

Welcome to the first newsletter from The European Library Office. We hope to produce this monthly to keep you informed of progress and would welcome any thoughts on things you would like to hear about. If you wish to unsubscribe from this newsletter please send an email to [olaf.janssen@kb.nl](mailto:olaf.janssen@kb.nl)

### **Snippets**

TEL Project site has finally been transferred from the Deutsche Bibliothek to the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, I'm afraid the holidays rather got in the way of what should have been a relatively simple exercise. Anyway you can now find this site at [www.europeanlibrary.org](http://www.europeanlibrary.org). It includes all the documentation for the TEL Project and will be updated with new versions of the handbook, presentations and current documentation. This site will eventually become the members section of TheEuropeanLibrary.org, but until such time will be used to store information relating to the launch.

Dr. Elisabeth Niggemann gave an update on The European Library becoming operational in Buenos Aires at IFLA, these presentations will be available shortly on the TEL Project website – If anyone wants to use parts of them for presentations etc, please feel free to do so.

If you are asked to talk at conferences and seminars on The European Library.org, could you please inform the Office and me specifically – [jill.cousins@kb.nl](mailto:jill.cousins@kb.nl) – it would be nice to keep a central record and also to make sure that the message is consistent.

The European Library Office contributed to the TEL-ME-MOR bid and we wait with bated breath its outcome. It would be great to be able to have a real crack at solving multi-linguality in search, which is one of the work packages being proposed.

### **Project Status**

As some of you know, the launch of TheEuropeanLibrary.org as an operational site is being treated as a project. So in this section we will give you updates on the project status.

Using the documents produced by the TEL Project, the newly formed The European Library Office created a Project Brief, which gives an overview of what will and will not happen for launch. This Project Brief was discussed and approved at the first Management Board Meeting in June. From the Project Brief a more detailed Project Plan has been created and this was discussed at the Executive Group Meeting in August and circulated to the Technical Working Group, the Management Board and The European Library Contacts. Final versions of these 2 documents can be found at [www.europeanlibrary.org](http://www.europeanlibrary.org).

So now, we just have to get on with it! The launch date being aimed for is March 15, 2005 and with much help from the Full Participants we should make it. An overview of the actions required by the Full Participants is being prepared and will also be made available on the project site [www.europeanlibrary.org](http://www.europeanlibrary.org), together with a schedule of meetings to be held for the next 12 months.

We are on schedule at the moment with nearly all the Full Participants having sent their lists of collections to be included for launch. It looks as if we will have at least 89 collections available at launch and a further 17 within a few months of launch. This latter is due to timings by the individual library for digitisation etc. There are 2 libraries missing from this list so we expect an increase in numbers.

A prototype of the portal is being created for a first view at Rome and for user testing and comment during October.

## Who is Who

### The European Library Office

Head of Office, Jill Cousins [jill.cousins@kb.nl](mailto:jill.cousins@kb.nl) Tel. +31(0)70 314 0952  
Webmaster, Olaf Janssen [olaf.janssen@kb.nl](mailto:olaf.janssen@kb.nl) Tel. +31 (0)70 314 0388  
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### The Management Board

This group is responsible for policy direction, the setting of subscription levels and high level monitoring.

Chair – Elisabeth Niggeman	Deutsche Bibliothek
Deputy Chair – Lynne Brindley	British Library
Fernanda Campos	Biblioteca Nacional Portugal
Zoran Kristulovic	Narodna in univerzitetna knjižnica
Jean Frederick Jauslin	Swiss National Library
Kai Ekholm	Helsingin Yliopiston Kirjasto - Suomen kansalliskirjasto
Renee Herbouze	Bibliothèque Nationale de France
Antonia Fontana	Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze
Cristina Magliano	ICCU, Roma
Wim van Drimmelen	Koninklijke Bibliotheek

### The Executive Group

This group forms the decision making body of The European Library and consists of 3 members of the Management Board, charged with different roles.

Elisabeth Niggemann	Chair of the Executive Group
Lynne Brindley	Senior Supplier
Wim van Drimmelen	Senior User

### The European Library Contacts

This group, made up of Full Participants only, is responsible for co-ordinating all the activities required for and by The European Library within their own National Libraries.

Josje Calff	Koninklijke Bibliotheek
Britta Woldering	Deutsche Bibliothek
Stephen Bury	British Library
Elisabeth Freyre	Bibliothèque Nationale de France
Juha Hakala	Helsingin Yliopiston Kirjasto - Suomen kansalliskirjasto
Genevieve Clavel	Swiss National Library
Jose Bobinha	Biblioteca Nacional
Maja Zumer	Narodna in univerzitetna knjižnica
	Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze
Cristina Magliano	ICCU

### The Technical Working Group

This group makes sure that any technical developments or changes are in line with strategy and help to create and test the portal.

Theo van Veen                      Koninklijke Bibliotheek

Annette Siegenthaler	Deutsche Bibliothek
Christine Frodl	Deutsche Bibliothek
Bill Oldroyd,	British Library
Robina Clayphan	British Library
Elisabeth Freyre	Bibliothèque Nationale de France
Gilles Karmasyn	Bibliothèque Nationale de France
Juha Hakala	Helsingin Yliopiston Kirjasto - Suomen kansalliskirjasto
Hansueli Locher	Swiss National Library
Nuno Freire	Biblioteca Nacional
Maja Zumer	Narodna in univerzitetna knjižnica
Giovanni Bergamin	Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze
	ICCU

There are also 2 other groups, the Language Working Group and The European Library Editors Group (formally, largely the Gabriel Contacts Group). These will be detailed in the next newsletter.

## Latest Developments

A feasibility study on the use of Xopus, [www.xopus.com](http://www.xopus.com) as our content management system has been completed. It looked at its ability to cope with multiple language scripts and whether all CENL members had adequate hardware, software and communication capabilities to run the programme and update their library information on TheEuropeanLibrary.org. It also considered its suitability to manage and display the information. A brief overview of the system will be given in Rome, but there will be plenty of opportunity to help us test its capabilities later.

Theo van Veen discovered it was possible to view a version of TheEuropeanLibrary.org on a PDA. We are unlikely to be offering this in the near future, but it does mean that a simple version of the site would be available for other developments.

## New Features for Testing and Comment

We have a new collection submission form, which has been tested by the Technical Working Group, and is now available for all the full participants to create collection descriptions, so we can start to access them via the portal. So get writing. If you have any problems or need help writing the descriptions please contact Julie [Julie.Verleyen@kb.nl](mailto:Julie.Verleyen@kb.nl) +31(0)70 3140953.

After a usability and use exercise some navigation experts have created a prototype of TheEuropeanLibrary.org portal and this will be unveiled in Rome. It will then be available for comment and thoughts by CENL members before submitting it to user testing. If anyone is interested in contributing comments, please email Olaf [Olaf.Janssen@KB.nl](mailto:Olaf.Janssen@KB.nl) and he will send you a copy of the prototype.

## Thanks

We'd particularly like to thank Dr. Britta Woldering of the Deutsche Bibliothek for her work on the TELProject website and sending you the newsletter all of this time. We would also like to thank all of you who worked on the TELProject itself. It is thanks to you and all the exemplary work that was completed that the Office exists at all and has been able to get off to a solid start.

I look forward to meeting some of you at the Annual General Meeting in Roma.

Best Regards, Jill

## Contact Details

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