



Newsletter

eIFL Newsletter -JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2005

Advisory Board meeting

The 6th eIFL Advisory Board meeting took place in London on 7-9 January 2005. On this occasion, The eIFL strategic agenda for 2005-2007 was discussed, and much attention was paid to new programmes to be provided by eIFL such as Open Access and Intellectual Property Rights. Equally, we are pleased to announce that eIFL will continue to develop its consortia building and content related services further. Besides, eIFL will be encouraging more geographical expansion and collaboration with like minded initiatives. We will keep you duly informed about all these exciting projects!

Minutes of the Board meeting will be soon available at http://www.eifl.net/members/members_board.html.

Due to change of our website host, our website was not kept up to date. New information, including the minutes from our last Advisory Board meeting, will be hopefully at your disposal within one week's time.

Announcement of new eIFL services: Intellectual Property launch and Open Access strategy

From now onwards eIFL will place these two new services at the core of its efforts:

Intellectual Property Launch

We are pleased to announce the launch of the new eIFL-IP service that will center on advocacy for access of information in copyright and related issues. Nowadays Intellectual Property Rights are very top on the international agenda as there is a growing pressure towards greater protection of intellectual rights, which makes access to information, educational, learning materials and cultural resources more restrictive. Libraries interests can be severely damaged with this current trend and, as a result, eIFL-IP service will intend to build on capacity and expertise amongst the eIFL.net community in intellectual property rights by providing tools, resources and specialist advice. The project manager of this new eIFL service will be Teresa Hackett, a librarian with expertise in legal information issues. The eIFL-IP webpage will be fully operational soon at http://www.eifl.net/services/services_ip.html.

Open Access Strategy

As many of you know, eIFL has been working closely with OSI's Open Access Project for the past three years. We are pleased to announce that we have formalized this partnership and will launch the eIFL Open Access Program in 2005. Through this Program, a Call for Interest will be issued for those eIFL member countries which would like to promote Open Access more widely within their countries. The selected countries will work with eIFL to hold Open Access workshops similar to that held in South Africa last July. The workshops will then be followed with assistance in establishing institutional repositories at leading research institutions within the country. In addition, the guides and manuals which OSI has developed under its Open Access Project will be adapted for use in the eIFL countries. More details about the Program and the Call for Interest will be announced in February. The webpage will be fully operational soon at http://www.eifl.net/services/services_open.html.

Update on new content

Agreement signed with Integrum Techno

Last November eIFL signed an agreement with Integrum Techno which allows eIFL member countries online access to its 22 databases of massmedia, reference books, social science journals and many others at highly discounted rates. For additional background on this agreement please refer to http://www.eifl.net/services/services_russian.html. More information about Integrum Techno can be accessed at <http://www.integrum.ru/>.

Agreement to be signed with Oxford University Press (OUP) journals

After having enjoyed free trials of some 170 Oxford University Press journals in several disciplines late 2004 (please look at November-December Newsletter 2004), eIFL is pleased to announce that an agreement with OUP will be signed in late January. Prices have already been communicated to all of you.

eIFL is in process of closing agreement with Gale Publishing

eIFL plans to sign an agreement with Gale Publishing which will enable eIFL members to get access to six databases. Lawyers are finalising the terms of the agreement and again, prices have already been communicated to all of you.

eIFL's final negotiation stage with Emerald Publishing

Last but not least, eIFL is well on the road towards an agreement with Emerald Publishing. You will be fully updated on the progress in the coming months. As you all know, eIFL is also involved in talks with the Economist Intelligence Unit, Wiley Publishing, Project MUSE from the Johns Hopkins University and Project EUCLID from Cornell University, this last one centered on the affordable distribution of journals on statistics and mathematics.

Welcome to new coordinators!

eIFL would like to welcome the new Kyrgyzstan coordinator, Sania Battalova, head librarian from the American University, and Charles Lungu, University librarian from the Copperbelt University, who will be the new Zambia coordinator.

Open Access News and Useful Resources

Internet Archive

Last December a group of international libraries and the Internet Archive have agreed on collaborating to build Open Access Text Archives. This initiative seeks to provide open access to over one million books in different languages, and so far the libraries from the University of Toronto, McMaster University and the University of Ottawa in Canada; the Carnegie Mellon University and the One Million Book Project, and the Library of Congress American Memory Project in the United States; the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Egypt; the libraries from the Indian Institute of Science and the International Institute of Information Technology in India; the Zhejiang University in China, and the European Archive in the Netherlands have committed to taking part in this project. For additional information, please access at <http://www.archive.org/iathreads/post-view.php?id=25361>. All libraries and archives are encouraged to join this free association which will mean a significant step towards broad, public and free access to books.

Science Commons to be launched early 2005

Creative Commons has officially launched its latest project Science Commons in January 2005. Science Commons will address the technical and legal mechanisms to remove the barriers that inhibit the sharing of scientific information, thus providing Open Access alternatives for scientists, universities and industry. Please read additional details at <http://www.biomedcentral.com/openaccess/archive/?page=features&issue=23>.

Biomed Central publishes a Newsletter on Open Access

Open Access Now, published by Biomed Central, is a monthly newsletter informing researchers in the life sciences about the issues involved in Open Access publishing. A series of short guides to the players, stakeholders and technical terms relevant to Open Access publishing. 'Who, What & Why?' will help readers to become informed about the world of Open Access.

To get a flavor of it, please read the December Newsletter and past issues at: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/openaccess/>.

Free MARC records available for Open Access Journals

The COPPUL reSearcher Team has put at the disposal of everybody with access to Internet brief MARC records for many major open access journal collections for free download. Additional information on cufts2marc utilities and descriptions of the open access journals and other free collections available can be found at <http://lib-cufts.lib.sfu.ca/CUFTS/cufts2marc-list.cgi>.

Free Educational Materials through Connexions

Connexions is a community-driven approach to authoring, teaching and learning that aims to make information curricula, courses and modules available free of charge to anyone and under open content and open source licenses. Connexions is international in scope and is promoting worldwide, cross-institutional communities of authors, instructors and students that want to share electronic course material able to adapt to different learning styles and needs. Please read on this interesting initiative at <http://cnx.rice.edu/>.

The Charleston Advisor free reviews

The Charleston Advisor offers a wide range of free of charge reviews on web products for information professionals. To read the January 2005 issue please go to <http://charlestonco.com/>.

Scottish declaration in Open Access

Last October a group of Scottish universities, funding organisations and politicians signed a declaration endorsing the general principles of open access to scientific and research literature, thus encouraging a national commitment to free and fullest access to scholarly information. For additional information, please look at <http://eprints.rclis.org/archive/00002953>.

Norway's commitment to Open Access

Norway has made a nationwide commitment to Open Access. All universities, polytechnics research institutes and hospitals in the country became Biomed Central members last October. Norway's decision is another landmark in the move towards the open access for all biomedical research. Please read the press release at <http://www.library.yale.edu/~license/ListArchives/0410/msg00090.html>.

Southampton University goes Open Access

Southampton University has made all of its academic and scientific research output available for free on the web. In addition, the University will host free of charge workshops for other academic institutions thinking of making a similar transition. For additional background, please refer to http://www.theregister.co.uk/2005/01/10/southampton_academic_research.

UNESCO Call for Proposals Announcement

The UNESCO Information for All Programme (IFAP) has recently launched a call for proposals for funding national and international projects that fall within one of three areas: information literacy, preservation of information, and ethical, legal and societal implications of the information society. Project applicants must complete on-line project proposals forms at <http://www.unesco.org/cgi-bin/webworld/ifaprojects/cgi/page.cgi?d=1>, where detailed submission guidelines are available. Deadline is 20 February 2005.

Events in January-February 2005:

- . On January 7-9, eIFL Advisory Board meeting took place in London so as to examine the 2005-2007 strategic agenda
- . On January 14-18, Rima Kupryte attended the American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting in Boston
- . On January 19, Monika Segbert and Melissa Hagemann talked with SURF and members of the of the Dutch Library community about cooperative activities for and with the eIFL community
- . On February 1-6, Monika Segbert will attend the Knowledge Society Symposium in Egypt in connection with expansion to Middle East countries
- . On February 3-4, eIFL-IP Project Manager Teresa Hackett will attend the Access to Knowledge Meeting in Geneva, where a proposed WIPO Access to Knowledge Treaty will be discussed. A number of WIPO delegates and NGOs will be attending
- . On February 9-10, Rima Kupryte and Hannie Sander will meet up with eIFL, INASP, INSTI-CSIR and SIST stakeholders in Accra in order to discuss how these initiatives can be better coordinated on the ground for the benefits of the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Ghana (CARLIGH) and the rest of the local community.
- . On February 10, Biljana Kosanovic, eIFL Advisory Board member, will visit Macedonia to discuss next steps of moving consortia forward
- . On February 17-19, the workshop on Open Access Scholarly Communication which was announced to be

- held last December in Ukraine (please refer to the last Newsletter issue), will at last take place
- On February 21-22, the Open Access workshop in Lithuania will follow. Program will be available soon on our website under the EVENTS section
 - On February 19-27, Monika Segbert will go for a needs assessment visit to Iran
 - On February 28, Bulgaria Information Consortia will hold a seminar on Open Access Journals

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

The eIFL Team