

Letter from the President



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Dear Colleagues,

Over the past couple of years, EAHIL has become a signatory to, or member of, various initiatives to promote access to information. I'd like to use this letter to summarise the initiatives so that EAHIL members see some of the "behind the scenes" activities of the Association, and also I hope that by outlining the initiatives you could also help promote them among your own colleagues and local networks, to raise awareness and support.

IFLA (www.ifla.org)

EAHIL has long been a member of the International Federation of Library Associations. EAHIL members have also been active within subgroups of IFLA, such as the Health and Biosciences Libraries Section. IFLA's "core values" are fundamental to the ethos of our profession: that access to information and expression of ideas are human rights; that this access is of social, cultural and individual benefit; that libraries are fundamental to the provision of access to information; and that access should be equal for all people (see more about IFLA www.ifla.org/about/more). By being a member of IFLA we also add our voices to particular campaigns, such as work to improve copyright regulations (see <http://blogs.ifla.org/scct/2014/04/15/why-wipo/>), and we benefit by good access to professional information and a global network of colleagues.

Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development (www.lyondeclaration.org)

In 2014, EAHIL became a signatory to the Lyon Declaration. This is one of IFLA's initiatives, and illustrates some of the work to establish principles as well as campaigning to influence international policy and development. This is a campaign to have the United Nations (UN) add to the next set of development targets a "development agenda to ensure that everyone has access to, and is able to understand, use and share the information that is necessary to promote sustainable development and democratic societies" (see www.lyondeclaration.org). IFLA attended the UN in February 2015 to negotiate the inclusion of a strong commitment to access to information, we should see some progress updates this summer. In addition, a toolkit is available in many languages for libraries and institutions to use for local advocacy: www.ifla.org/publications/toolkit--libraries-and-the-un-post-2015-development-agenda.

Open access

For many years, EAHIL has supported the principle of open access to information, and in line with that principle, *JEAHIL* has been published open access online. In 2014 the EAHIL General Assembly endorsed a policy of a default CC-BY licence for papers in *JEAHIL*. In addition, the policy formally articulated support for the Budapest and Berlin declarations, so EAHIL formally became a signatory of both declarations. The Budapest Declaration was first published in 2002, and in 2012 a revised set of

recommendations were published (www.budapestopenaccessinitiative.org/boai-10-recommendations) providing a set of actions to support the goal of open access publication becoming the default by 2022. The Berlin Declaration was first published in 2003 and most recently followed by a 2013 mission statement (http://openaccess.mpg.de/mission-statement_en) reflecting ongoing challenges and urging research-oriented institutions to take responsibility to enact open access.

The Civil Society Platform on Multilingualism

EAHIL has joined the Multilingual group of the Civil Society Platform, which is an advisory Board of the European Commission. The Platform supports multicultural and multi language projects, which is highly relevant to the work of our colleagues who are translating MeSH to improve discovery of health literature by both health professionals and laypeople in their native languages. To learn more, see http://ec.europa.eu/languages/information/language-related-tools/civil-society-platform-multilingualism_en.htm

EBLIDA (www.eblida.org)

In 2015, EAHIL joined the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations. EBLIDA is an advocacy group, working on the interests of libraries, librarians, and public access to information. The motivation for deciding to join was the positive experience of three EAHIL Board members at an EBLIDA seminar on copyright issues. EBLIDA has also been doing advocacy work to improve availability of ebooks via libraries.

So, what can you do to further support these initiatives? You can get your institution and national library association to join, you can disseminate information about their work, you can attend their events, and support their principles and aims by embedding them in your institutional practices.

Are there other significant initiatives or associations that EAHIL should join? I'd love to hear your suggestions.

Kindest wishes,

Marshall



We are delighted to announce the winners of the jointly funded
EAHIL and EBSCO scholarships for 2015:

Vesna Cafuta, Slovenia
Alberto Perlini, Italy
Valeria Scotti, Italy
Josip Šimić, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Dina Vrkic, Croatia

The scholarships are being used to attend the EAHIL+ICAHIS+ICLC Workshop on 10-12 June 2015, in Edinburgh. We are very grateful to EBSCO for their collaboration and generous support of EAHIL and its members!