

CENL Strategic Plan 2009 – 2011

1) Core activities

- CENL actively supports building a strong Europeana
- CENL maintains and develops a strong, professional and successful The European Library

1.1 CENL actively supports the building of a strong Europeana

- CENL has a leadership position in the development of Europeana
- CENL is a strong partner in the EDL Foundation
- CENL is a strong partner for the European Commission in the development of Europeana
- CENL brings a wider scope of Europe into Europeana

Actions

- CENL actively supports the next round of engagement through projects funded by the eContentplus 2008 call and similar calls
- CENL continues to seek opportunities for its members to participate in and benefit from projects, activities and positive publicity associated with the development of Europeana
- CENL provides a strong, professional and successful The European Library as a major aggregator of digital library material from 46 European countries for Europeana

1.2 For at least the next 3-5 years CENL maintains and develops a strong, professional and successful The European Library

Bearing in mind the stagnating budget, the activities will be focussed on the critical success factors

- CENL develops and consolidates The European Library further while continuing to innovate at a moderate pace, moving at a speed that can be afforded, offering a fully functional, operational and fast search with appropriate technology to attract more users by

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- engaging in projects to develop services
- implementing results and/or services of Europeana in The European Library
- keeping the focus of the service on the user, improving the user value
- developing the content, direct or indirect
- using appropriate technology
- CENL provides a strong, professional and successful The European Library as a major aggregator for Europeana (see also above)

Action

The European Library to set up annual plans with success criteria and performance measures to manage expectations

1.3 The European Library is open when it comes to content from third parties and closed when it comes to governance

Actions

- CENL sets up criteria for data and/or partner selection
- CENL sets up a business model for participation (agreements, fees)

1.4 The governance of The European Library needs to be changed in 2008/09 within the CENL structure

- CENL merged the CENL Board of Directors and The European Library Management Board as they were by the end of 2008
- CENL will implement a new governance structure for The European Library by the end of 2009

Action

The CENL EC and The European Library Executive Group to draft a new governance structure and meeting scheme for The European Library that can be approved at The European Library Management Board meeting in spring 2009 and finally at the CENL annual meeting in September 2009.

1.5 Evaluation of The European Library and of Europeana

- CENL will evaluate on a yearly basis the strength of The European Library and of Europeana, starting by the end of 2009, with the following issues in mind:
 - Should The European Library continue to be a separate service from Europeana with a different purpose, different content, different user communities and comprising a wider Europe?
 - Should The European Library become a dark portal, a mere national library aggregator for Europeana?
 - Is The European Library in the end the better Europeana and should therefore take its place?

Action

CENL to implement a clear annual evaluation procedure

2) Focus: Digital Libraries

In the past years CENL successfully engaged in various activities related to the set-up and maintenance of digital libraries and aims to continue this commitment.

The CENL Chair and two additional CENL members are members of the **High Level Expert Group** on Digital Libraries, commissioned by the European Commission to discuss and find recommendations for issues such as copyright, public-private partnership for digitisation, and scientific information. The group endorsed a series of reports with recommendations on copyright issues and public-private partnership.

CENL commissioned several **working groups** to work on topics related to digital libraries:

- The CENL / FEP Working Group on Electronic Publications continued to work on the development and establishment of voluntary deposit schemes for electronic publications. It will discuss practices and legal implications of web harvesting and will further study how its statement on deposit schemes for electronic publications could be extended to cover web harvesting. It offers advice on deposit practices and functions as a platform for discussions and as an exchange of information on matters of common interest. It intends to update its survey of the situation of legal deposit in different countries in order to be able to better showcase best practices.
- The Working Group on Persistent Identifiers for National Libraries coordinated the CENL membership in the International Digital Object Identifier Foundation for several years and elaborated recommendations for the establishment of a European National Libraries Resolver Discovery Service. This service will be set up in the framework of the EU-funded project Europeana Connect and will eventually be provided by Europeana. Its role will be to provide instructions, information and the available tools for implementing and operating the national resolution services and maintain a registry of resolution services participating in the discovery service.
- The Content Working Group monitored a survey the Austrian National Library carried out in the framework of EDLproject regarding digitisation strategies and activities of national libraries in Europe. The CENL Board appreciated the survey, and will collect these data on a regular basis as they are extremely useful for further strategy planning of digitisation activities for the national libraries as well as for CENL as a community.
- At the annual meeting in Zagreb 2008 CENL commissioned a Copyright Task Force to respond to two recent initiatives of the European Commission: 1) to the initiative of EU internal market Commissioner Charlie McCreevy to propose a directive extending the European copyright term of copyright for sound recordings from 50 to 95 years, 2) to the Green Paper: Copyright in the Knowledge Economy. The Task Force worked on the statements on behalf of CENL which were sent to the European Commission and which provided model letters to the CENL members for their individual responses.

At the CENL annual meetings the Board members are informed about **ongoing activities and projects** in European national libraries concerning digitisation, long-term preservation and accessibility of digital objects, web archiving etc. Members are presenting their activities and projects as well as external speakers who are invited to the meetings, e.g. the World Digital Library, Portico, and the International Internet Preservation Consortium.

Actions

CENL will continue to actively engage in various activities related to the set-up and maintenance of digital libraries, e.g. digitisation, born digital material, digital preservation, accessibility of digital objects, copyright issues and public-private partnership.

CENL will promote collaboration between national libraries and publishers and new models of collaboration with the private sector.

This will be done by

- 2.1 continued engagement in projects, e.g. Europeana v1.0 (see above, core activities), ARROW
- 2.2 the collection of data on digitisation activities and policies in national libraries, possibly in cooperation with Numeric
- 2.3 the promotion of the Europeana Resolution Discovery Service for Persistent Identifiers, set up in the project Europeana Connect and eventually provided by Europeana
- 2.4 monitoring and disseminating best practice regarding digitisation, especially of copyrighted material
- 2.5 monitoring and disseminating best practice regarding public-private partnership and by promotion of models of collaboration with the private sector
- 2.6 monitoring and disseminating best practice regarding long-term preservation and accessibility of digital objects
- 2.7 monitoring and disseminating activities of the European Commission related to copyright
- 2.8 participation in consultations and hearings of the European Commission regarding digital libraries
- 2.9 continued activity of its working groups as described above
- 2.10 monitoring digital library initiatives worldwide and being in contact with them whenever appropriate.

3) Traditional preservation

Though electronic publications, digitisation and digital preservation were very much in the focus of national libraries in recent years and consequently in the focus of CENL, preservation of traditional material is nonetheless of great importance and has high priority, given the rich holdings of national libraries.

CENL will accommodate this topic - however not as a focus - and will invite speakers to the annual meetings, presenting new developments and findings regarding traditional preservation, as it did with a presentation on the British Library Centre for Conservation at the 2008 meeting.

4) Lobbying and communication

4.1 To promote the role of national libraries in Europe, in particular in respect of their responsibilities for maintaining the national cultural heritage and ensuring the accessibility of knowledge in that field with the continued focus on the wider European membership of CENL

Actions

- 4.1.1 To continue the close cooperation with the European Commission by participating in consultation initiatives and hearings, with special regard to the development of Europeana and to continue to chair the EDL Foundation (see also above, core activities)
- 4.1.2 To actively fulfil the participatory status for international non-governmental organisations with the Council of Europe
- 4.1.3 To invite representatives of the European Commission and the Council of Europe to the annual meetings
- 4.1.4 To continue the cooperative relationship to other European and international organisations of cultural heritage domains, especially with regard to authority files and quality metadata within the framework of the development of Europeana
- 4.1.5 To support initiatives and projects of CENL members which sustain their role as national libraries, e.g. the project of the South-Eastern European members that derived from the Traduki project
- 4.1.6 To continue the cooperation between CENL and EBLIDA
- 4.1.7 To continue the cooperation between CENL and LIBER as well as CERL
- 4.1.8 To continue to communicate and cooperate where appropriate with IFLA, CDNL and national libraries around the world
- 4.1.9 To continue and to promote the collaboration with publishers via the CENL / FEP Working Group on Electronic Publications as exchange forum and working group offering practical advice to encourage national libraries in their individual work and in their contacts with governments to develop appropriate arrangements
- 4.1.10 To communicate to the press as appropriate

4.2 To promote cultural diversity and multilinguality as basic values of European culture and as service to the users of national libraries

Actions

- 4.2.1 To support the multilingual activities of The European Library as CENL did by part-funding the translation of all 300+ collection descriptions in The European Library into all 27 partner languages and by continuing to provide staff for the necessary translation work
- 4.2.2 To support the integration of relevant project results regarding multilingual search and retrieval into The European Library, e.g. the integration of the work done in MACS
- 4.2.3 To support projects developing multilingual search facilities such as MACS, MSAC, VIAF, CACAO and Europeana Connect
- 4.2.4 To consider multilingual issues when proposing new projects

4.3 To be a key player in any subsequent initiatives of the information society

Actions

- 4.3.1 To engage actively in Europeana (see also above, core activities)

- 4.3.2 To engage actively in the EDL Foundation as chair (see also above, core activities)
- 4.3.3 To continue the close cooperation with the European Commission (see also above 4.1.1)
- 4.3.4 To continue the participation in projects to consolidate The European Library and to develop the Europeana (see also above, core activities)

5) Services for members

CENL serves as a forum to share and learn from the experience of national libraries with the continued focus on the wider European membership of CENL.

Actions

In general the task to serve as a forum and to share and learn from the experience of national libraries is fulfilled by

- 5.1** maintaining the www.cenl.org website, including a password restricted management area with relevant confidential documents regarding the CENL work in general, The European Library and the annual meetings
- 5.2** maintaining the CENL mailing list
- 5.3** holding annual meetings for the CENL Board members

The wider European membership of CENL (based on the Council of Europe membership) is considered by

- 5.4** exploring the attitudes of its non-EU members to Europeana and to ensure that their position is fully understood and that benefits and opportunities for them are optimized (particular needs, particular perspective)
- 5.5** projects to include non-EU CENL members in the CENL core activities The European Library, like the completed EDLproject (integration of the national libraries of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, completed in 2008) and the current FUMAGABA project (integration of the national libraries of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, Moldova, Albania, Georgia, Armenia, Bosnia Herzegovina and Azerbaijan, will be completed in 2009)
- 5.6** seeking funding for non-EU CENL members as for the CENL membership of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova and for the FUMAGABA project, both funded by a donation of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- 5.7** supporting initiatives and projects of CENL members, e.g. the project of the South-Eastern European members that derived from the Traduki project

CENL serves as a forum to share and learn from the experience of national libraries in order to promote benchmarking, best practice and quality models, and to improve management skills by

- 5.8** monitoring the work of the ISO working group and ensuring that the perspective of national libraries and the perspective of Europe are reflected in the ISO standard, as done in the Working Group on Performance Evaluation.

Adopted by the CENL Board at the CENL Annual Meeting in September 2009 in Madrid