

## **CENL Content Working Group Report 2008**

### **Hans Petschar**

At the CENL annual meeting in Helsinki 2007 Hans Petschar presented the results of 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 thought that these data are extremely useful for further strategy planning of digitisation activities for the national libraries as well as for CENL as a community and decided to collect these data on a regular basis. The Content Working Group was asked to elaborate a proposal on how to integrate updates on digitisation activities and strategies into the annual reports for CENL.

The Content working group met on 3 May 2008 and discussed the possible advantages of a CENL database on digitisation activities. As a result the Content WG proposed the following to the CENL EC:

- To build up a database based on the existing EDLproject content report („EDL Report on Digitisation in European National Libraries 2006-2012", <http://www.edlproject.eu/downloads/EDL-D3%201%20final.pdf>) and the Numeric questionnaire ("Numeric questionnaire on Digitisation", <http://www.numeric.ws/>) in order to collect statistical data on digitisation activities in European national libraries on a regular basis.
- The database should be funded by CENL and managed by the Austrian National Library (chair of the Content WG) with access for all registered CENL members and serving as a tool for strategic planning of content digitisation.
- If CENL EC decides to continue with this proposal in its June 2008 meeting Hans Petschar would prepare a work plan and financial plan for the next CENL annual meeting in Zagreb.

In its meeting of 25 June 2008 the CENL EC supported the proposal of such a database in principle but for a final decision asked for more concrete information on the costs of the database, the set up and maintenance and for the work that needs to be done for analysing the data.

The Content WG further asked the CENL EC for the nomination of two new members for the Content WG (one representative for "Mediterranean" members, one representative for Eastern Europe) as one of the current members has left the WG and one more will leave in August.

The CENL EC discussed the role of the Content WG. The mandate for the WG when it was set up was to recommend on content that should be digitised in European national libraries and to draft a CENL strategy for digitisation. For several reasons this mandate was never fulfilled and is now seen as being impossible to achieve. The CENL EC thinks that these recommendations would not necessarily influence the decisions of the national libraries as each library has its own priorities.

The CENL EC decided

- not to continue asking the Content WG for a CENL strategy for digitisation
- to dissolve the Content WG as it stands now

- to establish a smaller WG to watch the results of the data being collected in the proposed database and to prepare possible recommendations drawn from these results for the annual meetings

Hans Petschar was asked to detail the costs for CENL for the database, to dissolve the Content WG and to establish a smaller WG to monitor the data collected in the database.

The work plan and financial plan for the digitisation database requested by the CENL EC has been prepared and is attached to this report. The new CENL Content Working Group will be build up after the decision of CENL members on the proposed digitisation database.

The proposed CENL digitisation database aims at regular documentation and reporting of CENL digitisation activities. Registered CENL members will have writing access to their library content and reading access other CENL members content.

The database will be developed LG Nexera and hosted at the Austrian National Library. Project costs are 15.910 Euro, maintenance costs 261 Euro per month, excl. VAT.