

SPOTLIGHT

EIFL General Assembly 2013



A look at the 2013 General Assembly EIFL's major knowledge-sharing event of the year

The 2013 General Assembly (GA), EIFL's annual knowledge-sharing and networking event, took place in the vibrant city of Istanbul that lies on the ancient Silk Road, facilitating cultural interchange over the centuries.

Eight-two participants from 47 countries met from November 11 – 13, 2013 to debate the latest developments in electronic content delivery, discover emerging topics that have a significance for libraries, and to share achievements from library consortia over the last year.

We were delighted to be joined by representatives of Anatolian University Libraries Consortium (ANKOS) for a presentation on Turkish librarianship and ANKOS.

Expert guest speakers introduced four topics in interactive "Trends to Watch" sessions: Redefining Research Assessment, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), Open Research Data, and Text and Data Mining that sparked interest and opportunities for discussion.

A new feature was a poster session that showcased 20 projects supported by EIFL programmes on Open Access (EIFL-OA) and Copyright and Libraries (EIFL-IP). Other sessions included recent developments in the landscape for licensed e-books and e-monographs, an overview of resource discovery technologies, and updates in EIFL programme areas on copyright and open access.

This year, we welcomed Fiji as a new EIFL partner country to the GA.

"This was a marvelous experience as I got the chance to meet with other Country Coordinators and EIFL staff," said Chaminda Chiran Jayasundara, EIFL Country Coordinator in Fiji .

"The GA was an ideal opportunity to learn about the latest trends in licensing, accessing electronic information resources and attend training sessions. I liked the 'Trends to Watch' sessions. They were all the new issues and trends in the field. I received a lot of good knowledge from these sessions."

"I really got a lot from the GA that was especially interesting this year. The 'Trends to Watch' sessions were very exciting," said Irakli Garibashvili, EIFL country coordinator representing Georgian Integrated Library & Information System Consortium. "I kept thinking to myself: how can I implement these ideas when I get home?"

And for many of the facilitators and presenters, the knowledge sharing went both ways.

"I was so impressed by the range of activities and the quality of activities that EIFL is involved in in their member countries," said Kevin Smith, Director of Copyright and Scholarly Communications, Duke University Libraries, who facilitated the session on Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

EIFL

knowledge without boundaries



Kevin Smith, Director of Copyright and Scholarly Communications Duke University Libraries (far left) answers questions from GA participants on Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) during the ‘Trends to Watch’ session.

“The value of being here is that it’s just fascinating to talk to the librarians from all of these different countries, to see their different issues but also their similarities.”

The ever-popular “speed dating” gave participants an opportunity to spend 15 minutes with each of the 15 EIFL publisher partners in attendance, and EIFL Programme Managers to learn about new products and developments, discuss any problems, or to simply catch up.

“The 2013 EIFL GA was a rich opportunity for us,” said Jonathan Wynne, Sales Director, International Development for Wiley, one of the publishers attending the event.

“We had the chance to meet senior customers from around forty countries in a unique and nicely-structured context. We value this meeting highly and are grateful to EIFL for planning such a useful event and for creating an infrastructure for ongoing licensing opportunities in emerging countries.”

In addition to the daily conference agenda, participants were treated to lively group dinners filled with laughter, dancing and shared connections, and an afternoon on a cultural tour of Istanbul.

EIFL was delighted to celebrate the achievements of one particular library consortia, which has shown exceptional increases in usage of commercial

e-resources available through the EIFL-Licensing Programme.

EIFL Uzbekistan Consortium won the award for the most impressive percentage increase in full text downloads from 2011 and 2012. The increase was over 1300%. The award, a Kindle, was sponsored by Royal Society, one of the publishers attending the EIFL GA.

As the assembly drew to an end, many of the participants told EIFL staff how they were eager to go back home and share what they learned with their own consortium members.

“The presentations were educative as much as they were informative. The spirit of friendship that prevailed throughout the GA further reinforced the understanding of issues discussed,” said Benedict Oladele, EIFL Country Coordinator representing Nigerian University Libraries Consortium.

“I personally took a lot of knowledge back home with me and I intend to share my knowledge with our consortium members.”

EIFL would like to offer a special thank-you to all the sponsors and partners who helped make the 2013 General Assembly possible.



Rosemary Musula Otando, EIFL Open Access Coordinator, (left) poses for a photo with Iryna Kuchma, EIFL-OA Programme Manager (right) after presenting her open access project during the GA poster sharing session.



"I would like to congratulate EIFL for the excellent organization of the GA . . . COBESS is proud to belong to EIFL and will always work to make it stronger."

Youssoupha Gueye, EIFL Country Coordinator representing Consortium des Bibliothèques de l'Enseignement Supérieur du Sénégal.



"It is wonderful to be among a diverse group of such committed people, a truly uplifting experience. There were some challenging questions that opened my eyes to different perspectives, so it has been tremendously beneficially for me."

Mark Patterson, Executive Director of eLife Sciences Publications, who facilitated the session on Redefining Research Assessment.



"EIFL is a family. At the GA you feel like you are at home. At the GA you are involved in everything, you can discuss, you can talk about your own country challenges. And that's why you love EIFL and you don't want to ever leave."

Diana Jerjes Sayej-Naser (West Bank), EIFL Country Coordinator representing Palestinian Library and Information Consortium.



EIFL-OA Coordinator (left) Viatcheslav Britchkovski from Belarus speaks with EIFL Country Coordinator (left) Biljana Kosanovic from Serbia about his open access project.



From left: Khalid Abusin EIFL Country Coordinator from Sudan, Naniki Maphakwane EIFL Country Coordinator from Botswana, Diana Jerjes Sayej-Naser (West Bank), EIFL Country Coordinator from Palestinian and Jagadish Aryal, EIFL Country Coordinator from Nepal.



EIFL-Licensing

Susanna Lob, EIFL-Licensing Programme Manager (right) discusses licensing issues with Ecaterina Zasmenco, Director, Central Library of Moldova State University, representing Electronic Resources for Moldova Consortium (left) and EIFL Country Coordinator Marat Rakhmatullaev (middle).