eIFL Newsletter - May/June 2006

1. eIFL-related News

11th Advisory Board Meeting coming Soon

The next Advisory Board Meeting will bring together Board members, eIFL staff and some invited outsiders at eIFL office in Rome, Italy, on 30 June and 1 July. The meeting will discuss the work program for the rest of the year, the progress in the main eIFL activity areas as well as details on the eIFL new efforts in Open Source Software and eCommunity building. You will be duly updated on the results of the meeting on the eIFL website.

Early Preparations for the 2006 General Assembly

We have already started with the preliminary logistics of the next eIFL Annual Assembly to take place in Amman, Jordan, on 10-12 September. This major meeting will gather eIFL staff, eIFL country coordinators, invited speakers from like minded initiatives and publishers' representatives. The agenda will include general sessions, regional and topical roundtables, as well as hands-on training activities. You will soon receive an outline program.

2. Upcoming eIFL Events in May-June 2006:

Teresa Hackett and Jan Kovacik, eIFL-IP Slovakia are attending the next World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) in Geneva on 1-5 May. This crucial meeting will decide on recommendations to the WIPO

General Assemblies in September on a draft WIPO Treaty on the Protection of Broadcasting Organisations.

On May 5, David Prosser, Director of SPARC Europe, will speak on Open Access on behalf of eIFL.net, at the EBLIDA Council Meeting which will take place in Budapest, Hungary on 5-6 May. You can see the programme at **www.eblida.org**.

Monika Segbert will pay a country visit to Armenia on 24-28 May within the framework of a TEMPUS project to create a virtual learning centre in the university librariy, and to meet with local librarians and members of the national library consortium ELCA to discuss consortium building progress.

Irakli Garibashvili, eIFL Advisory Board member, will visit Kazahkstan on 25-26 May to discuss consortium activities in meetings with the country coordinator, Olga Kvochkina and other members of the local library consortium.

Teresa Hackett and other eIFL-IP representatives will take part in the regional eIFL-IP training workshop for former Soviet Union, Mongolia, South-East Asia, and the Middle East in Kyiv, Ukraine, on 26-27 May.

Teresa Hackett will attend the second of two meetings of the WIPO Provisional Committee on Proposals Related to a WIPO Development in Geneva on 26-30 June to complete discussions on a development agenda for WIPO, making recommendations to the WIPO General Assemblies in September.

The 11th eIFL Board meeting will take place at the eIFL offices in Rome, Italy, on 30 June and 1 July. eIFL staff, board members as well as some invited experts on Open Source Software and tools for eCommunity building will attend the meeting to discuss these new program areas.

And a sneak preview: Monika Segbert will present eIFL at the LIBER conference in Uppsala, Sweden, 4-9.July, giving a presentation on eIFL consortia' OA and IR activities in the EU New Member States.

3. Update on new Content

Licence with SAGE signed

On 31 March eIFL.net signed the agreement with SAGE Publishing. This licence allows access to the SAGE Premier Collection including 390 SAGE journal titles in the areas of Art and Humanities, Social and Behavioural Sciences and Scientific, Technical and Medical Fields. The Slovenian Consortium is already making good use of it as Karmen Stular Sotosek, eIFL country coordinator, has enthusiastically expressed: "I would like to THANK YOU, Rima, for your excellent work in SAGE matter!!! We have just received original agreements and invoices. The librarians are happy, the end users are happy". If you are interested in getting access, too, please get in touch with us.

Ongoing Negotiations with Other Publishers

In addition, eIFL.net is in advanced talks with Wiley InterScience and AMP Publishers. We will keep you informed on progress.

4. Update on eIFL-IP

Library Principles for Development available in eight+ Languages

The Library-Related Principles for the International Development Agenda for the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), first published in 2005, have by now been translated into eight languages: Albanian, Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Polish, Spanish.

A special thank you to eIFL colleagues Aleksandra Xhamo, Albania and Abdelaziz Gabir, Sudan who provided translations into Albanian and Arabic. Translations into Armenian, Bulgarian, Georgian and Russian are in the pipeline and will be available shortly.

Agreed by the international library community, they set out the principles upon which national copyright law and policy should be founded and provide a useful basis for discussion with policy makers and politicians as well as the library community.

Go to: **EIFL IP** and click on the links.

eIFL Response to EU Consultation on Database Rules

In March 2006, eIFL responded to the European Commission consultation on database rules, known as the 1996 database Directive. This new database right gave protection to the makers of databases containing compilations of facts, such as telephone directories, scientific data and other "non-original" material. It is unique to EU member states. According to the Commission evaluation report, there is no evidence that the European database industry has increased as a result of this new protection.

At the same time and in recent years, some libraries have begun to make use of the database right because it is a handy way of maintaining control over their databases, especially when entering into partnership arrangements with commercial entities. For example, it can enable a library to ensure that access to their database is safeguarded even when it becomes part of a proprietary database. However, a decision by the European Court of Justice in 2004 significantly curtailed the scope of the database right, which may result in libraries no longer being able to benefit from the database right as envisaged.

eIFL.net made five recommendations to the European Commission on amending the Database Directive. Read the response at **EIFL IP**.

eIFL-IP features in UNESCO Report

eIFL-IP is featured in the UNESCO Information for All Programme (IFAP) Report 2004/2005 "Living Information", a 130-page full colour publication (currently available in English, French version in progress). The Information for All Programme is the only intergovernmental programme exclusively dedicated to promoting universal access to information and knowledge for development.

"Living Information" brings together two important concepts – access to information and the use of information. Information that is "living" suggests that people have access to information and can use it, including information that previously might have been inaccessible in libraries, archives and museums. Living Information also refers to information that helps people enhance their "lives", for example through education and improved health. Project areas include information literacy, info-ethics, the preservation of information and measuring the information society.

eIFL has obtained a grant under the IFAP programme to raise awareness and provide training in copyright issues for librarians in former Soviet Union and neighbouring countries. As well as describing the work of eIFL and the philosophy underlying the eIFL-IP programme, the article has photographs from eIFL members Vilnius Pedagogical University Library, member of the Lithuanian Research Library Consortium, and a nice photo illustrating the contrast between old and new worlds for scientists, courtesy of the National Electronic Information Consortium (NEICON), Russia.

Read on UNESCO Information for All Programme at **unesco.org** and UNESCO IFAP Report 2004/2005 (pages 61-64 for eIFL-IP article) at **unesco.org**

Access to Knowledge, Yale Law School, 21-23 April 2006

eIFL was represented by Teresa Hackett and Dick Kawooya at the landmark conference on "Access to Knowledge" (A2K) hosted by Yale Law School. The conference was a landmark

because it saw the theme of A2K examined by senior and respected academics, who sought to come up with a new framework for analysing the distortive effects of public policies which rely exclusively on intellectual property rights and to support the development of alternative ways to foster greater access to knowledge in the digitally connected environment.

Panel discussions ranged from how academic discussion around A2K should be framed to licensing frameworks, wireless technologies, genetically modified food and digital rights management systems.

The opening remarks by Professor Jack Balkin, Director of the Information Society Project at Yale Law School set the tone for the conference. First, Access to Knowledge is a demand of justice. Second, Access to Knowledge is both an issue of economic development and an issue of individual participation and human liberty. Third, Access to Knowledge is about intellectual property, but it is also about far more than that.

Teresa Hackett addressed the panel on exceptions and limitations to copyright, reminding the audience how the original purpose of copyright was to encourage learning. Providing concrete examples of exceptions required by libraries, eIFL called for minimum set of international mandatory exceptions on a par with rightholder rights.

Dr. Michael Geist, Canada Research Chair of Internet and E-commerce Law at the University of Ottawa said: *"It is still early days in this movement, but witnessing the growth of the network and commitment to this issue is incredibly exciting".*

Access Yale Access To Knowledge Conference at **research.yale.edu** and Yale Access To Knowledge Wiki at **yale.edu Main Page**

Resources

Access to Knowledge (A2K) in Ukraine

The Access to Knowledge Project is a joint initiative of NGOs Privacy Ukraine and the International Renaissance Foundation. Topics cover a range of issues including public domain, Creative Commons and other public licences, access to Public Information, Ukrainian digital content development, copyright, open source software and open access publishing.

The text of the Creative Commons licence, first presented at the conference "Scientific Communication and Open Access" in Kiev in February 2005, has been adapted to Ukrainian copyright law following public consultation and discussion with leading legal experts in Ukraine. The concept of online public licenses is new for Ukrainian Copyright Law and amendments to the current legal framework are required. It is hoped that the widespread use of Creative Commons licenses in Ukraine will encourage parliamentarians to adopt open content-friendly laws and will bring public attention to access to knowledge (A2K) issues.

More information about the Access to Knowledge Project is available at **www.a2k.org.ua** in Ukrainian, Russian and English.

5. Open Access News and Useful Resources

Legislation introduced in US Senate for Open Access to Federally Funded Research

On May 2nd the Federal Research Public Access Act of 2006 was introduced by Senators Cornyn and Lieberman. The bill is a milestone, as it calls for public access to all federally funded research by any government agency with a research budget over $100 million, which includes the Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Defense, Department of Education, Department of Energy, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and

National Science Foundation. The bill would require that free, online access to each taxpayer-funded manuscript be available no later than six months after the article has been published in a peer-reviewed journal. For more information, please see **www.taxpayeraccess.org**.

EU Commission releases Study on the Economics of Scientific Publishing

This study is very important, as it recommends OA archiving for publicly-funded research. The Guardian newspaper has called the study "a blow to the lucrative scientific operations of the leading commercial publishers" as it calls for scientific research funded by European taxpayers to be made freely available online. In making these recommendations, the study echoes the suggestions made by the UK Science and Technology Committee in 2004. Interested parties are invited to comment on the study. For more information see **europa.eu.int**.

Open Access in Developing Countries at Berlin 4, 30 March 2006

The fourth **conference** organized by the Max Planck Institute to support the Berlin Declaration on Open Access was held in Golm, Germany on 29-31 March. While there seem to be a growing number of OA meetings these days, this was one of the first to include a session which specifically addressed Open Access in developing and transition countries. Melissa Hagemann presented an overview of the work which eIFL is doing in this area through the eIFL-OA program. The session also included presentations by our partners, Iryna Kuchma, Jennifer De Beer and Subbiah Arunachalam who described the work they are doing in Ukraine, South Africa, and India respectively.

For those of you who have not had the opportunity to see Robert Terry of the Wellcome Trust present the Trust's position on Open Access, it is recommended to review his **presentation**. It demonstrates again how key the research funders are to the OA movement. Another highlight of the meeting was a report on the **CERN publishing initiative** which aims to make all research published by CERN available through OA journals within five years.

The next "Berlin" Meeting, Berlin 5, will be held in Padua, Italy in 2007.

eIFL Presentation at International Special Librarians' Day, Washington, DC, 6 April 2006

Leslie Chan (Bioline International) and Melissa Hagemann participated in International Special Librarians' Day in Washington, DC. Every year the organizers select an emerging area to present and this year they highlighted Open Access in developing countries. What was interesting about this group is that the members of the Special Librarian's Association work within International and US funding agencies, thus they were particularly interested to learn about the need to promote OA to publicly funded research. The main organizer of the event works at the World Bank and wanted to introduce her colleagues to Open Access, so she organized a separate event for Bank staff where Rick Johnson of SPARC and Melissa Hagemann discussed OA. Bank staff from the tertiary education, science and technology, and library departments attended. Please access the presentations and other material related to the event at **www.sla.org**

Copyright Toolbox

SURF and JISC have developed a new tool to assist authors and publishers to achieve a balance between granting maximum access to a journal article and financial compensation for the publisher. The Toolbox was just launched, so small changes re the final wording of the licences may occur over the next few days. For more information, please see **www.surf.nl**

Discussion List on OA Preservation/Archiving Tool: LOCKSS

A new list has been established for managers of open access archives who would like to discuss issues relating to OA archiving in the dual sense of providing access and preservation. The list was established to explore using **LOCKSS** software as a preservation mechanism for OA archives. The nature of LOCKSS requires collaborative groups, as preservation involves a set of LOCKSS boxes (usually about 6) which constantly communicate with each other. Thus, the list can serve as a means for OA archivers to meet other potential LOCKSS-group participants. To subscribe to the list, please send your e-mail address to: **heatherm@eln.bc.ca** with a reference to the LOCKSS list.

The Wellcome Trust honoured with First SPARC Europe Award

On the occasion of the Third Nordic Conference on Scholarly Communication: Beyond Declarations - The Changing Landscape of Scholarly Communication held in Lund, Sweden, on 25-26 April, the Wellcome Trust has been recognised for its sopport for the advancement of access to scholarly communication through Open Access. Following the warm welcome of this award, SPARC Europe has decided to make this an annual event and it is expected that the second Award will be presented at the CERN Workshop on Innovations in Scholarly Communications (OAI5) to be held in Geneva in 2007. SPARC Europe is an alliance of 110 research-led university libraries from 14 European countries which works to develop and promote new models of scholarly communication that increase the access to and utility of the research literature. Please see its website at **www.sparceurope.org**.

6. Other Information for Interest

Digitization Study from a Users Perspective Available

A "built it and they will come" approach to many Universities digitization initiatives has precluded systematic investigations of the demand for these resources. Those who fund and develop digital resources have identified the general lack of knowledge about the level and quality of their use in educational settings as pressing concerns. If you are interested in reading about the innovative Use and Users of Digital Resources: *A Focus on Undergraduate Education in the Humanities and Social Sciences: Final Report*, by Diane Harley et al, University of California, Berkeley, please click at **cshe.berkeley.edu**.

Microsoft Live Academic Search announced

Microsoft officially unveiled its beta version of Live Academic Search Initiative in seven countries on April 11. The new search tool will rival with Google Scholar in providing search results of research and academic articles on the web. The program is a joint initiative of Windows Live Search, industry association CrossRef and many leading publishers. This new search engine for scholarly material will present a handsome and user-friendly interface and the ability to group and sort the articles by author, journal, conference and date amongst its top innovations. Read on details at **www.microsoft.com**.

The eIFL Team