Newsletter

eIFL Newsletter - NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2003

General Assembly in Cagliari

During the General Assembly, three working groups discussed the following topics: content, funding and cost-sharing, technology systems. It was recommended to develop a resource package and assist country consortia with fundraising and cost-sharing issues.
For the technology system, a technology task force will be formed. This group should formulate a strategy for the creation of a portal, suggest specifications and functionalities of the portal, as well as of the software.
Regarding new content, it was agreed to form a content task force. This group should develop a new survey to determine the content, a collection development policy, and analyze the low take up of the countries that can get access to free resources; the group should also examine the integration of content offered by other initiatives.
The recommendations from the working groups are posted in the members only section. The programme of the General Assembly can be found in the members only section, and includes the links to the different presentations. Some of you have sent photos of the meeting that have been put on the website. Please feel free to send more, so that we can update the photogallery.

Minutes of the Board meeting

The minutes of the third eIFL Advisory Board Meeting, which was held on 22 October 2003 in Cagliari, are now available on our members only section. The Board extended the deadline for nominations to the Board until 24th of November 2003. Following this second call for nomination, there are now seven candidates for five places. Therefore a ballot is necessary to express the views of eIFL on the membership of the Advisory Board.
All the votes must be returned by 17.00 hours GMT on Monday 15th December 2003.
More information about the elections can be found at: http://www.eifl.net/members/members_board.html

eICOLC

Rima Kupryte spoke about eIFL activities and progress in building country consortia, and the coordinators of the new EU accession countries Poland, Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Slovenia, Slovakia presented the specific features of their consortium. This team presentation demonstrated once again eIFL's role as a global knowledge sharing network. eIFL is very glad to note its increasingly closer collaboration with ICOLC, such as the publishers' day during the General Assembly having been an ICOLC affiliated event, and the plan to hold an All African Assembly in 2004 as the African ICOLC event (psssst, see next newsletter, we are working on this with our ICOLC friends

Workshop in China

An eIFL team from Russia, South Africa, FineLib, Nelinet, BOAI, TIB (the German eIFL partner) interacted with key library representatives in an intensive 2 days workshop in China. The Chinese library consortia have decided to join the eIFL knowledge sharing network and will be represented in eIFL for the time being by the NSTL (National Science and Technology Library) and the Chinese National Scientific Digital Library until such time as the existing consortia will form a national coalition.

SCAULWA/WALA conference in Ghana

SCAULWA (Standing Conference of African University Libraries West Africa) and WALA (The West African Library Association) held a joint meeting in Ghana from 3 to 5 and from 6 to 8 November 2003.
SCAULWA was attended by about 70 university librarians, WALA by some of the same plus many public

librarians. At both events the countries represented from the region were Ghana, Senegal, Nigeria, Mali, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Cameroon, Nigeria, Guinea. There were also East African participants from Uganda, Kenya, Sudan and South Africa.

International participants included INASP, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NISC (the National Inquiry Services Centre) a publisher and vendor of printed and electronic 'local and global information for Africa, about Africa and by Africans'. A representative of Innopac which sells the Millenium library automation system also attended. The eIFL team – Rima Kupryte and Monika Segbert – was joined by Mike Jensen (the IDRC expert on African connectivity) and Bayo Oyewole from OSIWA.

The Ghana Minister of State for Tertiary Education in her keynote address asked the questions if libraries are 'consumables or infrastructure', and why librarians are such bad advocates. In a subsequent conversation she voiced her support to Ghana libraries joining eIFL and stressed the need for accessibility and visibility of African content. The main theme of the SCAULWA conference was donor support and sustainability, whereas WALA discussed the management of library associations.

Rima Kupryte and Monika Segbert gave two presentations on eIFL.net: the SCAULWA presentation was very detailed as the university librarians can be considered the primary eIFL target group in the region due to their having less problems with connectivity and infrastructure than other libraries; the presentations included extensive information on open access and institutional repositories.
During WALA a simpler presentation of eIFL.net was augmented by a very informative session on African connectivity led by Mike Jensen, consultant to IDRC. In both cases a very lively question and answer session followed, with very clear and strong messages from all countries that consortium building plus management of the electronic information environment were top of the agenda for library development in the region.

Participation by librarians from Nigeria, Senegal, Cameroun, Mali, Sudan had been sponsored by eIFL in cooperation with OSIWA and had been organised by our Nigerian eIFL coordinator, Rilwanu Abdulsalami. eIFL also gave a contribution to the cost of the simultaneous translation English – French which proved to be essential to bridge the language barrier between anglophone and francophone African countries. After the formal conference sessions the eIFL team held separate country meetings with all the countries represented, to discuss the country situation, needs, plans, actions. Mike Jensen and Bayo Oyewole were able to join most of the country meetings, which made them all the more useful because we were better able to address connectivity and infrastructure issues besides the key eIFL 'domains' of consortium building and access to electronic content.
The first 6 months of 2004 will be very busy working with West African colleagues to set up or consolidate the country consortia and ensure the best use of content on offer.

New Free trials

Free trials for new databases are available with Lexis Nexis, Oxford Reference Online, Gale. Those of you who are interested in having free trials, please send IP address range of institutions.

Update on new content

We are in the final steps of signing an agreement with BioOne which offers 68 titles on Bio-Sciences, Cambridge University Press Humanities and Social Sciences Package which offers 111 new titles, Oxford Reference Online, and Integrum which offers 21 Russian databases. We hope that from 1st January, your users will enjoy this new content.
We are also looking into adding French content to eIFL services in 2004, thanks to the meeting with a representative from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the West African meeting, and the very good connections with La Francophonie by our Board member Prof. Jean Claude Guedon.

News from Open Access Movement

Those of you who are interested in Open Access should read the " Open Access News blog".
The main purpose of the blog, published by Peter Suber, is to gather and disseminate news about the Open Access Movement and to harness the energy and knowledge of a wide group of contributors in doing so. Read the daily update newsletter at:http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/fosblog.html

The same author is also issuing the monthly Sparc Open Access Newsletter. October was one of the richest months for open access in memory. Read the last issue online at:
http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/newsletter/11-02-03.htm

Institutional Repository

OSI is pleased to announce the release of the Guide to Institutional Repository Software. The guide describes the five open source, OAI-compliant systems currently available. As many institutions are developing repositories, OSI thought it would be helpful to produce such a guide so that each institution could select the software best suited to meet its needs. Included in the guide is a brief narrative overview of each system followed by a summary of the systems' technical features. The guide will be updated as additional systems are developed.
To read the guide: http://www.soros.org/openaccess/software/

Grants for BioMed Central Institutional Membership

To support open access to international research and scholarship, OSI will provide funding to support 35 BioMed Central Institutional memberships for institutions in countries where the Soros foundations network is active. BioMed Central (http://www.biomedcentral.com/) currently publishes 75 open access journals.
More information on grants is available at: http://www.soros.org/openaccess/grants.shtml#biomed

Adding OA journals to a library catalog

The Erasmus University of Rotterdam (EUR) has added to its library catalog all the open-access journals from the Lund Directory of Open Access Journals, as well as the Lund Directory itself. This is a good example of how libraries can help researchers discover and use OA information.
Read more in Open Access blog November 9 edition at: http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/fosblog.html

The University of Namibia also integrated on its website the DOAJ database. Users can now search the database and will get a clickable link to the address of the journal.
For more information: http://library.wwwisis.unam.na/wwwisis/DOAJ.01/form.htm

New coordinators from Mali,Ghana,Senegal,Cameroun and China

We would like to welcome four new countries and their coordinator: welcome to Cheick Oumar Diawara, from the University of Mali, to Mrs. H.R. Asemoa from Kwame Nkrumah University of S&T in Kumasi, Ghana, to Mrs. Moussa Drame and Mr Henri Sene, our eIFL team in Senegal, and to Chantal Moukoko from Douala University, Cameroun.
We welcome Prof. Xiaolin Zhang, director of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Library in Beijing.

News from our coordinator from Swaziland

Zipho Ngcobo returned home, after having spent two weeks at the hospital in Cagliary. She arrived safely and is improving. She has now her leg in POP (Plaster of Paris) and has been given some few weeks bed rest.
We wish her a good recovery.

eIFL new position for Content Manager

eIFL.net is looking for a dynamic and motivated member of staff to be part of the eIFL team, working out of its office in Rome. To learn more about the position: http://www.eifl.net/news/news_related.html#news24

Events

Workshop on copyright and licensing in Kazakhstan took place on the 21-22 November 2003.
eIFL /Open Access Workshop KoBSON - Serbian Library Consortium for Coordinated Acquisition had a workshop in Belgrade on 24 November 2003 on Open Access to Scholarly Communications. The main goal of the workshop was to inform researchers and editors of scientific journals of the benefits that the open access business model can bring to the dissemination of their research. The workshop will include presentations by the research community and OSI's Open Access Project.

We would like to thank everybody for actively participating and working as a big global knowledge network. We also would like to thank the Open Society Institute for funding and giving eIFL a base for such a productive year. 2003 was indeed a busy year!
In January, eIFL was set up as a foundation, with its office in Rome; it created its own website and listservs.

Three Advisory Board Meetings were held, in Rome, Berlin and Cagliari. The two last ones were chaired by the new president, Law Derek. The election process is now taking place, in order to nominate 5 new candidates.

eIFL organised 27 workshops, attended 7 international conferences, and welcomed 8 new countries.
eIFL, by signing agreements with IOP, CUP, APS and Proquest, added 2024 more new titles in science and technology.

The final eIFL model licenses were made available both for publishers and for countries. A trial access to Russian content databases was opened for the eIFL members interested in Russian language resources.
eIFL reinforced its links with INASP, TIB, and Biomed Central, and Goethe Institute, and will continue to participate to IFLA and eICOLC conferences next year.
eIFL's General Assembly, that took place in Cagliari from 17 to 22nd October, reinforced the strength of the network, and the common wish to go further.
We were busy, all of us together, and we plan to be even busier in 2004. There is much to be done.

eIFL.net wishes you happy holidays and new year 2004!

Looking forward to receiving updated information about the activities and events organised in the country members of eIFL.net.

The eIFL Team