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### ===== EDITORIAL

The European Library launched version 1.5 of the portal on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May with significant improvements. Version 1.5 focused on developing usability and cleaning up some back end processes, such as a simplified navigation menu, a broader virtual keyboard interface with 25 sets of language lay-outs, as well as FAQ's introduction and mini search-box alternatives.

Eric van der Meulen, Technical Project Manager of The European Library comments on Version 1.5: *"In this last release we made some drastic changes. Most of these are not visible to the user in regards to the interface, which didn't change much other than some added features. However, the back-end changes we implemented - changing the way in which we load language information for the portal interface and how we load the information necessary for users to search the collections - reduces the initial loading time of the portal by over 50%! As well, a new version of the SRU/Z39.50 gateway was put into use which for the user improves the speed of returned results while for us, the developers, it improves the maintainability and scalability of the gateway."*

In this Newsletter, Antonios Maratheftis, Director of the Cyprus Library shares his insight about being part of The European Library as Full Participant\*. We also feature the Version 1.5 release, The European Library Handbook open access, the Technical Working Group\* web-meeting and interoperability principals for a European digital library. We also announce several new jobs in The European Library/ European Digital Library Office, so if you are interested click on the link in the [Jobs and Careers](#) section and send us your CV.

Note that you can find a definition of all terms with asterisks at the bottom of this Newsletter in our "Explanatory note".

### ===== AGENDA

A preliminary meeting of the major European associations for Museums, Libraries, Archives and Audio-visual Archives to set up a legal cross domain Foundation, takes place on June 29<sup>th</sup>, at the Koninklijke Bibliotheek in The Hague.

The process of creating the European Digital Library based on the organizational and technical infrastructure of The European Library starts with the **EDL NET KICK OFF MEETING**. The meeting is on 12-14 September 2007, at the Koninklijke Bibliotheek in The Hague.

EDL Net kick off meeting is to be attended by all members of the EDLnet Thematic Partner Network. During the meeting, work groups will be formed under the work packages of:

- + **Human and Political Interoperability**, led by the [MLA](#), UK and [ABM Centrum](#) (PDF format), Sweden and dealing with organizational and business requirements and models for the European digital library.
- + **Technical and Semantic Interoperability**, led by Stefan Gradmann, Deputy Director of Hamburg University's Computing Centre and Leader of the EU Interoperability Working Group and Makx Dekkers, Managing Director of the [Dublin Core Metadata Initiative](#). This group will uncover the interoperability issues and take responsibility for building the prototypes demonstrating user's desires for the European digital library.
- + **Users for Usability**, led by Daniel Teruggi of the [Institut National de l'Audiovisuel](#), France. This group will ensure that user's wishes and needs are fully met.

Work Package Leaders will meet on 5 July to start the development of the project plan, adding concrete dates and forms of communication.

**CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS THE EUROPEAN LIBRARY IS PARTICIPATING IN DURING 2007:**

- + [IAEA](#), 2nd IAEA Technical Meeting, IAEA HQ, Vienna, Austria, 20/22 June 2007
- + [Umbrella event](#), The University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, UK, 28/30 of June 2007
- + [Eva London Conference](#), London College of Communication, 9/13 of July 2007

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**IN FOCUS: ANTONIOS MARATHEFTIS – THE CYPRUS LIBRARY**  
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The Cyprus Library joined The European Library as Full participant\* under [TEL-ME-MOR](#)\* project in January 2007. Antonios Maratheftis, Director of the Library describes this changing phase for the Cyprus Library, its partnership with other national libraries across Europe and its collaborative level with other cultural institutions.

Antonios Maratheftis joined the Cyprus Library in 1999 following four years in the University of Cyprus Library as Librarian, then Acting Director and four years as a Lecturer for the University of Maryland (Heidelberg). Antonios has a Master of Library and Information Science and a [Philosophy] Doctorate (Ph.D.) in Anthropology/Folklore from the University of Texas-Austin.

**What does Full Participant of The European Library imply in your organisation?**

It implies prestige because of our close cooperation with some of the greatest libraries in Europe but also responsibilities, which we unfortunately have difficulties handling satisfactorily. To fully play our role means to be able to contribute as far as we are concerned and to try to enrich The European Library collections, especially with digital images and material, and this is something that we cannot do without the necessary human resources and proper technological infrastructure.

**Could you voice your experience, advice basic participants, or perhaps comment on your European Library collaboration during the Basic to Full Participant shift.**

The Cyprus Library employs 10 people including non-professionals, and has no marketing and research departments or any full-time technical support personnel; if we, despite these difficulties, managed to overcome the obstacles and succeed in making the transition move, then surely any national library can make the step from Basic to Full Participant.

**Does the Cyprus Library collaborate at any level with other National Libraries and on which terms?**

We have occasionally cooperated with the [National Library of Greece](#) on various issues in the past and at present with [EDLproject](#) and [The European Library](#). We also have cooperated with other colleagues from [CENL](#) on various issues such as seeking their valuable insight about copyright or building plans.

**Is the Cyprus Library currently collaborating with other cultural institutions like Archives and Museums?**

The Cyprus Library has cooperated in the past with the State Archives in the field of preservation. A member of the Library staff received practical training in the art of book preservation and even though we now have our own preservation lab. in the Library, we still rely on support and advice from the State Archives staff for the more difficult preservation cases. The Library also has a close working relationship with the [University of Cyprus Library](#). For example, there is cooperation in trying to establish a union catalogue of libraries in Cyprus.

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**NEWS**  
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**+ PORTAL RELEASE V\_1.5: USABILITY AT THE CENTRE OF INNOVATION**

**In an effort to reduce the user comprehension barriers and to facilitate “search” patterns in a complex network of multilingual data, The European Library regularly updates its portal; each new release aims to bring the user a step closer to an instant answer for a specific query among the 250 referenced digital collections of the national libraries of Europe.**

Launched on the 15th of May, Version 1.5 provides a radical improvement in the speed that results are returned due to a change in the way the portal loads. More functionality has been given to the user on the home page. It is now possible to limit your search to one country and you can also access your personal selection from the home page. You may now enter your search using the virtual keyboard in 25 sets of language lay-outs. This improves the accuracy of your search results, finding items using particular character sets in each partner library.

Along with these user focused innovations, The European Library is trying harder to give the user more efficient access through the introduction of a simple and comprehensive [FAQ](#). This new feature aims at increasing the understanding of the portal usage and the ever evolving The European Library environment. Additionally, a [1<sup>st</sup> time user guide](#) has been uploaded in 10 languages (Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Spanish, Norwegian, Portuguese) to help visitors get a better grasp of The European Library portal possibilities.

Following the successful conclusion of [TEL-ME-MOR](#) project\*, The European Library integrated previous <http://telmemor.net> website content into its archive section at the following address:  
<http://libraries.theeuropeanlibrary.org/cooperation/archive/telmemor/index.php>

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#### **+ THE MINI LIBRARY COMES IN DIFFERENT COLOURS!!!**

The European Library search box is a free service offered to external parties that wish to offer their visitors the ability to benefit from all the functionalities of The European Library portal. This so-called '[mini library](#)' comes now in different lay-outs and formats, which allows webmasters to customise The European Library search box to their own requirements.

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#### **+ OPEN ACCESS TO THE EUROPEAN LIBRARY HANDBOOK**

**The European Library built, in just over 2 years, a unique and free service that provides access to the digital collections of the national libraries partners. This unique service has generated specific research and development tools that are now all freely accessible in [The European Library Handbook](#); open access to the technical framework of The European Library portal also shows the level of participation from The European Library's partners.**

The European Library Handbook is primarily designed to help Full Participants bring their collections into The European Library portal. However, it also allows Full Participants to maintain and update their collections' infrastructures, metadata and descriptions after their initial online access. The European Library Handbook is regularly updated and reflects the investigative conclusions of the Technical Working Group. As such it is felt that the knowledge we have gained might be of use to others in the field or trying to create something similar. Therefore we have made the handbook openly accessible to all.

Handbook Version 1.0 for example provides a unique standalone [OAI-PMH installer](#) so that libraries can make their collections OAI-PMH harvestable and thus vastly improve access for The European Library and other remote search engines. Such improvement in access will be passed directly to the user who will gradually be able to move away from the need to choose collections prior to launching a search.

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#### **+ 18 NATIONAL LIBRARIES PARTICIPATE IN THE TWG'S WEB-MEETING**

**Representatives from eighteen national libraries met, on 27<sup>th</sup> April, via a web-meeting to report on their activities since the last physical meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG) in January.**

The Technical Working Group, responsible for The European Library's technology strategy, provided updates on topics such as cross-language technologies, providing access to The European Library collections through national library portals and the "OAI installer" that will allow libraries to convert their bibliographic records to The European Library format. A highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the technical specifications for the new release of The European Library (version 1.5) which was launched on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2007. The next meeting of the Technical Working Group will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2007 at the National Library of Slovenia in Ljubljana.

The Technical Working Group, responsible for The European Library's technology strategy and development provided work group updates on: metadata, character sets cross-language technologies, providing access to The European Library collections through national library portals and the "OAI installer" that will allow libraries to convert their bibliographic records to The European Library format. The next meeting of the Technical Working Group will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2007 at the National Library of Slovenia in Ljubljana.

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#### **+ TOP-10 "INTEROPERABILITY" PRINCIPALS FOR A EUROPEAN DIGITAL LIBRARY**

**Interoperability – or the mechanisms by which the content from museums, libraries and archives can be made searchable from one portal – is one of the most important factors for the success of a European digital library.**

Since it was set up in January 2007, the European Commission's Interoperability Expert Group has been identifying and drafting recommendations on "interoperability" which will underpin the development of a European digital library. During their meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2007 in Luxembourg, the group, which includes Sally Chambers from The European Library Office, finalised the "top ten" interoperability areas. For each interoperability area, high-level (manifesto-like) statements with accompanying issues for practical implementation will be published. The final recommendations document will be presented to the European Digital Library Strategy Group in July for publication in summer 2007.

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**STATS AND FACTS**  
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+ Access to the collections of 5 (Greece, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Spain) of the 9 [EDLproject.eu](http://EDLproject.eu) libraries will be complete by the end of June.

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**PARTNERS UPDATE**  
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**THE SWISS NATIONAL LIBRARY (NL) EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS**

The [Swiss National Library \(NL\)](http://Swiss National Library (NL)) currently features the following exhibitions and events across Switzerland:

+ "SWITZERLAND – AN URBAN PORTRAIT"; Exhibition of the ETH-Studio Basel based on the controversial book "Switzerland - An Urban Portrait" (Roger Diener, Jacques Herzog) – Contemporary City Institute from June, 20<sup>th</sup> to September, 1<sup>st</sup> 2007.

+ "MYTHES SUISSES – TELL IM VISIER"; Exhibition from the poster collection of the Swiss National Library focused on the legendary "William Tell". Swiss National Library from November, 16<sup>th</sup> 2007 to March, 30<sup>th</sup> 2008.

Find out more by clicking on the [NL events/exhibitions page](#).

The European Library invites all National Libraries to tell others about their national library initiatives or exhibition programmes through our Newsletter. To do so, send your email to: [Info@TheEuropeanLibrary.org](mailto:Info@TheEuropeanLibrary.org)

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**JOBS AND CAREERS**  
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**+ JOBS AT THE EUROPEAN DIGITAL LIBRARY**

To make the dream a reality we need your help! Would you like to uncover the rich cultural heritage of Europe? Do you have web publishing, project management, development, metadata or coordination skills? Do you fancy living in The Netherlands for a couple of years? Are you an EU citizen? Then click on [this link](#) and send us your CV.

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**ABOUT THE NEWSLETTERS**  
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The editorial content of the above Newsletter was gathered with the kind cooperation of **Antonios Maratheftis** from the Cyprus Library, **Hans-Dieter Amstutz** from the Swiss National Library (NL), Jill Cousins, Julie, Verleyen, Sally Chambers, Fleur Stigter and Aubéry Escande from **The European Library Office**.

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If you have any comments or suggestions about the way we can further improve the newsletter or The European Library portal please let us know! Use our [feedback form](#) or send your email to: [Info@TheEuropeanLibrary.org](mailto:Info@TheEuropeanLibrary.org)

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**  
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**The European Library Technical Working Group** represents The European Library members in issues concerning metadata and protocols. This group (Full Participants only) makes sure that technical developments are in line with strategy, and help to create and test the portal and website.

[TEL-ME-MOR](#) was a project funded by the European Commission under the Sixth Framework Programme of the Information Society Technologies (IST) Programme. The [TEL-ME-MOR](#) project ran for 2 years from 1 February 2005 with the objectives of supporting the 10 national libraries from the New Member States in becoming Full Participants of The European Library.

The participating partners of The European Library are either [Basic participants](#) or [Full participants](#). The digital collections of Full Participants are "searchable" through the European Library portal.

**The European Library invites all National Libraries and members of [CENL](#) to communicate with our readers through this Newsletter or join the "In Focus" list of participants. To do so, send your email to: [Info@TheEuropeanLibrary.org](mailto:Info@TheEuropeanLibrary.org)**