

Welcome to [The European Library](#) Newsletter!

- + [Editorial](#)
- + [Agenda](#)
- + [In Focus: David Sargsyan – The National Library of Armenia \(NLA\)](#)
- + [In Depth: The European Library Application Profile Implementation in ALEPH OAI-Modules](#)
- + [News:](#)
 - [Portal Release Version 1.6: Quicker, Better & Nicer!!!!](#)
 - [EDLproject: Towards Cross-Domain Metadata Interoperability](#)
 - [The CITY: 1st Theme chosen for the European Digital Library](#)
 - [Minilibary and Facebook](#)
 - [Nomination for the Bonnie Hilditch International Librarian Award](#)
- + [Partner's update: The British Library \(BL\) exhibitions and events](#)
- + [Jobs & Careers](#)
- + [Explanatory Note](#)

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EDITORIAL
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The European Library Newsletter recorded its 2000th subscription in November 2007! The growing interest in The European Library and the cooperation between the National libraries of Europe appeals to more readers every month; we would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for joining us!!!!

In this issue of the Newsletter, [David Sargsyan, Director of the National Library of Armenia](#), shares his insight about being part of The European Library as a Full Participant* from January 2008. We also feature an interview with [Walter Zabel, Head of the Austrian National Library IT department](#), an overview of the new [Version 1.6 portal release](#), [EDLproject cross-domain metadata interoperability](#) and [EDLnet's first chosen theme](#) for the European Digital Library prototype website. We also announce several new jobs in The European Library Office so, if you are interested, click on the link in the [Jobs and Careers](#) section and send us your CV.

The European Library Office team wishes you an excellent winter break; we are looking forward to presenting our new Newsletter format in February 2008!

Note that you can find a definition of all terms with asterisks at the bottom of this Newsletter in our "[Explanatory Note](#)".

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AGENDA
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- [Online Information 2007 Conference](#), Olympia Grand Hall, London, December 4th-6th, 2007
- [DIGMAP Workshop](#) in the [National Library of Portugal](#), Lisbon, December 7th, 2007
- [The European Library Contacts Working Group](#) (CWG) meeting in the [National Library of Denmark](#), Copenhagen, December, 10th and 11th 2007.
- [American Library Association](#), Midwinter Meeting ALA, Seattle, January 19-24, 2008
- [DELOS Conference on Digital Libraries](#), Pisa, February 13-14, 2008
- [IFLA -74th World Library and Information Congress, Quebec City, Canada, 10 -14 August 2008](#)
CALL FOR PAPERS - The deadline for submitting a detailed, abstract (500 words) and full author details is **30 January 2008**. [Click here for more information](#).

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IN FOCUS: DAVID SARGSYAN – THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF ARMENIA (NLA)

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The [National Library of Armenia](#) (NLA) will join The European Library as a Full participant* in January 2008, along with 7 other National libraries of Europe.

The project FUMAGABA will be managed with financial support from the [Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation](#) and will run until July 2009. A Sharing Knowledge Workshop, jointly coordinated by the [Swiss National Library](#) and The European Library, is scheduled for March 2008; FUMAGABA 's objective is to enlarge The European Library full partnership by adding the national libraries of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, Moldova, Albania, Georgia, Armenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Azerbaijan.

We have taken this opportunity to ask David Sargsyan, Director of the National Library of Armenia, to report about this collaborative boost for his organisation and the NLA's cooperation programme in general. David joined the NLA as Director in 1998 and currently manages 360 people in the library.

The European Library: "How does the National Library of Armenia cooperate internationally?"

David Sargsyan: "The partnership established between the National Library of Armenia and The European Library is, of course, very important to our organisation. The NLA has been a member of CENL since 2006, when it started its cooperation with The European Library as a Basic Participant. Joining as a Full Participant from January 2008 will be a great opportunity for us. It will expand our already existing programmes of cooperation across Europe and Asia; the NLA has been a member of [JFLA](#) (International Federation of Library Associations and institutions) since 2007, and the Library Assembly of Eurasia, which gives us a collaborative partnership with all [Commonwealth of Independent States](#).

Additionally, the NLA also collaborates closely with the [National Library of Iran](#) and the Scientific Technology Library of Iran; the NLA has the password to the server of the Scientific Technology Library of Iran, which allows us to access the scientific information of more than 20 countries collaborating with Iran.

However, our collaborative activities remain within the library environment and the NLA does not have exchange programmes with archives or museums, which are different clusters under the Ministry of Culture of Armenia."

The European Library: "How do you foresee the opportunities offered by the NLA full partnership?"

David Sargsyan: "The integration within The European Library as a Full participant is of course prestigious for the NLA; it increases our information field. Additionally, this partnership gives us a good opportunity to preserve both past and present cultural heritage and to improve our cooperation with some of the greatest libraries in Europe. It also gives us responsibilities, which we unfortunately have difficulties handling satisfactorily at the moment."

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IN DEPTH

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+ THE EUROPEAN LIBRARY APPLICATION PROFILE IMPLEMENTATION IN ALEPH OAI-MODULES

The ALEPH system is commonly used by librarians to manage their collections and bibliographic records. OAI-PMH is an access protocol that allows librarians to submit their collections for web purposes. The [Austrian National Library](#) (ANL) is currently developing ALEPH-OAI "translation" software that will considerably ease partners' compliance to [The European Library Application Profile](#).

The European Library provides query results from national libraries collection records through 3 different access methods; [SRU. Z39-50](#) or, preferably, [OAI-PMH](#). The OAI-PMH environment defines a mechanism for data providers to expose their metadata through Dublin Core (DC), a simple and common initiative to create a "digital library card catalogue" for the Web. OAI collections are directly indexed in The European Library records. Concretely, if all collections were accessible via OAI, the end-user would get the best, most relevant and quickest answers to his query. Currently, only 33% of the collections within The European Library environment are OAI-PMH compatible.

In order to extend the amount of OAI compatible records and ease the partners' compliance to [The European Library Application Profile](#), the ANL is developing a system that will ease the conversion between ALEPH Version 16 & 18 of OAI modules and The European Library Application Profile. We have asked Walter Zabel, Head of the IT department of the [Austrian National Library](#), to explain the purpose of such an initiative. "The initial objective

is to set up an OAI-interface that is flexible enough to easily provide additional tags to Dublin Core - Qualified schema (DC - Q). The target is of course to meet all of The European Library Application Profile requirements."

The project started during the first quarter of 2006; Walter acted as coordinator between the ANL Library System vendor, the ANL System Librarians, the Application Administrator and The European Library Office. "We decided to hire our system vendor during the development period rather than develop it ourselves. Since it is a complex piece of software, we expect fewer problems with future version changes. During 2006 and 2007 we received several alpha and beta versions for testing. We finished the test phases with the DC-Q version successfully in the course of last month" adds Walter. "We are currently setting up the OAI-provider software on our production system and will deliver data for 2 catalogues with 4 sub-collections by the end of the year."

These initial results allow positive projections: "The best case scenario will allow us to gradually increase the DC-Q schema as planned; consequently, the new schema will exactly meet the needs of The European Library. Data delivery in The European Library schema should be possible in the first quarter 2008".

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NEWS
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+ PORTAL RELEASE VERSION 1.6: QUICKER, BETTER & NICER!!!!

The European Library launched a new version of its website on the 4th of December; the changes involve significant lay-out improvements and reflect a constant care for understanding user needs. It also introduces the latest partners' collections and the first The European Library web-exhibition. Version 1.6 objectives were to cover the remaining challenges introduced by the 2007 Editorial Plan and to facilitate "search" patterns following the Metadata Working Group* recommendations.

New collections and new themes: The European Library introduces 6 new collections from the National libraries of [Greece](#), [Iceland](#), [Ireland](#), [Liechtenstein](#), [Russia-Moscow](#) and [Spain](#). Additionally, the [Treasure](#) pages have been converted into a searchable collection. Visitors can now access 307 collections under The European Library.

The Metadata Working Group has been investigating ways to improve the "SEARCH" interface; their conclusions led to a clearer presentation and more accurate search themes. Additionally, the Metadata Working Group reviewed the order of metadata fields displayed on full record.

New "The European Library - FireFox speedup" plug-in: Version 1.6 also introduces a FireFox speedup plug-in that optimises FireFox network settings for federated searching. The installation of the plug-in is likely to increase the speed of overall retrieval time by 60%. Click [here](#) for more details.

New HOME page and First Web Exhibition: The HOME page overall lay-out and content have been brightened and direct access to [The European Library first web-exhibition](#) has been set up. The exhibition features 300 pictures of the National libraries of Europe, a unique and fascinating gallery that mirrors the broad architectural variety of The European Library partners across Europe.

New "Assistance": The "Help?" interface has been considerably improved so that first-time visitors can access not only version 1.5 Help text, but also "FAQ's" and "User Guide" within the same pop-up display. Additionally, a "search" tool has been added to help visitors identify the answers to their queries. Click on "Help?" on the [HOME](#) page for more details.

New LIBRARIES pages: A new presentation of the LIBRARIES section has been introduced. Access is based on a more interactive approach via a clickable map of Europe. The editorial content of each National library has been set in a database and an exhibition space for each National library has been introduced.

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+ EDLPROJECT: TOWARDS CROSS-DOMAIN METADATA INTEROPERABILITY

[EDLproject Work Package 1](#) - Task 4 aims at mapping and harmonising the known metadata schemas and repositories in use across libraries, museums and archives, and to create a prototype metadata registry. This ambitious task needed some adjustments, however, to achieve a successful outcome with the time and staff resource available.

[Sally Chambers](#), Interoperability Manager for The European Library, has posted the deliverable "D1.1 - Towards metadata interoperability between Archives, Audio-Visual Archives, Museums and Libraries" on the [EDLproject](#) website. The report provides an assessment of the model by which metadata interoperability has been accomplished between the national libraries in Europe through The European Library. It also focuses on a series of recommendations towards metadata interoperability between archives, audio-visual archives, museums and libraries.

The report recommends that achieving consensus on metadata standards, developing a multilingual European Metadata Registry and creating a European Metadata Centre of Competence are essential strands for achieving metadata interoperability.

Sally Chambers is very pleased that this initial work can be continued as part of Work Package 2 of the [EDLnet](#) Thematic Network. "Within EDLnet, [Makx Dekkers](#) is leading a dedicated [work group](#) (WG2.1) on Standards and Interoperability of Standards (focused on metadata). This work group includes metadata specialists from museums, archives, audio-visual archives and libraries. Work is already well underway on the development of an EDLnet metadata specification and a cross-domain object model!"

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+ THE CITY: 1ST THEME CHOSEN FOR THE EUROPEAN DIGITAL LIBRARY

The CITY is the first theme chosen by the European digital library for the prototype website that will launch in November 2008. The site will feature a number of themes, the CITY was the first to be selected because a wide range of digitised material is already known to exist.

The CITY theme is sufficiently broad to enable the prototype site to look at two millennia of European urban experience from several perspectives. The differences and similarities between Europe's cities will be reflected in the types of digitised materials on display, which could include maps, artefacts, animations, photos, sound, archival records, film material, books, newspapers and artworks.

Initial ideas coming forward for virtual tours include:

- Cities of the future/cities of the past
- Migration and diaspora
- Design, shopping and urban cool
- Archaeology and architecture
- Utopias and cities of the imagination
- Riot and disorder
- Palaces and politics

Some 20 other themes are currently under consideration. The final selection of themes will depend on the desk research that is currently establishing:

- that there is enough digital material available to illustrate the theme
- that content for the theme represents holdings from each of the 4 domains
- that it comes from a number of different countries

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+ MINILIBRARY AND FACEBOOK

Following the [Mini Library](#) promotion on the web, the popular standalone Search box is now also available through [Facebook](#). Go to [Mini Library in Facebook](#) for further details.

If you have not registered yet, why not go to www.facebook.com and join truly dynamic discussions?!

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+ NOMINATION FOR THE BONNIE HILDITCH INTERNATIONAL LIBRARIAN AWARD

The Bonnie Hilditch International Librarian Award, sponsored by the Science-Technology and Engineering Divisions, is presented to a librarian outside of the United States and Canada. The purpose of the award is to provide an opportunity for a librarian outside of the United States and Canada to attend the annual Special Libraries Association (SLA) conference. [The deadline for nominations is 12/31/07.](#)

The [Special Library Association - Science-Technology Division](#) draws together members having an interest in the role of library and information science as applied to the recording, retrieval, and dissemination of information in all areas of science and technology. It also promotes and improves the communication, dissemination, and use of such information to the benefit of libraries and their users

Online form for nominations covering all of all awards offered are available on:

<<http://units.sla.org/division/dst/Award/nomination%20form.html>>

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PARTNERS UPDATE

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THE BRITISH LIBRARY (BL) EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

The [British Library \(BL\)](#) currently features the following exhibitions and web-exhibitions:

+ "[Breaking the Rules: The Printed Face of The European Avant Garde 1900-1937](#)"; Europe's creative revolution of the early 20th century - 9 November 2007 - 30 March 2008 - Pearson Gallery, The British Library, London NW1 2DB

+ "[Online Sacred Contexts](#)"; The 2007 *Sacred* exhibition featured the common ground of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. "Online Sacred Contexts" provides many items created for the exhibition (videos, audio and flash animations). The site is regularly updated.

+ "[Turning the Pages 2.0™](#)" allows you to 'virtually' turn the pages of the BL most precious books. You can magnify details, read or listen to expert commentary on each page, and store or share your own notes.

+ "[The Search for a Northwest passage](#)"; The many adventures, tragedies and achievements in the quest for a connection between the North Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans. This web-exhibition provides many explanatory texts and images.

Find out more by clicking on the [BL 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

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

Desperately seeking highly motivated employees

The European Library Office has 3 jobs to fill:

- [Senior Developer](#)
- [Junior Developer](#)
- [Interoperability Manager](#)

Are you interested? Do you know *the* person who wants to work on one of the most exciting projects in the cultural heritage area ever? Are you allowed a secondment?

The **Developer** jobs are based at the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague, The Netherlands, the **Interoperability** job can be based anywhere in Europe but you would have to come to the Hague sometimes! Interested? 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 **David Sargsyan**, from the National Library of Armenia, **Walter Zabel** from the Austrian national Library (ANL), **John Lowery** from the British Library, Louise Edwards, Sally Chambers, Jon Purday 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

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EXPLANATORY NOTE
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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 Metadata Working Group represents The European Library members in issues concerning metadata and protocols.

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