ANNUAL REPORT FOUNDATION CENL

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GERARD VAN TRIER, SECRETARY, JUNE 10TH 2003

NEW CHAIR AND NEW MEMBER

At the annual meeting in Budapest, 26-27 September 2002, Jean-Frédéric Jauslin, Switzerland, was elected Chair of CENL. He succeeded Wim van Drimmelen, who chaired CENL since 1997. Elisabeth Niggemann (Germany) was elected Vice-Chair and Vilenka Jakac-Bizjak (Slovenia) Treasurer. The National & University Library of Bosnia & Herzegovina (Sarajevo) was admitted as the 42nd member of CENL.

CoBRA FORUM

CENL has a standing committee for projects: CoBRA Forum (Chair: Lynne Brindley, United Kingdom). Since the last CDNL meeting in 2002 the full CoBRA Forum has met twice (in Frankfurt and the Hague) and at the time of writing a third meeting has been planned to take place in June in London.

THE EUROPEAN LIBRARY

The project, which started in February 2001, is supported by the European Commission as an accompanying measure (http://www.europeanlibrary.org/). The main results are expected to be the developing and testing of open standards, working methods and practices that can readily be adopted by all national libraries to work as a seamless partnership offering access to Europe's cultural heritage. The business plan for TEL will present the initial scope and future development of an operational service after completion of the project phase of TEL in January 2004.

WEBSITE GABRIEL

Gabriel is the CENL network service on the world wide web (www.kb.nl/gabriel). The Gabriel Board (Chair: Elisabeth Niggemann, Germany) decides on the main policy lines. The Koninklijke Bibliotheek, national library of the Netherlands, takes care of the maintenance and editing of the service. Gabriel, which has a new interface since 2002, is envisioned to play an important role in The European Library service. In collaboration with TEL an online questionnaire has been produced in order to obtain a better understanding of what users expect from the website and to learn about their online behaviour.

JOINT CENL/FEP COMMITTEE

The joint committee of CENL and FEP (Federation of European Publishers) functions as an advisory body for Work Package 1 of the TEL project (on publisher relations). In October 2002 a report was issued with the results of a survey on digital depositing among European Publishers. The discussions with the aim of updating the statement on the development and establishment of codes of practice for the voluntary deposit of electronic publications (http://www.kb.nl/gabriel/fep/) had a slow start.

WEB ARCHIVING

A special meeting of CoBRA members and representatives of the Library of Congress and representatives of the Internet Archive (IA) took place in Paris in January 2003 to discuss a proposal on Web archiving from the IA. Follow-up meetings also involving the National Library of Canada and representatives of Nordic national libraries have taken place. Representatives of this group will form an informal consortium to work with the IA initially in the specification and development of open source Web crawler software.

DOI FOUNDATION

Three CoBRA Forum members (the British Library, the Koninklijke Bibliotheek and Die Deutsche Bibliothek) have agreed to join the International DOI Foundation (IDF) as an informal consortium initially for one year. After this time the benefits of IDF membership will be assessed in relation to the possibility of full CENL membership. The consortium representative in the IDF will bring matters of interest to the attention of the library community and the representative will inform the IDF of relevant library work.

MULTILINGUAL ACCESS TO SUBJECT CATALOGUES

MACS enables users to simultaneously search the catalogues of the project's partner libraries in the language of their choice (English, French, German). The partners, which have self-financed the project, are: the Swiss National Library (SNL), project leader, the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF), The British Library (BL) and Die Deutsche Bibliothek (DDB). A prototype system is currently running (http://infolab.kub.nl/prj/macs). For the operational system additional ways of funding the project have to be found.

NETWORKING STANDARDS

Under the umbrella of the CENL Working Group on Networking Standards (Chair: Kai Ekholm, Finland) the Helsinki University Library and Die Deutsche Bibliothek decided jointly to establish a URN Information Centre with the aim of providing information on the implementation of URN to national libraries. A website hosted at DDB is under construction and a survey of the current state of the art of implementation of URN in CENL libraries will be carried out.

PATCH - PERMANENT ACCESS TOOLBOX FOR DIGITAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Koninklijke Bibliotheek, Netherlands, has submitted a proposal, involving several CoBRA Forum members, for an Integrated Project called PATCH in response to the first call from the European Commission for the current EU Sixth Framework Programme.