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EIFL Update

Spotlight on the GA 2011

Spotlight on the GA 2011

PDF version



The General Assembly is the major knowledge-sharing event of the year for EIFL. Coordinators from EIFL partner countries and invited guests come together to discuss EIFL activities and to debate state-of-the-art issues with expert resource persons, representatives from key international initiatives, and publisher partners.

The main theme was reaching out to our end users – sharing best practices and ideas. The sessions included addressing the barriers to the usage of e-resources, analyzing usage statistics to better understand user behaviour, and exploring FOSS tools to help users find and access e-resources. Another focus was evaluating the impact of services, and library advocacy in key policy areas: copyright, open access and FOSS.

The 2011 GA in Minsk was attended by 64 participants from 46 countries, and 15 publisher partners.



“It is a great honour to host the EIFL General Assembly. Electronic resources provide the main means by which library patrons can conveniently access global information. At the same time, it is important to meet face-to-face to discuss issues, not only virtually!” said Roman Motulski.



“What has impressed me most about the EIFL GA is the ability to meet people from countries that I normally wouldn’t get to meet, but that are equally important to our work. For example, I talked with librarians from Uganda and Mongolia – if it works out, we could have new partners in countries adding new languages to Wikipedia, and sharing local knowledge with the world,” said Liam Wyatt.

“I have been struck by the diversity of the countries attending the GA and their combined focus with publishers on solving authentication and authorisation needs to enhance access to e-resources by the library community”, said Brook Schofield, Trans-European Research and Education Networking Association (TERENA).

“Again EIFL has proved that its GAs are perfectly planned. This year’s conference in Minsk was a very nice experience for me. It was also a great time saver because, at the same time and the same place, I was able to meet so many national consortia coordinators and to discuss so many important issues. I am really happy that Emerald is part of the EIFL family”, said Marcin Dembowski, Regional Manager, Eastern Europe, Russia & CIS Countries, Emerald Group Publishing.



“The EIFL GA is a lively event that impressed me with its range of opportunities for librarians and publishers, and the quality of the presentations. The programme is well thought out, friendly and even fun!” said Luis Villarreal, Director of Research, Corporacion Innovarte, Chile

During the GA, two incoming Advisory Board members were welcomed – Kathy Matsika from Zimbabwe and Miodrag Dadasović from Macedonia.



“I have been able to apply so many of the things that I have learnt through EIFL. And I have developed a passion for copyright, ensuring balanced copyright laws in support of library work! I come to join this wise EIFL community”, said Kathy Matsika.

And we said goodbye to Advisory Board members Irina Razumova from Russia and Helena Asamoah-Hassan from Ghana.

“I have never experienced such a friendly and open-hearted atmosphere as at the EIFL GA. Our governments could learn a lot from the achievements of the EIFL family”, said Irina Razumova.



A popular feature of the GA is speed-dating. Participants have an opportunity to spend 15 minutes with each publisher and also EIFL staff to learn about new developments, discuss any problems or to simply catch up. It’s intense, but rewarding!



A fun new activity at the GA was a twenty-first-century treasure hunt. To highlight the potential of this FOSS technology increasingly used by libraries, delegates snapped QR (quick response) codes – which can contain Web addresses, location information or small amounts of text – with their cameras or mobile phones to reveal the sentence, “In 2010 EIFL saved its 47 partner countries over \$175 million on commercial e-resources.”



We were pleased to welcome representatives from new partner countries – Maldives, Thailand, Uganda – as well as newcomers attending their first GA.

“My first impression is that I am gaining knowledge and experience and making friends worldwide”, said Fathimath Nashath from the National Library of Maldives.

“It is impressive how the EIFL staff give so much to the partner countries, how they work on such different issues and how they all work together”, said Soeythip Sukul from Thailand.



“The GA has allowed me to meet many new people to share ideas and experience, a strong concept in the ‘Francophonie’ countries. As I speak three languages – French, English and Russian – I was able to talk with many people! I have learnt new things and discovered a lot of e-resources that I will promote among our teachers and students. I can see that EIFL is one big family, and everyone is very friendly. You are doing a wonderful thing”, said Birama Traoré from Mali.

“Speed-dating was the highlight for me because I became aware of the vast resources available to us. In fact, it was a wake-up call that we as librarians should spearhead advocacy for e-resource usage in our institutions, thereby raising the levels of scholarly output in our countries”, said Judith Nannozi from Uganda.



EIFL-Licensing Update

2010 savings and usage statistics now available

2010 savings and usage statistics for EIFL-licensed commercial e-resources have been compiled.

We are pleased to announce that our negotiations resulted in savings for our library partners of over US\$175 million in 2010 - an increase of over 20% on 2009. Average discounts were more than 97%.

Our central negotiations and licensing work also results in significant efficiency gains across the network - for example, in terms of time and legal fees.

Following an intensive programme of awareness-raising campaigns, the number of subscriptions across the EIFL network (including national consortia-wide agreements) has grown significantly, and full text

downloads increased to over 3.7 million.

Details are available for EIFL coordinators only [here](#).

EIFL-OA Update

Open access advocacy: EIFL-OA online workshop



Today EIFL-OA hosted an online workshop Open access advocacy: How to run successful national and institutional campaigns.

The guest speakers were:

- Bo Öhrström, Chairman of the Open Access Committee, Deputy Director, Danish Agency for Libraries and Media / Denmark's Electronic Research Library (DEFF), Denmark
- Anja Oberlaender, Library of the University of Konstanz, Germany
- Elsabe Olivier, Open Scholarship Office Programme Manager, Department of Library Services, University of Pretoria, South Africa

Bo Öhrström presented the "[Recommendations for implementation of Open Access in Denmark](#)" and how to successfully reach the government level, Anja Oberlaender presented the [information platform open-access.net](#), and Elsabe Olivier presented the first African Open Access mandate at the University of Pretoria and how to run institutional open access campaigns.

[View the recording of the session here.](#)

Downloads from the session:

- Bo Öhrström, Chairman of the Open Access Committee, Deputy Director, Danish Agency for Libraries and Media / Denmark's Electronic Research Library (DEFF): Recommendations for Implementation of Open Access in Denmark [[PPT](#)]
- Anja Oberlaender, Library of the University of Konstanz: Promoting Open Access to librarians and researchers by the international information platform [open-access.net](#) [[PDF](#)]
- Elsabe Olivier, Open Scholarship Office Programme Manager, Department of Library Services, University of Pretoria, South Africa: Advocacy for the first African Open access mandate @ the University of Pretoria [[PPT](#)]

Interactive Facilitation Meeting on Open Access at WSIS 2011



UNESCO, IFLA and EIFL held an Interactive Facilitation Meeting on Open Access in Geneva, Switzerland on May 19th, as part of the [World Summit on the Information Society \(WSIS\) Forum 2011](#).

The meeting looked at the current achievements of the key players in the field of open access and facilitated a discussion about whether they are replicable across countries. Participants addressed how open access could be included in national and regional research and educational policies.

The recent [IFLA Statement on Open Access](#) was also introduced and discussed.

The panellists' presentations are available:

- Sanjaya Mishra, Programme Specialist (ICT in Education, Science and Culture), UNESCO: Promoting Open Access to Scientific Information. [[PDF](#)]
- Lars Bjornhage, Director of Libraries, Lund University, Sweden, 1st Vice-President, Swedish Library Association, Member of IFLA President's Working Group on Open Access: Open Access: a Movement in Progress. [[PDF](#)]
- Iryna Kuchma, EIFL Open Access Programme Manager: Open Access Policies in Developing and Transition Countries. [[PDF](#)]
- Jens Vigen, the Head of Scientific Information Service and the Head Librarian of the European Organization for Nuclear Research, CERN, Member of the High Level Expert Group on Scientific Data, Geneva, Switzerland: Removing Barriers to Science. [[PDF](#)]

Feedback from the meeting participants:

- CODATA - an interdisciplinary Scientific Committee of the International Council for Science (ICSU) - stressed the importance of open access to data.
- The International Telecommunication Union stressed the importance of ICT infrastructure and improving

connectivity in Africa.

- WIPO stressed the importance of access to patent information and presented the Access to Specialized Patent Information (ASPI) program for developing countries providing free or low-cost access to tools and services for retrieving and analyzing patent data.

The meeting ended with a wish list for 2011:

- More national open access policies;
- More open access funders' mandates;
- More open scholarship policies from research funders and institutions (open access to research publications, open access to data, open science, open educational resources);
- More experiments and projects in area of open access to monographs;
- More open access to research data;
- New types of open access journals;
- More governments taking a stand.
- Physicists - converting an entire discipline to open access.

EIFL Open Access programme wins SPARC Europe Award



The EIFL Open Access (OA) programme has been chosen as the winner of the 2011 SPARC Europe Award for Outstanding Achievements in Scholarly Communications for its awareness raising, advocacy and capacity building activities over the last three years, and for its success in developing a large number of repositories and open access journals in EIFL partner countries.

“With the sixth Award, SPARC Europe wishes to encourage the EIFL Open Access programme to continue its excellent work and to provide inspiration to other organizations with EIFL's approach and activities. SPARC Europe believes the EIFL Open Access programme sets a perfect example for others who aim to take up advocacy work and run activities to further the open access

movement”, said Dr. Astrid van Wesenbeck, Executive Director, SPARC Europe.

“It is a great honour for EIFL to receive the sixth SPARC Europe Award. We embraced the open access movement from the beginning when we signed on to the Budapest Open Access Initiative a decade ago. It is gratifying that our efforts have been recognized by the international community. We are fortunate to have Iryna Kuchma, a passionate open access advocate, managing the EIFL-OA Programme,” said Rima Kupryte, EIFL Director. “We are also grateful to the Open Society Foundation Information Program who have supported our work on open access throughout this time.”



Over the last three years, EIFL-OA has organized over 40 awareness raising and training events with participants from over 50 countries, and has advocated nationally and internationally for OA policies and mandates by institutions and governments. EIFL partner countries in Europe now boast over 210 open access repositories and more than 2,340 OA journals, ten higher education institutions have newly adopted open access mandates, and hundreds of library professionals, scholars, educators and students have been empowered to become open access advocates.

“I would like to thank SPARC Europe for this award that recognizes the achievements of EIFL and our partner countries. I would also like to thank the network of EIFL-OA country coordinators and the many experts who have contributed greatly to the success of the programme,” said Iryna Kuchma, EIFL Open Access programme manager. “Without their hard work and commitment, we would not have been able to achieve these impressive results.”

About the SPARC Europe Award

SPARC (the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) Europe initiated the Award in 2006 to recognize the work of an individual or group within Europe that has made significant advances in our understanding of the issues surrounding scholarly communications and/or in developing practical means to address problems within the current systems. <http://www.sparceurope.org/>

EIFL (<http://www.eifl.net>) is an international not-for-profit organization dedicated to enabling access to knowledge **for education, learning, research and sustainable community development** in 47 transition and developing countries in Europe, Asia and Africa. EIFL partner countries in Europe include Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Georgia, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Ukraine.

For further information:

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EIFL-OA: www.eifl.net/openaccess

EIFL-IP Update

International copyright advocacy at WIPO

EIFL was represented at the latest meeting of the [WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights \(SCCR/22\)](#) by Barbara Szczepańska, EIFL-IP librarian from Poland and Teresa Hackett, EIFL-IP Programme Manager. EIFL welcomes the significant progress on [agreement for an international instrument on exceptions and limitations for persons with print disabilities](#), and the revised proposal presented by the African Group on a [Draft WIPO Treaty on Exceptions and Limitations that includes libraries and archives](#), and educational institutions. Read our statements, the official conclusions and a short report of the meeting.

Regional copyright advocacy - Africa



Kathy Matsika, EIFL-IP librarian from Zimbabwe, gave a plenary presentation “Copyright in the 21st Century: Its Impact on African Librarianship” at the [African Library Summit 2011](#) in Gauteng, South Africa.

The theme of the Summit was the Future of African Librarianship and the purpose was to stimulate debate on critical library and information service issues on the African continent. The presentation highlighted how the continent’s copyright laws, many of which are borrowed from colonial times, have failed to provide an enabling environment to allow wide access to knowledge in the 21st century, while licensing arrangements with publishers for access to electronic resources present their own kinds of challenges. [Read the abstract here.](#)

National copyright advocacy - Belarus

During the [EIFL 2011 General Assembly](#) that took place at the [National Library of Belarus](#) in June 2011, we had the opportunity to learn about the new copyright law approved in April 2011 by the Council of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus. The library community was one of the most active stakeholders during the amendment process, and succeeded in securing provisions that are important for libraries. These include maintaining the public domain through retaining the current term of protection (50 years after the death of the author), the ability to make digital copies and certain other library copying activities. In addition, the new law clarifies the situation regarding the ability of authors to freely licence their works. Congratulations to Oksana Voronetskaya, Chief Copyright Expert at the National Library and EIFL-IP coordinator, and the team at the National Library. [Read the new copyright law \(Russian language\).](#)



EIFL-FOSS Update

OpenBiblio training for small or rural Armenian libraries

Training for small and rural libraries on OpenBiblio ILS

On April 19-21, 2011 in the Fundamental Scientific Library of the NAS, Republic of Armenia, training courses were organized for the 11 librarians from the Shirak, Aragatsotn, Armavir regional and Ararat and Charentsavan municipal libraries.

During a three-day training sessions librarians learned about the [OpenBiblio](#) FOSS ILS system, designed especially for the automation of small libraries. Financial support for this training was covered by the ‘Civilitas’ Foundation.

This training workshop was preceded by the full day event on March 17th ‘Armenian Libraries Embrace the Digital Age to Expand Community



Outreach' organised by the Civilitas Foundation within the framework of its "Libraries as Centers of Civil Society" project, funded by the US Embassy in Armenia.

During this event director of the Fundamental Scientific Library Tigran Zargaryan introduced the OpenBiblio system to the experts and meeting participants.



This training formed a key part of the OpenBiblio project Tigran is undertaking for EIFL FOSS. [Read more about the project here.](#)

Open Access Repositories with EPrints

EPrints provides an easy and fast way to set up repositories of open access research literature, scientific data, theses, reports and multimedia.

Interested in finding out more about the free open source EPrints software – a flexible platform for building high quality, high value repositories?

To examine this area in more detail, EIFL-FOSS and EIFL-OA organised the fifth EIFL-FOSS Themed Week for 2011: **Open Access Repositories with EPrints.**

What is ePrints?

As the first professional software



platform for building high quality OAI-compliant repositories, EPrints is already established as the easiest and fastest way to set up repositories of open access research literature, scientific data, theses, reports and multimedia.

EPrints 3 is generic repository building software developed by the University of Southampton. It is intended to create a highly configurable web-based repository.

EPrints is often used as an open archive for research papers, and the default configuration reflects this, but it is also used for other things such as images, research data, audio archives - anything that can be stored digitally. The EPrints series began in early 2000 and is in use by over 300 sites.

For more information about EPrints, see our [main EPrints page](#)

Online Workshop Details

The guest contributors for the online session were:

- William J Nixon, Digital Library Development Manager, University of Glasgow,
- Miha Peternel, Faculty of Computer and Information Science, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia,
- Tigran Zakaryan, Lab. manager at Institute of Radiophysics and Electronics and EIFL-OA country coordinator in Armenia.

William presented a general introduction to the whys and hows of EPrints, while Miha presented a case study explaining why his library chose EPrints and how easy it was to install and customize. Similarly Tigran's contribution focussed on the institutional need and implementation.

[View the recording of the session here.](#)

[View the Q&A wiki here.](#)

Downloads from the session:

William Nixon's Presentation: [eifl_foss_oa_williamnixon_eprints.ppt](#)

Miha Peternel's Presentation: [eifl_foss_oa_mihapeternel_eprints.ppt](#)

Tigran Zakaryan's Presentation: [eifl_foss_oa_tigranzakaryan_eprints.ppt](#), and his audio commentary: [eifl_foss_oa_tigranzakaryan_commentary_eprints.mp3](#).

SABER: an innovative approach to creating a FOSS (DSpace) Open Access

Repository

Henk van Dam of KIT, Netherlands, and Aissa Mitha Issak, EIFL Country and Open Access Coordinator for Mozambique, have worked on a case study for the EIFL FOSS website describing the success of SABER, a multi-institutional repository based on the FOSS tool DSpace.

The SABER Repository in Mozambique is the first academic institutional repository in the country and has already six higher education institutions inputting content. "Saber makes information about Mozambique and by Mozambican authors accessible" says Aissa Mitha Issak, Librarian at the Universidade Pedagógica and EIFL Open Access Coordinator. SABER is the only African Open Access repository whose content is largely in Portuguese.

SABER is based on DSpace, a FOSS technology, which means that items can be readily added by library staff. At present this is a shared responsibility among the six member universities, and there is an agreed division of tasks relating to its management - technological maintenance, content and quality. It is hoped that a self-deposit facility for authors will soon be in operation.

There has been interest in SABER from other countries including Sudan, India and Spain, but Aissa Mitha Issak says more research and evaluation of SABER's impact must be undertaken.



Read the full case study on the EIFL FOSS DSpace page.

EIFL-PLIP Update

EIFL-PLIP's Macedonia grantee wins ERSTE award

EIFL-PLIP grantee, the Public Library Braka Miladinovci in Radovis, Macedonia, has won a prestigious ERSTE Foundation 2011 Award for Social Integration. The library won €15,000 (US\$ 21,550) for the *Creative Minds Create Job Opportunities* project, which motivates unemployed people, especially women, to find employment.

The names of the 37 winners were announced on June 20 at a ceremony attended by over 650 representatives of business, civil society and the media, in Prague's famous Barrandov Studios. The award celebrates successful civil society programmes that overcome challenges faced by communities in Central and Eastern Europe.

Public Library Braka Miladinovci faced tough competition for the award. A total of 1,850 projects applied, and 132 were shortlisted. The 37 winners were selected by an international jury. The winner of the €40,000 (US\$57,300) first prize was The Shelter and Counselling Centre for Women and Children Victims of Violence in Croatia, and second prize (€30,000/US\$43,000) went to The Roma Press Agency in the Slovak Republic.



Creative Minds Create Job Opportunities began in May 2010. With EIFL-PLIP support, the library purchased 13 laptops, wireless Internet routers and a printer. They developed a training curriculum that integrated motivation and confidence-building with computer and jobseeking skills. They recruited and trained 67 people (51 women and 16 men) in basic computer skills, writing a CV, job interview preparation and how to look for a job online. Of these, 31 found jobs - a remarkable 46% success rate in an area where unemployment is estimated to be 20%.

Public Library Braka Miladinovci proudly lives up to its motto: 'Friendly Libraries for All Citizens'. The library has only four employees, but they go out of their way to ensure that the library is both functional and attractive, and to provide services that meet community needs. The library offers a friendly environment for all age groups and has access for people living with disability. It is well known in Macedonia for being innovative.

Read more about [Public Library Braka Miladinovci's innovative Creative Minds Create Job Opportunities project](#). For more about the ERSTE Foundation Award for Social Integration 2011, visit www.erstestiftung.org

EIFL-PLIP call for concept papers is closed

On 30 June, the EIFL-PLIP call for concept papers closed. The call was focused on replication of services from projects funded in the first round of PLIP. All public libraries in countries with emerging and developing economies were eligible. We received 100 applications from Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean.



Up to twenty small grants not to exceed \$15000 [USD] each will be awarded at the end of October 2011 for work to be done during the following 12 months.

The projects will involve public libraries providing a service in one of the four following service areas:

- Support for children and youth at risk
- Support for farming and farmers
- Provision of health information
- Improving people's employment prospects.

We are very pleased with the strong proposals that we have received and excited to see our successful, first round PLIP grants replicated by other libraries, in other countries.

Learn more about EIFL-PLIP <http://www.eifl.net/plip>

Public library perception study findings to be presented at IGF



At this year's [Internet Governance Forum \(IGF\)](#) in Nairobi, Kenya, the findings from the EIFL commissioned research study to explore perceptions of public libraries in 6 African countries will be discussed. IGF is the major policy making forum that emerged from WSIS (World Summit on the Information Society).

Presenting at IGF is an excellent opportunity to reach a broad audience of policy makers (over 1,000 attendees, from 100 countries). And, in accordance with this year's theme (Internet as a catalyst for change: access, development, freedoms and innovation), our workshop will also provide an excellent forum for demonstrating innovative ways that public libraries are using the Internet to benefit their communities.

Workshop details

Title: Do policymakers understand the role of libraries in mobilising the internet as a catalyst for development, innovation and freedom?

Date and time: 28 September 2011, 11 am

Remote participation: You can participate remotely by watching videocasts or listening to audiocasts from the meeting rooms and reading real-time closed captioning. [Learn more](#)

Workshop description: This workshop will discuss the findings of a recent study of perceptions of public libraries by policy makers in 6 countries in Africa. The study reveals that policy makers still think of libraries in terms of printed media, and not as spaces for catalysing internet access and use. Yet there is substantial evidence that innovative and ICT enabled public library services contribute to development. Case studies will be presented to demonstrate how some developing countries have made use of ICTs in libraries to mobilise the internet for development. The workshop will be interactive and engage participants in helping to identify mechanisms that can convince policy makers to recognise the potential of internet in libraries to strengthen access and diversity.

Speakers

Moderator : Anriette Esterhuysen, Director, APC

Panelists: Richard Atuti, Director Kenya National Library Service; Geoffrey Kimani, Director of Research and Insights, TNS International; Monika Segbert-Elbert, EIFL Consortium Management manager, Anriette Esterhuysen, Director, APC, and Government representatives from Latin America or Lithuania/Finland (to be confirmed)

Events

18 Jul 2011 [Workshop on Open Access Institutional Repository Advocacy in Ghana](#). Location: Accra - Ghana

- 27 Jul 2011 Capacity building for open access repository administrators and managers: EIFL-OA - KIT - COAR online workshop. Location: Online -
- 8 Aug 2011 IFLA Satellite Conference - Havana, Cuba. Location: Havana - Cuba
- 13 Aug 2011 77th IFLA World Library and Information Congress. Location: San Juan - Puerto Rico

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