazil, Chile and Spain	Bogota, Colombia
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
Presentation at international workshop Open Access to Scientific Literature and other Digital Scientific Information Resources in Central America and the Caribbean: Focus on Education and Health for Sustainable Development	Havana, Cuba
eIFL IP, co organized A2K3 conference	Geneva, Switzerland
eIFL staff retreat	Cupramontana, Italy
Annual Mortenson Distinguished Lecture, presentation by Teresa Hackett	Champaign Urbana, USA
Software Freedom Day	Worldwide
Greenstone training workshop	Nairobi, Kenya
<b>OCTOBER</b>	
eIFL FOSS presentation at Access 2008 conference	Hamilton, Canada
Presentation "Advantages of Open Access for Libraries" at International Conference Informatio 2008	Alushta, Ukraine
Consortium experience sharing at International Conference Informatio 2008	Alushta, Ukraine
eIFL OA presentation at 21ST International CODATA conference	Kyiv, Ukraine
Frankfurt Book Fair	Frankfurt, Germany
Meeting with local library community in Vietnam	Hanoi, Vietnam
eIFL.net presentation at Bridging Worlds conference	Singapore, Singapore
Open Access Day	Worldwide
OA Awareness Raising workshop	Yerevan, Armenia
Consortium development meeting	Nairobi, Kenya
OA Awareness Raising workshop	Minsk, Belarus



Presentation on eFL.net services and Kyrgyz developments on consortium and OA activities	Fergana, Uzbekistan
Free Software and Open Source symposium	Toronto, Canada
Lecture on "Croatian Copyright Law: the Impact of International Treaties and European Law" at Scientific Information Management: annual conference of Croatian academic and scientific libraries	Zagreb, Croatia
NOVEMBER	
eIFL IP Advisory Board meeting	Geneva, Switzerland
Attendance at WIPO Copyright Committee	Geneva, Switzerland
eIFL.net 18th Advisory Board meeting	Sofia, Bulgaria
eIFL.net General Assembly	Sofia, Bulgaria
Paper "Gaining the Momentum: Open Repositories in Developing and Transitional Countries" at Sofia 2008: Globalization and the Management of Information Resources	Sofia, Bulgaria
eIFL-IFLA-EBLIDA joint conference Copyright: Enabling Access or Creating Roadblocks for Libraries?	Chisinau, Moldova
Workshop on consortium development and eIFL.net services in Cambodia	Phnom Pehn, Cambodia
Presentation "Advantages of Open Access, Quality and Progress of Research" at Adult Learning and e-Learning Quality conference	Kaunas, Lithuania
Final conference of SYReLIB TEMPUS project and meeting with ministry	Aleppo and Damascus, Syria
Workshop on consortium building and usage of e-resources in Nepal	Kathmandu, Nepal
DECEMBER	
Presentation at Knowledge in the digital age: Open access and open repositories	Yekaterinburg, Russia
Presentation to NELINET members on Open Source ILS	Boston, USA
Open Access Awareness Raising workshop	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

## PEOPLE

### eIFL.net TEAM

- Isabel Bernal, *assistant to director*
- Emanuella Giavarra, *legal advice for Licensing and eIFL-IP Programs*
- Margo de Groot, *support, eIFL-IP Program*
- Teresa Hackett, *manager, eIFL-IP Program*
- Arnold Hirshon, *consultant, Library Consortium management issues*
- Andrius Krisciunas, *accountant and webmaster*
- Iryna Kuchma, *manager, eIFL-OA Program*
- Amos Kujenga, *regional coordinator, eIFL Greenstone project*
- Rima Kupryte, *director*
- Randy Metcalfe, *manager, eIFL-FOSS Program*
- Monika Segbert-Elbert, *consultant, Consortium building*
- Susan Veldsman, *manager, Licensing of e-resources*
- Repke de Vries, *coordinator, eIFL Greenstone project*
- Tigran Zargaryan, *coordinator, eIFL-FOSS ILS project*

### eIFL ADVISORY BOARD

- Emilija Banionyte, *director of Vilnius Pedagogical University Library, Lithuania* – finished her term in November 2008.
- Helena Asamoah Hassan, *university librarian, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana*
- Jan Andrzej Nikisch, *director, Poznan Foundation of Scientific Libraries, Poland* – finished his term in November 2008.
- Kay Raseroka, *director, Department of Library Services, University of Botswana, Botswana* (joined in November 2008)



*eIFL.net staff, board members and eIFL.net “friends” at the retreat.*

- Irina Razumova, *deputy director, NEICON Consortium, Russia*
- Johanna Sander, *chief director, Library and Information Center, University of Johannesburg, South Africa (chairperson)* – finished her term in November 2008.
- Diana Sayej, *director of Birzeit University Library, West Bank, Palestine* (joined in November 2008)
- Sreten Ugrić, *director, National Library, Serbia* (joined in November 2008)

### eIFL MANAGEMENT BOARD

- Darius Cuplinskas, *director, Information Program, Open Society Foundation*
- Emanuella Giavarra, *lawyer, Chambers of Prof. Mark Watson-Gandy*
- Monika Segbert-Elbert, *director, Eremo srl. International Project Management and Consultancy*
- Marjan Vernooij, *program manager, ICT and Research, Surf Foundation*

## eIFL.NET MISSION AND VALUES

### MISSION

eIFL.net aims to ensure that libraries in developing countries are able to provide essential information to students, professionals, and the public, who can translate electronic resources and technology tools into concrete benefits that can improve people's lives.

eIFL.net drives improvements in the field by building capacity, supporting advocacy and awareness-raising, and acting on behalf of its constituency.

### VALUES

eIFL.net was founded on a core belief that the widespread availability of information can help advance social and economic development. We believe that libraries play a key role in providing access to such transformative information through modern digital technology.

Our work is guided by the following values:

- We strive to provide useful services and practical, long-term, local solutions to libraries and librarians in developing countries.
- We build strong relationships and use collaboration and communication to share ideas, knowledge, and resources. We encourage active sharing and participation.
- We draw on local expertise wherever possible.
- We aim for transparency and integrity in our work with great respect for the libraries and librarians we serve.
- We value flexibility and creative thinking.



### CONTACT DETAILS:

#### eIFL.net

Piazza Mastai 9  
00153 Rome  
Italy

Tel. + 39 06 5807217  
Fax. + 39 06 5807246  
e-mail: [info@eifl.net](mailto:info@eifl.net)  
Url: [www.eifl.net](http://www.eifl.net)



---

ELECTRONIC INFORMATION FOR LIBRARIES