



Newsletter

eIFL Newsletter - JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2004

As we are approaching mid-march, we are glad to report that eIFL is moving forward with new ideas and new events throughout the year 2004.

Advisory Board Meeting

Rome, 14-15 February 2004

The fourth Advisory Board Meeting was held in the presence of our new elected Board members in our Rome office. A special responsibility of the Board was to discuss the issue of fundraising. Discussions also took place about the Content Task Force and the Technology Task Force progress.

Minutes of the Board are available at: http://www.eifl.net/members/members_board.html

Report on Content Task Force Progress

The task force recommended to finish the negotiations with CUP and Oxford Reference Online. Currently the task force is finalizing a comprehensive survey for national audits of each eIFL consortium, in order to identify future content need. As a short term recommendation for next negotiations a priority list has been drawn up based on national audits that had previously been carried out in some eIFL countries. This list will be communicated to all members shortly.

Report on Technology Task Force Progress

The task force suggests that the functionalities of the eIFL website should be enhanced, to allow the provision of more services to the end user. The task force recommends also that eIFL should show more statistics on other publishers than EBSCO so that coordinators can see where they are positioned in comparison with others. The task force will work out a template to enhance national consortia website.

General Assembly

Poznan Foundation of Scientific Libraries has officially invited eIFL to hold the General Assembly in Poland . We are grateful to Jan Andrzej Nikish for fundraising efforts that can make this event happen in 2004. The General Assembly will be held in the Poznan international fair center September 9-12. Please start thinking about the issues that you would like to see discussed, and send us your comments as soon as possible.

Fundraising

Fundraising has become a priority for eIFL who is actively searching for other funding than OSI. If you have any ideas of potential projects for fundraising, of potential donors, please get back to us!

Update on new content

On February 13, eIFL has signed the agreement for three years with BioOne, and added 69 new journals to the provided content. The list of journals provided to eIFL members is available at: http://www.eifl.net/services/services_sci_bio.html

Next week, eIFL will be signing an agreement with CUP Social for Science and Humanities content. 101 journals are provided by CUP to the eIFL members.

We are in the final stage of signing the agreement with Oxford Reference Online for their three products: Oxford Reference Online: Core Collection, Oxford reference Online: Premium Collection and Oxford Dictionary Online.

We received a feedback on Lexis/Nexis. There were individual institutions in some of the countries who expressed an interest but not any single consortium. Taking this into account, eIFL.net has decided not to sign a framework agreement with Lexis/Nexis. eIFL has provided the licences, so that each institution can sign directly with Lexis/Nexis.

Future negotiations or activities related to new content will depend on the advice of the ContentTask Force.

Update on Russian Content

There are probably a lot of initiatives that are trying to consolidate the Russian freely available resources. We came across the following projects:

Russian Language Journals

This project has been started by a group that comprises FREENet and CEENet (the Russian and CEE academic networking associations), plus an ICT center of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The idea is to consolidate Russian (as opposed to English) language journals that can be of big value in the post-Soviet space (FSU, CEE, Mongolia, Vietnam...). Those publications are dispersed, there is currently no way of accessing them centrally.

Please view the website at: <http://www.e-journals.ru/>

On-line Russian language Encyclopedia, Krugosvet

Krugosvet is available for free, and consists of 14.5 million words and more than 10,000 photos, line drawings and maps. Approximately 1 million new words are added annually. Since its availability on the Internet, Krugosvet has been the #1 encyclopedia on RUNET (The Russian Internet) as measured by the number of daily visitors and hits.

The Encyclopedia, Krugosvet is available at: <http://www.krugosvet.ru/>

New contracts

The conditions and documents of three contracts with Russian language content providers have been discussed and prepared. Integrum-Tehno (www.integrum.ru), INION (www.elibrary.ru) and Rubricon (www.rubricon.com) contracts will be signed by both sides in March.

Open Access

eIFL and OSI Open Access Program

eIFL and OSI Open Access Program are planning a series of joint activities this year. You will be hearing more about workshops on awareness raising, as well as pilot projects on setting up of institutional repositories in eIFL member countries.

Open Society Institute publishes the second edition of the Guide to Institutional Repository Software

OSI is pleased to announce the release of the second edition of the Guide to Institutional Repository Software. The guide has been updated to include two additional systems: ARNO and Fedora. In addition, the new guide reflects comments and suggestions received following the release of the first edition. OSI intends to update the guide on a regular basis.

Once again, OSI is grateful to the author of the guide, Raym Crow of the Chain Bridge Group, as well as the developers of the software systems for working with us to produce the guide.

To view the guide, please see: <http://www.soros.org/openaccess/software/>

Free and open source software activities in European Information Society initiatives

The aim of this website is to provide information on activities conducted within European programmes and initiatives with the objective of raising awareness and understanding of free and open source software (F/OSS). Links to European activities related to open source and to some well-known websites on the subject are provided.

In first instance the information provided focuses on activities of Information Society DG and the IDA programme of DG Enterprise, as these activities are key to the development of the European Information Society. Depending on future developments the scope of the information may be widened to cover F/OSS related activities in other DGs of the European Commission.

The website is available at: http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/opensource/index_en.htm

Presentations from the ALA Midwinter Meeting

The presentations from the SPARC/ARL session, [Open Access: Getting From Here to There](#) which took place at the [ALA Midwinter Meeting](#) in San Diego, January 9-14, 2004, are now online. Presentations are available at : <http://www.arl.org/sparc/core/index.asp?page=j0>

New newsletter: Open Access Now

The January 19 issue of Open Access Now is now online. Open Access Now is a newsletter published by Biomed Central informing researchers in the life sciences about the issues involved in Open Access publishing. This issue contains an [editorial](#) on open access in 2003, a [group interview](#) with three British journalists on how OA is affecting mainstream media, [news stories](#) on the inquiry in the UK House of Commons and the new PubMed Central policy to offer OA to individual articles from journals that do not otherwise participate in PMC. Read the newsletter at: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/openaccess/>

First "open access" journal published by the San Francisco-based PLoS

A coalition of major library and public interest organizations praised the October 9 premier of the first "open access" journal published by the San Francisco-based Public Library of Science (PLoS), a non-profit organization of scientists and physicians. PLoS Biology, a monthly peer-reviewed journal available free online, features research of exceptional significance, including several groundbreaking articles that recently have received extensive coverage in the worldwide news media. Read the last issue at: <http://biology.plosjournals.org/>

Welcome to our new Content Manager

We received over 80 applications worldwide for the position of Content Manager. We selected some applications, which was not an easy task because many of them were very valuable. We conducted the interviews in our Rome office, and are pleased to welcome Eduardo Antonio Lasser Alvarez. He will work-part time in eIFL as Content Manager while continuing his work as a librarian within the Documentation and Information Service at the University of Studies Rome 3. Eduardo is Venezuelan by birth and Italian by passport, enhancing our Rome office with a fluent Spanish speaker.

CERN Workshop on Innovations in Scholarly Communication: Implementing the benefits of OAI Geneva, Switzerland, 12-14 February 2004

Monika Segbert attended the workshop in order to participate in discussions first with a round-up of the present situation regarding the development of the OAI Metadata Harvesting Protocol (OAI-PMH), the range of OAI projects, freely-available OAI software and OAI servers. Participants discussed the new initiatives that have arisen within the world of publishers regarding business models and the philosophy around scientific communication. Especially with regards to the closer cooperation between eIFL and the OSI Open Access programme it was useful to promote the eIFL network to conference participants.

Coming events in March

- A consortium building workshop will be held in Ghana on 10-11 March. Buhle Mbambo and Susan Veldsman will serve as resource persons.
- A workshop on copyright and licensing will be held in Uzbekistan on 29-30 March. Tuula Haavisto and Emilija Banionytė will serve as resource persons.
- A consortium building workshop will be held in Senegal on 30-31 March. Hannie Sander and Monika Segbert will serve as resource persons.

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

The eIFL Team