

CENL in 2008 – 2009

Foundation CENL

In 2008 CENL had 48 members from 46 European countries. Information on the Foundation CENL, its activities, working groups and projects can be found on the CENL website: www.cenl.org.

The National Library of Montenegro was welcomed as new member in 2008.

CENL elected a new Executive Committee for a 3-year term of office. Elisabeth Niggemann (German National Library) was re-elected as chair, Vigdis Moe Skarstein (National Library of Norway) was re-elected as vice-chair, Andris Vilks (National Library of Latvia) was re-elected as treasurer and Bruno Racine (National Library of France) was elected as new executive committee member.

Annual Meeting

The CENL annual meeting 2008 took place from 25 – 26 September at the National and University Library in Zagreb, Croatia. The main topics were the future CENL strategy regarding The European Library and Europeana, the creation of the Europeana, and traditional and digital preservation.

As special topic EU Commissioner McCreevy's proposals to extend the term of copyright protection in sound recordings and the European Commission's Green Paper on Copyright in the Knowledge Economy were discussed. A CENL task force elaborated statements to both papers which were submitted to the European Commission on behalf of CENL.

At the annual meeting the CENL working groups gave an update on their activities. In 2008 the *CENL/FEP Working Group on Electronic Publications* started to update the data on the situation of legal deposit in European countries as the laws are under revision in many countries. The working group gave advice on deposit practices where needed and was functioning as a discussion platform on matters of common interest. It closely followed the activities of the [EU High Level Group on Digital Libraries](#) and reviewed in detail its [Memorandum of Understanding on Orphan Works](#), preservation and [Public Private Partnerships](#). It plans to further discuss how to assist the deployment of the principles formulated by the High Level Group. Further the Working Group started to exchange about practices and legal implications of web harvesting and decided to study further how its statement on deposit schemes for electronic publications could fit with this process and to make an addition to its statement accordingly.

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The *Working Group on Persistent Identifiers* for national libraries was dissolved after a transition period to hand over the implementation of its recommendation for a “National Libraries Resolver Discovery Service” to The European Library Office. The National Libraries Resolver Discovery Service will be implemented gradually within the framework of The European Library. The Technical Working Group of The European Library established a sub-group for that task. The issue is part of work package 5 of the project [Europeana Connect](#).

The *Working Group on Performance Evaluation* is in close contact with the Sub Committee 8 of the Technical Committee 46 of the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO TC 46, SC 8) Information and documentation – quality, statistics and performance evaluation and continued to act as an advisory body for the ISO work.

In the framework of EDLproject the *Content Working Group* carried out a comprehensive [survey on digitisation activities and strategies of the European national libraries](#). The Content Working Group is elaborating a proposal on how to collect updates on digitisation activities and strategies from European national libraries on a regular basis.

The European Library

The European Library (www.theeuropeanlibrary.org), the web service of CENL, is a free service that offers access to the resources of the 48 national libraries of Europe in 27 languages. The resources can be digital or bibliographical (books, posters, maps, sound recordings, photos, videos, etc). The European Library welcomed 13 new full members who joined within the FUMAGABA and TELplus projects as well as on their own initiative, so that at the beginning of 2009 46 of the 48 CENL libraries were full members.

The European Library saw a major release in July 2008, version 2.0. It attracted extremely positive feedback for its enhancements to the speed and usability of the portal. The new version also allows bookmarking of all pages, the site is web crawler-friendly now and ready for web 2.0 technologies. A new hosting partner for The European Library was selected and the site was transferred to the University of London Computer Centre (ULCC).

In February 2009 version 2.1 was released. The website now combines multilingual search functionalities with several online exhibitions and web 2.0 tools. The new portal incorporates many of the recommended enhancements from user feedback studies. Top of the list was more multilingual facilities. As a result, users can now navigate and scan over 330 collections in their native language. Support materials, including FAQs and a [first-time user guide](#), are available in 22 European languages. Users can also enjoy the portal’s rich media offerings. The portal specialises in online exhibitions that showcase the collections of Europe’s national libraries. A new, exciting exhibition on the Napoleonic Wars was launched to coincide with the two-hundredth anniversary of the campaigns. More than 200 rarities were collected from the national libraries of Spain, Portugal, France, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Denmark, the Netherlands and Serbia.

The number of [The European Library Newsletter](#) subscriptions rose again, to nearly 4.000 subscribers in June 2009.

Users can search and retrieve within more than 380 collections comprising about 150 million bibliographic records.

Governance

Having 46 of 48 CENL members as full members in The European Library the CENL Board decided to revise the governance of The European Library. A new governance structure was agreed, merging the CENL Board and The European Library Management Board, dissolving The European Library Management Board Executive Group and establishing The European Library Management Committee as new body comprising 9 persons who will be responsible for the executive management of The European Library. Elections for this new Committee were held in early summer 2009 and the Committee will be approved by the CENL Board at its annual meeting in September 2009.

Members of the The European Library Technical Working Group continue to play an active role in the ISO Working Group for the development of the International Standard Collection Identifier.

European digital library initiative: Creation of the Europeana

The [i2010 Digital Libraries Initiative](#) is a flagship project of the European Commission's overall strategy to boost the digital economy, the i2010 strategy. The initiative aims at making Europe's diverse cultural and scientific heritage (books, films, maps, photographs, music, etc) easier and more interesting to use online for work, leisure and/or study. It builds on Europe's rich heritage combining multicultural and multilingual environments with technological advances and new business models. One of the key aims is to build a common European Digital Library, the [Europeana](#), which would serve as a multilingual internet access point to cultural collections from all over Europe.

One of the foundations for the Europeana has been provided by CENL by its web service The European Library, as the EU Ministers responsible for culture clearly state in their [Council conclusions](#) of 13 November 2006. CENL shares the vision for Europeana and has been working towards this goal by creating The European Library. CENL contributes to the vision with the projects EuropeanaNet and TELplus as well as by actively engaging the legal body for Europeana, the EDL Foundation.

EDL Foundation (<http://version1.europeana.eu/web/guest/edl-foundation>)

CENL has been encouraged by the European Commission to work towards the establishment of a legal body able to represent the four domains of archives, audio-visual archives, libraries and museums. As well as facilitating formal agreement across the four domains on how to cooperate in the delivery and sustainability of Europeana, a legal body also has the advantage of being able to apply for funds to ensure an equal distribution of benefits to all cultural sectors and EU countries. In November 2007 the European Digital Library Foundation was created and the CENL chair Elisabeth Niggemann was elected as chair of the EDL Foundation Board. The EDL Foundation recommended a business model for Europeana, agreed on a governance structure and was successful in raising matching funds for the second project phase of the Europeana (Europeana v1.0) as well as for the [projects the EDL Foundation is participating in](#): Europeana Connect, European Film Gateway, Europeana Local, Athena, PrestoPrime, EU Screen, APENet, Biodiversity Heritage Library and Europeana Travel.

EuropeanaNet: European digital library network (EDLnet, www.europeana.eu)

EuropeanaNet – the European digital library, museum and archive – was a project running from July 2007 to March 2009 and led by the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, the National Library of the Netherlands, on behalf of CENL. EuropeanaNet was a Thematic Network funded by the European Commission under the eContentplus programme, as part of the i2010 policy. Originally known as the European digital library network – EDLnet – it was a partnership of more than 100 representatives of cultural heritage and knowledge organisations and IT experts from throughout Europe. They contributed to the work packages that were solving the technical and usability issues and developing the specifications for the prototype.

In November 2008 European Commission President José Manuel Barroso and Commissioner Viviane Reding joined Europe's arts, culture and education ministers to launch the Europeana prototype portal. On the day of the launch, the site received ten million hits per hour. The prototype gives access to more than 4 million digital items.

The project was successfully completed in March 2009. The project results are – besides the launch of the prototype –, the creation of the EDL Foundation as responsible body for the Europeana which approved a governance structure and recommended a business model for Europeana. Fields where further research and development for a sustainable Europeana service is needed were defined and a proposal for a successor network was successfully submitted.

Europeana v1.0 (www.europeana.eu)

Europeana v1.0 is the successor network to the EuropeanaNet thematic network which created the EDL Foundation and the Europeana prototype. Following the launch of the user designed and driven prototype of Europeana the EDL Foundation as project coordinator wishes to use Europeana v1.0 to develop an operational service and solve key operational issues related to the implementation and functioning of Europeana. Stakeholders, including the general public when an operational service is offered, will be involved and informed how they can contribute and access content.

The work of Europeana v1.0 will include the development and implementation of all the necessary processes to create and run such an operation and a full scale business development operation to ensure a steady stream of content is made available. Additionally dissemination efforts to end users will be executed to ensure take up and continuous involvement of end users in order to achieve sustainability of such a service. Among the tools to enlarge user involvement will be the development of generic (web) services that allow others to re-use and repurpose the data. Key infrastructure components and value-added services will be implemented by the project [Europeana Connect](#).

The intention is to develop Europeana into an operational service through this thematic network which has as main objectives:

- putting into practice the decisions on how to attract and maintain content into the service
- building the back end systems needed to manage the delivery and access of this content
- managing the channels enabling other environments to use the content made interoperable by Europeana, via web services or API's

- deploy the most usable levels of multilingual search and retrieval
- disseminate the service to end users and provide tools to involve them actively.

The Foundation CENL and several CENL members are project partners. Europeana v1.0 started in February 2009 and will run for 30 months.

CENL Projects

[in alphabetical order]

ARROW: Accessible Registries of Rights Information and Orphan Works towards Europeana (www.arrow-net.eu)

CENL supports the ARROW project which aims to create a single framework for European rights information management and which was kicked-off in September 2008. The ARROW consortium is made up of 16 partners, a broad range of European national libraries, publishers and collective management organisations, also representing writers from 10 European countries – Italy, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, the Netherlands and United Kingdom. ARROW aims in particular to support the EC's i2010 Digital Libraries initiative by finding ways to clarify the rights status of orphan and out of print works, so that they can be cleared for digitisation and inclusion in Europeana. ARROW sets out to realise and test the solutions developed by the European Commission's [High Level Expert Group](#). The project also seeks to enhance the interoperability of rights information (i.e. exchange of information) between rightholders, agents, libraries and users. Solutions envisaged by the venture include the establishment of systems for the exchange of rights data, the creation of a registry of orphan works and a network of rights clearance centres. Key to achieving this objective is interoperability, standards deployment and stakeholder involvement. The project will last for 2.5 years.

CACAO: cross-language access to catalogues and online libraries (<http://www.cacaoproject.eu>)

The European Library is active in the CACAO project, seeking to demonstrate that cross-lingual searches can be offered with the CACAO technology. A user will be able to type a query in one of the CACAO languages (English, French, German, Hungarian, Italian and Polish) and retrieve results in any of these languages via The European Library interface. The project started in December 2007 and will last until November 2009.

FUMAGABA, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/portal/organisation/cooperation/fumagaba)

Thanks to the director of the Swiss National Library Marie-Christine Doffey and the former CENL secretary Geneviève Clavel, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation granted a second donation to CENL in 2008 – 2010. With this donation the Agency funds the integration of the national libraries of the following countries as full members into The European Library: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia Herzegovina, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Ukraine.

TELplus (www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/portal/organisation/cooperation/telplus)
TELplus is a major programme spanning both technical and service development of The European Library and is 50% co-funded by the European Commission (eContentPlus). The key goals of TELplus are to make more content digitised and accessible, to promote OAI-PMH compliance, to improve the functionality of the site for the end user and to ensure that access to full text is extended significantly. 6.6 million previously-digitised images have been OCRred over the first year of the project. They include documents in more than 30 languages. The metadata of the OCRred pages as well as the collection from 14 national libraries are being collected via OAI-PMH and made searchable through The European Library. This process is supported by an OAI-PMH harvester and server developed within the project. The project started in October 2007 and will run for 30 months. It is jointly coordinated by the National Library of Estonia and Eremo srl.