



December 2007

## **Elisabeth Niggemann elected Chair of the newly formed European Digital Library Foundation**

Elisabeth Niggemann, Director General of the German National Library and Chair of the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL), presented in Brussels, on 27 November 2007 the Statutes of the newly formed European Digital Library Foundation to high representatives of the European Commission. CENL led the initiative to create the European Digital Library (EDL) Foundation. The EDL Foundation is concrete proof of the commitment of Europe's cultural institutions to work together to provide online access to Europe's cultural and scientific heritage.

CENL was encouraged by the European Commission to set up a legal body able to encompass the four domains of libraries, museums, archives and audio-visual archives across Europe. The creation of the Foundation enables support for future cross domain activities and gives governance to the incipient European Digital Library. This is in line with the i2010 Digital Libraries initiative, a flagship project within the i2010 strategy to boost the digital economy, initiated by the Commissioner for Information Society and Media, Viviane Reding.

Alongside Elisabeth Niggemann's election as Chair of the European Digital Library Foundation, the Vice-chair is Martine de Boisdeffre, President of EURBICA, the European Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives, the Secretary is Wim van Drimmelen, Director General, of the National Library of the Netherlands and host to the European Digital Library prototype and the treasurer is Edwin van Huis, Chair of FIAT, the International Federation of Television Archives.

The EDL Foundation also acts as the steering group of the EU-funded project EDLnet. EDLnet will build the consensus needed to create the European Digital Library. It will find solutions to the interoperability of the cultural content held by European museums, archives, audio-visual archives and libraries in the context of the European Digital Library.

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The results of the network will be a prototype demonstrating cross domain access to the objects and information held in the cultural institutions of Europe. There will also be a series of recommendations for future research to continue to ensure access to the digital heritage of Europe.

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#### **Notes for Editors:**

The **Conference of European National Librarians** (CENL) is a foundation under Dutch law with the aim of increasing and reinforcing 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. Members of CENL are the national librarians of all Member States of the Council of Europe. The conference currently consists of 47 members from 45 European countries. The European Commission has subsidised various CENL projects. [www.cenl.org](http://www.cenl.org)

Thematic network **EDLnet**: [www.europeandigitallibrary.eu/edlnet](http://www.europeandigitallibrary.eu/edlnet)  
The **i2010 Digital Libraries Initiative** aims at making Europe's diverse cultural and scientific heritage (books, films, maps, photographs, music, etc.) easier and more interesting to use online for work, leisure and/or study. It builds on Europe's rich heritage combining multicultural and multilingual environments with technological advances and new business models.

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/digital\\_libraries/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/digital_libraries/index_en.htm)

**EDL Foundation** is a foundation under Dutch law aiming to provide access to Europe's cultural and scientific digital heritage by way of a cross domain portal and to facilitate formal agreement across libraries, museums, archives and audio-visual archives on how to cooperate in the delivery and sustainability of such a joint portal.

#### **Founder members of the EDL Foundation:**

Martine de Boisdeffre, EURBICA: European Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives

Edwin van Huis, FIAT: International Federation of Television Archives

Claudia Dillmann, ACE: Association Cinémathèques Européennes

Massimo Negri, EMF: European Museums Forum

Elisabeth Niggemann, CENL: Conference of European National Librarians

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