

**33rd CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL LIBRARIES
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REPORT TO CDNL 2006

Annual meeting 2005 in Luxembourg

In 2005, the 19th CENL Annual Meeting was held in Luxembourg. During the meeting, a large part of the discussion centred on "Digitisation of European cultural heritage, where are we and where are we going". A panel discussion was organised on this topic and the "CENL Luxembourg Resolution on Digitisation of European Cultural Heritage" was adopted by the annual meeting. This resolution was supplemented by Recommendations for Action. Both documents were approved by the CENL Board in December 2005.

The annual topic of the meeting was digital archiving. Two papers were invited: the first one on the Mellon Foundation funded project Portico by Eileen Fenton, and the second one on web archiving of the International Internet Preservation Consortium by Catherine Lupovici from the Bibliothèque nationale de France. Azerbaijan and Moldova were formally accepted as new members of CENL.

The Chair and the Executive Committee

The Chair and the Executive Committee had to be elected because in December 2004 the former Chair Jean-Frédéric Jauslin from the Swiss National Library received another appointment and stepped down as CENL Chair. In accordance with the proposals adopted in September 2004, a call for nominations for all members of the Executive Committee was sent out. The following CENL members stood for election: Elisabeth Niggemann, Die Deutsche Bibliothek (Germany) as Chair, Vigdis Moe Skarstein, Nasjonalbiblioteket (Norway) as Vice-Chair, Andris Vilks, Nacionālā Bibliotēka (Latvia) as Treasurer, and István Monok, Országos Széchényi Könyvtár (Hungary) as Executive Committee Member. The Executive Committee was approved by Board members via e-mail and the choice was formally ratified at the CENL annual meeting 2005 in Luxembourg.

Due to the change of the CENL Chair, the CENL Secretariat (from October 2005) and the CENL accounts (from January 2006) were moved to the seat of the Chair, Die Deutsche Bibliothek.

The new Executive Committee began its work by starting to take up the recommendations of the CENL review which were adopted by the CENL Board. The Committee elaborated a vision and a mission statement for CENL as well as a strategic plan for 2005 - 2008 which were circulated to the Board and approved by e-mail. These papers can be found on the CENL website: www.cenl.org.

The European Commission

At the CENL Annual meeting 2005 in Luxembourg Viviane Reding, the Commissioner for Information Society and Media, presented the initiative i2010 one of whose flagship actions is the digital library. Shortly after the meeting she published a Communication on digital libraries, accompanied by an Online Consultation exercise. CENL participated in this Consultation and submitted a statement as did individual CENL members.

The Commissioner emphasized the close relationship between CENL and the European Commission and expressed the hope that this would continue and increase.

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In November 2005 CENL in cooperation with Eremo srl submitted a proposal for the project "European Digital Library (EDL)" under the eContentPlus programme of the European Commission (see details below).

On 27 February 2006 the European Commission decided to set up a High Level Expert Group on digital libraries to advise the Commission on how to best address the organisational, legal and technical challenges of the digital libraries initiative at European level and to contribute to a shared strategic vision for European digital libraries. The CENL members Elisabeth Niggemann (German National Library), Lynne Brindley (The British Library) and Adolf Knoll (Czech National Library) are invited members of this group. On 27 March 2006 the group met for the first time in Brussels.

As Horst Forster, director of "Interfaces, knowledge and content technologies - Applications - Informations Market" in the Directorate General for Information Society and Media, stated at a workshop in St Juan les Pins in December 2005, The European Library is seen by the European Commission as an embryo of a European digital library.

The European Library

The European Library (www.theeuropeanlibrary.org) was officially launched in March 2005 and saw two new releases in November 2005 and May 2006. The website and the services improve continuously, among other factors thanks to two user surveys which were carried out in May/June 2005 and March 2006 by IRN Research. The European Library gained nine new full members: Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Slovak Republic and Serbia. By the end of 2006 22 of the 45 CENL member libraries will be full partners in The European Library.

The Chair of The European Library Management Board changed in October 2005: Elisabeth Niggemann (German National Library) stepped down when taking over the CENL Chair, and Fernanda Campos from the Biblioteca Nacional, Portugal, was appointed as new Chair.

The European Library carried out several workshops with related projects, namely DELOS (www.delos.info), MICHAEL (www.michael-culture.org) and BRICKS (www.brickscommunity.org), and agreed on closer cooperation on several topics, e. g. technical architecture, multilingual services and metadata.

TEL-ME-MOR project

The follow-up to the TEL project TEL-ME-MOR (www.telmemor.net) with the goal of increasing New Member State (NMS) participation in European-funded projects and extending The European Library service to the NMS started on 1st February 2005. The project underwent its first formal review in October 2005 and received a very positive evaluation.

The national libraries of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Slovak Republic became new full members of The European Library in the framework of the TEL-ME-MOR project, the remaining four NMS will join in January 2007.

In April and May 2006 three regional expert workshops were carried out in Poland, Hungary and Slovenia to discuss the research requirements in the NMS and to formulate recommendations as to how the EU Research and Development agenda can be used to help improve access to cultural and scientific resources.

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On 19 - 20 October 2006 TEL-ME-MOR will carry out a Policy Conference in the National Library of Estonia, Tallinn. The conference will focus on the digital future of cultural and scientific heritage, providing a forum for discussion of the latest digital library developments in Europe and the world. Conference website: <http://telmemor.net/conference/>.

European Digital Library (EDL)

As a result of the encouragement from the European Commission to continue and increase the close relationship between the Commission and CENL and the common goal of creating a European Digital Library based upon The European Library, CENL in cooperation with Eremo srl submitted a proposal for the project "European Digital Library (EDL)" under the eContentPlus programme of the European Commission. The negotiations are underway and very positive and the project is likely to start on 1st September 2006.

The aim of the project is very similar to TEL-ME-MOR and within 18 months will bring into The European Library the digitised content of the national libraries of the remaining EU- and EFTA states, namely Belgium, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Norway, Spain and Sweden. Other workpackages will continue the TEL-ME-MOR work on multilingual issues and the new topic of creating a European strategy for digital content.

New CENL working group: Content

The European Library provides access to some of the digitised and born digital material of the national libraries that are full members. However, the sum of this digital content is still very slight as a percentage of the total holdings of the national libraries of Europe. To this end CENL is looking for a high level content working group aiming at forming a strategy for development in this area. The working group is lead by the CENL representative of the National Library of Austria, Hans Petschar, and had its first meeting on 1st February 2006. The working group carried out a survey on what the TEL full member libraries have digitised or born digital that could be additional collections provided via The European Library. The next step is to collect digitisation strategies and policies from the CENL members for analysis.

CENL website and corporate identity

The CENL website www.cenl.org was developed and is hosted by the Eesti Rahvusraamatukogu, the National Library of Estonia, and is being updated once a month. News, strategic papers, an address list of members and information on the activities of the working groups and projects can be found there.

A new logo and corporate identity, suitable for the website as well as for CENL papers will be created.

Donation

Thanks to the former chair of CENL and former director of the Swiss National Library, Jean-Frédéric Jauslin, the Swiss Development Agency granted a donation to CENL of 120,000 Euro. With this donation the Agency will fund the national libraries of the EU new member state partners 10,000 Euro each in 2006 - 2007 for taking part in The European Library, and takes over the CENL annual membership fees in 2006 - 2010 for the national libraries of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova.

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New members

The national libraries of Armenia and Georgia applied for CENL membership from 2006 which is expected to be approved at the CENL annual meeting in St. Petersburg in September 2006.

CENL seeks to gain the national libraries of all Council of Europe member states as CENL members and invited the remaining two libraries to join CENL: The national libraries of Andorra and Monaco.

Council of Europe

From 3 January 2006 CENL is added to the list of International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGO) enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe (www.coe.int/DefaultEN.asp). By this CENL is recognised as an official body to be consulted in the case of topics of interest to national libraries.

Britta Woldering, CENL Secretary, June 2006