



EURASLIC NEWSLETTER

European Association of Aquatic Sciences Libraries and Information Centres

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members

The term of office for the current Euraslic Executive Board will soon be coming to an end, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all of their work in support of Euraslic over the past two years, and in some cases over the past four years. The process for appointing members to the new Executive Board has taken place. As there was only one nomination for each position, no vote was necessary, and so the Euraslic Executive Board from 1st May 2002 will comprise: President: Joan Baron Varley (UK); Vice-President: Barbara Schmidt (Germany); Treasurer: Michelle L'Excellent (France); Members Representatives: Jan Haspeslagh (Belgium) and Olga Akimova (Ukraine); Website Manager: Sofia Goulala (Greece); Newsletter Editor: Ian McCulloch (UK); Executive Secretary: Takis Trachalakis, NCMR, Greece.

I'd like to thank Members for the many endorsements that myself, Barbara and Michelle received to stay in post. I'd like to express my thanks to Nicole Momzikoff, former Treasurer and most recently Members Representative to the Board who is now standing down; also Ian Pettman, former Vice-President, President and latterly Secretary, who is also standing down after many years of service to Euraslic; and to Maria Kalenchits who has served as a Members Representative for two terms of office. Maria will remain on the Board for the coming term of office as an *ad hoc* non-voting member, representing the views of the ECET (European Countries in Economic Transition) members. Representatives of two other groups, Members from Environment Institutes, and Members from Countries Bordering the Mediterranean, have also be invited to serve as *ad hoc* non-voting members on the new Board. Elisa Paavilainen (Finland) has kindly agreed to represent the first group from Environment Institutes and Jean Collins (Italy) has kindly agreed to represent the interests of Countries Bordering the Mediterranean, building on the Discussion Sessions that were organised for these groups during the Brest Conference.

Grants and Proposals

As I have indicated in previous messages, the Joint Conference with Iamslic, in Brest, last October, dominated the activities of the Board for most of the last two years, however we all consider it was a very successful event, with excellent contributions from Euraslic members, and that it generated some interesting outcomes and initiatives. Members of the ECET group have subsequently prepared a proposal to carry out a *Scoping Study for a Black Sea Regional Library Co-operation Project* which has initially been submitted to IAMS LIC for funding. Following recommendations from the Membership Working Group (Marie-Thérèse Panouse, Irakli Goradze, Michelle L'Excellent, and Maria Kalenchits) the Euraslic Board has also discussed and agreed to award an Annual Grant to Member Institutes for the purchase of library equipment. The amount of the award will be decided by the Board at the beginning of January each year, based on the end-of-year accounts, and Grant Applications will normally have to be submitted by 31 January each year (30 April for 2002). Further details are included in this Newsletter and can also be found on the Euraslic Website: <http://www.euraslic.org/EuraslicGrants.htm>.

National Representatives

<http://www.euraslic.org/EuraslicNationalRepresentatives.htm>

A list of National Representatives, along with a list of their duties, is now accessible on the website. Members are invited to review the list and to contact their National Representative in the first instance with any enquiries about Euraslic. There are still a number of countries not represented. If

you would like to volunteer to serve as a National Representative, please contact me. My thanks to Maria Kalenchits for compiling this listing. One additional role for National Representatives, discussed and agreed at the Business Meeting in Brest, was that they should take turns in co-editing the *Euraslic Newsletter*, and Jan Haspeslagh from Belgium takes the first turn in co-editing this issue of the *Newsletter*.

Euraslic Directory

Do you use the Directory? Have you updated your library's information recently? Discussions are currently taking place about the future of the Euraslic Directory, currently hosted on the IOC website. The IOC website is being upgraded, and they will no longer be supporting the directory software, Filemaker. IOC will be putting their efforts into re-engineering the GLODIR system and want to assess the continued need for separate Euraslic and Iamslic (IDALIC) directories. If you have strong views about retaining a separate Euraslic Directory or any other comments on this, please make them known, via the Discussion List or directly to me.

Change of Membership Year

At the Business Meeting in Brest, Members voted in support of a change of Membership Year so that it would run from 1st January – 31st December from January 2003. This means some adjustments to the next invoice for Membership fees in respect of the interim eight months (May–Dec 2002), and because of concerns expressed by some members over receiving two invoices in the same financial year, the Treasurer will be asking Members for one payment (at a reduced rate) for the next 20 month period, up until 31st

December 2003. Iamslic is also asking its members to vote on changing their membership year to coincide with the calendar year, which will simplify the collection of Joint Membership fees.

Brest Proceedings

During the course of this term of office, following a proposal by Maria Kalenchits on behalf of the Members, the Board discussed and agreed that in future, all Members should receive copies of Euraslic Conference Proceedings. Euraslic will therefore be paying Iamslic for additional copies (53) of the Brest Proceedings to be distributed to Euraslic Members who were unable to attend the Joint Conference. The list of members/institutes who will be receiving these additional copies has been posted on the Euraslic Discussion List, so if you weren't at the Conference please check that your Institute is on the list.

Euraslic Conference Kiel, May 2003

The 10th Euraslic Conference will be held in Kiel, Germany from 7th-9th May 2003. The Conference Organiser is Barbara Schmidt, and she will be assisted in the organisation of the Conference by colleagues in Germany, as well as by members of the Euraslic Board, and Elisa Paavilainen will assist Barbara with the conference programme. So please put these dates in your diary, and start thinking about your contribution to the 2003 Conference now.

Finally...

Many thanks to Ian McCulloch for taking over as the *Euraslic Newsletter* Editor, and to both him and Jan for an excellent issue.

Best wishes,

Joan Baron Varley, Euraslic President.

Message from the editor

At the last EURASLIC Business Meeting, in Brest, it was agreed that future newsletters should have two editors, one of whom would be a "National Editor", collecting material from or relating to their own country. For 2002, the National Editor is Jan Haspeslagh of the Flanders Marine Institute. I will take the other Editor's chair for the foreseeable future.

Ian

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The EURASLIC Newsletter is published twice a year, in April and October. The deadline for the April issue is the 31 March, the deadline for the October issue is the 30 September.

Please send all items for inclusion to Ian McCulloch at the above address. If possible, send it as an email attachment. Most formats are acceptable, but rtf is preferred.

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The complete Euraslic Membership List is available on the web site. Any members who wish to receive a paper copy should contact Sofia Goulala:
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This is a reminder that the Euraslic discussion list operates as a Yahoo egroup. Barbara Schmidt is the Discussion List Moderator. For anybody who hasn't yet done so, you have to register with Yahoo! to access the list at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/euraslic>

To send a message to the group use:
euraslic@yahoogroups.com.

Minutes of the EURASLIC Business Meeting held in the Meridean Room of the Quartz Conference Centre at the 9th EURASLIC Meeting (Held as a joint Conference with IAMSLIC) from 16.00 hrs to 18.55 hrs on Tuesday 15th October 2001.

Joan Baron Varley, President, took the Chair for the meeting and twenty-seven members attended.

Members Attending:

Olga Akimova; Snejina Bacheva; Joan BaronVarley; Alison Bethel; Marcel Branneman; Michael Gomez; Irakli Goradze; Emma Harvey; Jan Haspeslagh; David Hyett; Anastasia Ivanova; Maria Kalenchits; Valentina Khazova; Michelle l'Excellent; Claude Maire; Ian McCulloch; Nicole Momzikoff; Elisa Paavilainen; Marie-Therese Panouse; Ian Pettman; Barbara Schmidt; Pauline Simpson; Manolis Stefanakis; Allen Varley; Wencke Rickfett Vandseth; Susan Walker; Jadwiga Zdanowska.

Agenda Items:

1. Apologies for Absence:

Henryk Ganowiak, Poland; Sofia Goulala, Greece; Helena Azevedo Isidro, Portugal; David Moulder, Sweden; Sebastien Saunier, France; and Kristi Tamm, Estonia.

2. Minutes of Previous Business Meeting

The minutes of the Business Meeting held at the 8th EURASLIC Meeting, Aberdeen, 2000, were distributed. These had been published in Euraslic Newsletter No. 22, October 2000. It was proposed and accepted that these were a fair and accurate record of that Meeting.

Proposed: Ian McCulloch

3. Matters Arising:

Item 6 (Aberdeen) – Euraslic Archives.

Allen Varley read Sofia Goulala's report on the progress of the Euraslic Archives to the meeting. The report was well received and accepted. Marie Therese Panouse indicated that she had material to deposit and, after discussions relating to the type of material required, the Board suggested that Marie Therese contact Sofia Goulala directly. Other members were requested to send any suitable material in their possession, and it was agreed that it would be useful to have an outline list of the Archive material posted on the website in the 'Members only' section.

Item 7 (Aberdeen) – Euraslic Board – to be dealt with under Item 7 of these Minutes.

Item 8 (Aberdeen) – National Representatives.

Joan BaronVarley reported that the list of National Representatives duties, as prepared by Maria Kalenchits and agreed at the Business Meeting at the 8th EURASLIC Meeting held in Aberdeen in 2000, had now been added to the EURASLIC Web-site. Joan also reported that she had produced a draft National Representatives List that now needed the following actions:

- a) a check with the people on the list to see if they are still willing to undertake these duties
- b) a concerted attempt to fill any gaps on the list
- c) put the final agreed list up on the EURASLIC Web-site.

and that Maria Kalenchits had agreed to action points a) and b), and to get written or email agreement from each National Representative. The meeting accepted these reports and recommendations.

Item 9 (Aberdeen) – Use of Euraslic Funds – To be dealt with under Item 4 of these Minutes.

Item 10 (Aberdeen) – Euraslic Leaflet.

The Meeting was informed of progress during the year [change of format, data updated, new print run] and of the unanticipated change of website URL which meant that the remaining stock of leaflets had the old URL on them. The Board suggested to the Meeting that a revised PDF version should be put up on the website. Although this course of action was agreed by the Meeting, there were no immediate volunteers to undertake the task and the action reverted to the Board to take forward.

Item 11 (Aberdeen) – Euraslic Bylaws – To be dealt with under Item 7 of these Minutes.

Item 12 (Aberdeen) – Joint Conference. The President had reviewed the topic in her Presidential Address [Tuesday 16 October, 16.00 to 16.30]. The Meeting had no further comments to add.

Item 13 (Aberdeen) – Euraslic Conference 2003 – To be dealt with under Item 14 of these Minutes.

Item 14 (Aberdeen) – Euraslic Conference Guidelines. Barbara Schmidt presented the present situation on both the Conference Guidelines and the Conference Accounting Template to the Business Meeting. The meeting was told that these Guidelines would be tested during the organization of the 2003 Conference and amended in the light of that experience. The Conference Guidelines [but not the Accounting Template] would then be placed on the Members section of the website. In the interim, the Meeting was told that copies of the draft Guidelines were available from Barbara if anyone was interested.

Item 15 (Aberdeen) – Euraslic Membership Directory. The Meeting was informed of the Board's deliberations on this item – "Sofia Goulala had updated the Euraslic Membership Directory for the year 2000 to 2001 and had distributed a printed copy to all members early in 2001. The Board are in agreement that this should be updated for 2001 to 2002 and that Michelle l'Excellent and Ian Pettman should liaise with Sofia to ensure that she had all the necessary up to date information to produce this. The Board also considered that this should appear in the "Members Only" area of the Web site." The Meeting ratified this position and it was agreed that Joan Baron would notify Sofia accordingly. [There followed a further discussion relating to the Euraslic website which is minuted under Item 9. below.]

4. Treasurer's Report

4.1 Treasurer's Report

Michelle l'Excellent presented both the Euraslic Accounts for the period May 2000 to May 2001 and the balance from June 2001 to the end of September 2001. She highlighted the fall in subscribing members from 65 in the 2000/2001 year to 44 in the year 2001/2002. This generated considerable discussion on what could be done to reverse this trend and increase paying membership numbers.

The final outcome of these discussions was the formation of a **Membership Working Group**. Four members volunteered to serve on the Working Group: Irakli Goradze; Maria Kalenchits; Michelle l'Excellent and Marie-Therese Panouse. The Working Group was given a broad remit to look at the present membership situation and recommend suitable courses of action. It was agreed that the Working Group should report three months after the Conference.

Pertinent points arising from the discussions, which the Working Group may include in their deliberations, included:

- contacting non-renewing members and gaining feedback on why they have left
- a survey of under represented nations
- targeting specific under represented groups e.g. freshwater organizations; commercial organization libraries and environment libraries
- re-examine the range and level of membership fees
- regular sponsorship (annual) for the purchase of computing equipment to an under privileged European aquatic library meeting certain specified requirements
- the offering of training and/or secondment opportunities

It was also emphasised by both the Board and the members of the Working Group that all members should consider the problem and supply input to the Working Group.

4.2 Use of Euraslic Funds

At the EURASLIC Conference in Aberdeen there were some discussions about the use of EURASLIC funds. It was left to the Bylaws Working Group to consider these but they did not. The Board had invited Nicole Momzikoff and Michelle l'Excellent to form the core of a working group to draft such guidelines. Due to pressure of other work, Nicole Momzikoff could not accept. Michelle l'Excellent had agreed that she would be willing to act in this capacity. This was outlined to the Business Meeting and a request for other volunteers for this group was made. No volunteers were forthcoming and the item reverted to the Board. Michelle l'Excellent confirmed that she would draw up guidelines relating to the work of the Treasurer in order to assist future incoming Treasurers.

5. Financial Report from the 8th Euraslic Meeting In Aberdeen, 2000

Sarah Heath had presented the accounts for the Aberdeen Meeting to the Board. These had been accepted by the Board as a true and accurate record. There being no further comment from the Meeting, the Item was closed.

6. Change of Membership Year

The President reported that the IAMSLIC and EURASLIC Boards have agreed in principle to try and synchronise their Membership years although IAMSLIC are still checking on their legal position. The Board put the following proposal to the Business Meeting:

"The next subscription period to be for 9 months [April 2002 to December 2002]. This would be at a reduced rate to be calculated. Thereafter, the Membership year would be from 1st January to 31st December."

Pauline Simpson raised the point that, for some organizations, this would mean paying two subscriptions in one financial year. The proposal was then put to the vote and the meeting ratified the proposal with 18 votes for and 9 abstentions.

7. Report of the Bylaws Working Group

The President reported that the Working Group had completed their review of the Euraslic Bylaws during the Summer of 2001, and their recommendations had been submitted to the Euraslic Executive Board during the latter part of August and published in Euraslic Newsletter No.24 September 2001. The Business Meeting were asked for any comments on the report and recommended changes to the bylaws. No comments were forthcoming and the Meeting was asked to accept the report.

Proposed: Ian McCulloch

Seconded: David Hyett
Agreed

8. Executive Secretary for Euraslic

The suggestion that the basis of the Euraslic Secretary's post be changed to that of an Executive Secretary and possible Terms of Reference for this post had been disseminated to members in Euraslic Newsletter No 24 September 2001. The Board supported the proposal and it was opened for discussion with the Members at the Business Meeting.

There was some discussion relating to the workload of the Treasurer and if such a proposal should also be considered for this post. It was pointed out that the proposed Executive secretary post would

give additional support to the Treasurer and relieve some of this pressure. The proposal was put to the vote. The result was 23 For; 0 Against and 4 Abstentions.

Proposal Carried

The Board was charged with pursuing this item and reporting back to the membership.

9. Website

9.1 Domain Name

The President thanked Sofia Goulala on behalf of the Board and Members for her continuing work as Website Manager and reported on the change of domain name to www.euraslic.org

The question of taking out other names such as .com and .uk was raised but not considered worth the expense at this time.

9.2 Website Development

The recent developments on the management and maintenance of the IAMSLIC website through the review by their Website Management Committee prompted the meeting to discuss the future of the Euraslic website. Jan Haspeslagh agreed to lead a Working Group to review the Euraslic website and Manolis Stefanakis and Joan Baron agreed to be on the group. It was assumed that Sofia Goulala would wish to be closely involved and Joan Baron agreed to contact Sofia and inform her of the proposed review and get her re-action before the item was taken forward.

10. Discussion List

Barbara Schmidt reported on the changes due to the merger of egroups and Yahoo and outlined the details of this change and the necessary procedures that members needed to follow.

11. Newsletter

The President reported on the developments under the Editorship of Sebastien Saunier and his decision to stand down after the last Newsletter [No. 24]. It was agreed that the Newsletter was still a valuable membership benefit and should be continued. Due to the possible difficulty in recruiting a new Editor, the Board proposed that the editorship should revolve around Europe with each country taking responsibility for either producing and/or distributing one issue.

This suggestion generated considerable debate. A proposal that there should be one Editor working with a Co-Editor who

was a National Representative and that the co-editor position was changed annually was voted on. The proposal was accepted with 24 votes For and 4 abstentions.

Ian McCulloch agreed to be the Newsletter Editor and Jan Haspeslagh agreed to be the first National Representative.

12. Euraslic Libraries Directory

The President outlined some of the problems with the existing system - online password required for each organization (deterrent to updating); no label output available; and no use statistics available. Peter Pissierssens of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission had been consulted and was looking into providing some better means of updating the records. This item was passed back to the Board to pursue.

13. Nominations Committee for Election of Next Board

Ian Pettman outlined the requirements and asked for three volunteers to form this Committee. No volunteers were forthcoming and the item was passed back to Ian Pettman to pursue.

14. Future Euraslic Meetings

10th Euraslic Conference 2003 The offer to host the April 2003 Euraslic Meeting at Kiel, which Barbara Schmidt made at the 8th Meeting in Aberdeen, was now confirmed. The Business Meeting was asked for volunteers for the Conference Committee. Barbara Schmidt would be the Local Organiser and she would need at least two other people to coordinate sponsorship and organise the Conference programme.

Elisa Paavilainen, Finland, volunteered for the Committee to assist with the Conference programme.

Barbara would look for a German colleague to join the Conference committee to assist with the sponsorship.

11th Euraslic Conference 2005 The Business Meeting was asked for nominations for possible hosts for the 2005 Meeting. Two offers were received – Jadranka Stojanovski, Ruder Boskovic Institute, Croatia and Manolis Stefanakis, Institute of Marine Biology, Crete. The President informed the meeting that she would contact both members with further information including a detailed checklist of requirements for hosting a Euraslic

conference immediately after this Joint Conference. She would ask them to review the information and discuss it with their Directors before then making a formal offer to host the 2005 Euraslic Conference.

15. AOB and Close

15.1 Report on the Environment Group Discussion

Elisa Paavilainen reported back to the meeting on the above session, which was held in Room 1 on Monday 15 October between 15.30 and 16.30 hours. A written report will follow and be circulated to members. A Discussion List for the Environment libraries will be set up.

15.2 Euraslic Discussion List

There was some debate concerning the above list and whether or not the ILL traffic was the reason that other discussions were not forthcoming. It was generally thought that this was not the reason. Barbara Schmidt offered to analyse the site use list and it was suggested that any European organizations using the list who were not members should be targeted with membership details.

There being no further business, the Business Meeting was closed at 18.55.

Euraslic Annual Equipment Grants

In January of each year, the Euraslic Executive Board discusses and agrees a specific amount of funding to be awarded in grant(s) to member institutes to purchase library equipment during the current year. The amount of funding allocated will not exceed more than one fifth of the remaining balance in the Euraslic current account at the end of the preceding financial year (31 December). The total amount of funding set aside for Equipment Grants in 2002 is €1,500
Grant Applications should be sent to:

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Closing date for Grant Applications: 31st January. (Exceptionally, for 2002 the closing date is extended to 30th June)

The library requesting an equipment grant must be a current member of Euraslic. Detailed specifications of the type of equipment the grant will be used to purchase must be provided, along with an official estimate of the total cost of purchasing the equipment. A precise description of the purposes this equipment will be used for will also be required. The grant recipient must provide a report to the Board within 3 months of the receipt of the grant, confirming exactly how the grant money has been utilised.

Full details and an application form can be found at :

<http://www.euraslic.org/EuraslicGrants.htm>

A few remarks on Belgium and marine research

Belgium, already a small country in itself, has only 65 km of coastline, at the southernmost part of the North Sea, and is adjacent to one of the busiest shipways of the world, the English Channel. However, this small area has always been heavily used, especially since the 20th century, when this coast has seen a lot of new "players" coming into the picture. Fishermen, tourists, scientists, real estate promoters, industrialists, conservationists and the local communities have not always agreed on a good *modus vivendi* and are, still today, searching for the best possible way to agree on, and coordinate all their diverging coastal activities. On top of this, the governmental structure of the Kingdom of Belgium, and its competencies in relation to coastal matters, is far from easy to understand, and needs further explanation.

Belgium: how it works...

A very rough and incomplete overview of the structure of the Belgian state reads as follows (for extensive information on this subject, please consult www.fgov.be):

Belgium is a federal parliamentary democracy and the head of state is King Albert II. The country is divided into Communities and Regions.

- The Communities refer to a group of people speaking one of the three official languages, Dutch,

French or German, and sharing the same cultural affinities related to these language groups; they are allocated more or less to the geographic place where these people live, e.g. the Flemish Community is situated in Flanders and as a minority in the Brussels region.

- The Regions are geographic descriptions: we have the Flemish (north Belgium), Walloon (south Belgium) and Brussels Region.

The Federal Government retains important areas of competence including: foreign affairs, defense, justice, national finances, social security, important sectors of public health and domestic affairs. Other competencies are assigned to the Regional Governments. These include *inter alia* culture, education, economy, tourism, regional finances, agriculture and fisheries, environmental issues, science and technology. On a still lower level, we have Provinces and Communities (cities, villages), with specific competencies and responsibilities for their respective territories.

It is clear that some issues, and especially problems relating to the marine environment, are difficult to tackle within such a structure. In fact, every level of authority in the country has some competencies and responsibilities concerning the Flemish coast and Belgian sea. The Federal Government is solely responsible for the Belgian Continental Shelf and all activities related to this area. From the lowest low tide mark on, however, it is the Flemish Government that takes over all competencies, being responsible for all matters relating to the beach and dune areas. But, in case of a disaster (e.g. shipwrecks, storms or flooding), it is the Governor of the Province that takes things in hand, and coordinates rescue plans and actions to be taken. Finally, in some specific cases, the Mayor of the coastal community concerned, has to give approval for certain activities (e.g. giving a municipal permission to build an offshore windfarm).

Within this framework, marine scientific research and information dissemination activities have to find a place. In a country report (Haspelslagh, J. & Nieuwenhuysen, P., in press), to be published in the Proceedings of the joint

IAMS LIC/EURAS LIC meeting, Brest, France, 14-18 Oct 2001, the evolution of these activities is explained. In the following paragraphs two of the main organisations and institutes, dealing with marine research on one hand, and dealing with coordination, support and information on the other hand, will be highlighted. Of course, many other organisations in the country are working very hard in the marine field, but they cannot all be mentioned in this brief article. For extensive information on marine related institutions in Belgium, please consult <http://www.vliz.be/vmdccdata/lmis/instsrch.htm>, where you will find a directory of all Belgian marine organisations.

Nationally organized marine research

On the federal level, the Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences has a well established marine division, **The Management Unit of the North Sea Mathematical Models and the Scheldt estuary**, abbreviated to **MUMM** (www.mumm.ac.be/en/index.php). As MUMM is a federal organisation, their main working area is the Belgian Continental Shelf. The research strategy focuses on three topics: modelling, monitoring and management of the research area.

- *Modelling* involves studying the ecosystems of the North Sea using mathematical modelling techniques, with a view to understanding how they function and to providing certain forecasting capabilities.
- *Monitoring* relates to collecting marine information required to validate the models and make them operational, along with the various techniques used to assess the condition of the marine environment.
- *Management* means representing Belgium in a number of inter-governmental conventions dealing with the protection of the marine environment, including the preparation of Belgian positions to be upheld and the implementation of decisions taken, under the authority of the Minister responsible for marine environmental policy.

MUMM also deploys a research vessel, the *Belgica*. It is important to note here that this vessel can also be used by other

institutes (e.g. universities) for marine research projects and monitoring. Thus, MUMM gives logistic support to marine research activities that it cannot organise itself.

As MUMM is a division of the Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, bibliographies of the literature related to these federal marine activities can be accessed via the central library of the Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences. This old, respected and very large scientific library is undergoing major changes which will soon result in enhanced access to the catalogues and collections through the www, and more streamlined ILL-facilities. In the intermediate stages, parts of the catalogues can already be consulted here: www.naturalsciences.be/science/library.

Regional level: a integrated project for the marine community

On a lower governmental level, namely that of the Flemish region, the recently (1999) established **Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ)** has very quickly filled in long-neglected needs for the marine community as a whole. Studies commissioned by the Federal Office for Scientific, Technical and Cultural Affairs (OSTC) in the late 1990s clearly showed that there was a substantial lack of coordination in marine research activities, that communication between research groups, and communication towards the general public could be better organised, and that the need for additional logistic support and oceanographic platforms was urgent. In this respect, the Flemish Government, together with the Province of West-Flanders, and the Belgian National Science Foundation (the three founding instances of the institute), stimulated VLIZ to formulate and execute a set of priorities, namely:

- building an information and coordination centre for marine research in Flanders. VLIZ functions in this respect as a coordination platform for policy, for federal and institutional collaboration and for logistic support of the scientific research
- creating an oceanographic platform. VLIZ deploys the vessel *Zeeleeuw*, and is responsible for management, maintenance and utilisation of the shared research equipment and infrastructure

- building the Flanders Marine Data and Information Centre. The Centre assembles different types of data and information, implements international standards, (re)distributes data nationally and internationally, and manages a specialised marine-scientific library
- increase the visibility of Flanders concerning marine research. VLIZ provides information from and to the international community and functions as an international contact point for the Flemish marine researchers
- VLIZ carries out other activities in support of marine sciences, e.g. public awareness campaigns, and management of a marine literature-collection aimed at general readers.
- VLIZ will advise, and make proposals upon request from the Flemish Government or on its own initiative, and functions as a point of contact for several *ad hoc* assignments of the Flemish Government.
- to stimulate networking by means of maximum centralisation of the available data of research groups and governmental authorities, also on an international scale
- to detect needs; create series of data for interdisciplinary research, taking into account the accepted international standards
- integration of different types of data, including control on consistency and quality
- building and managing a multimedia marine literature collection, in an open networked library environment

The Institute has been able to meet these demands, and is widely accepted in the country as the main partner for coordinating, organising and supporting activities in relation to the marine environment. The RV *Zeeleeuw* is complementary to the activities of RV *Belgica*, and both ships enjoy a year-round filled cruise-schedule. Both vessels are deployed according to their specific characteristics and operational area to best accommodate the scientific community's requests for shipboard time. It is important to emphasize that neither MUMM nor VLIZ will make claims to specific operational areas, activities, research domains or any other delineation in the deployment of both vessels.

Information management: integration of all partners and knowledge items

In the field of marine information management, the **VLIZ Marine Data and Information Centre** also has specific objectives:

- to provide researchers, the government and those interested with data and information, in a suitable and prompt way

To meet its objectives, the VMDC makes data-exchange agreements with relevant partners, firstly with research teams from Flemish universities, research institutes, and government departments with similar objectives. International activities are undertaken through close collaboration with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO. The Data Centre is the National Oceanographic Data Centre (NODC) for Flanders, and it is actively involved in several initiatives of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE).

The library is part of national library networks (such as Antilope, CCB, Felnet, VOWB, VVBAD: see the above mentioned country report for more information), and international marine library associations (EURASLIC, IAMSLIC). It also functions as the National ASFA-partner for Belgium.

One of its core projects (in cooperation with the Data Center) is the management of the **IMIS-database (Integrated Marine Information System)**. A paper on this specific marine information tool will be published in the forthcoming Proceedings of the joint IAMSLIC/EURASLIC meeting, Brest, France, 14-18 Oct 2001 (Haspelslagh, J.P. & Vanden Berghe, E., *in press*). It is to be noted that, although it has only been operational since the beginning of 2001, the IMIS-database serves more and more as the main information gateway for the whole of the Flemish (and Belgian) marine community. All relevant information pertaining to Flemish marine sciences and research (e.g. expertise, institute and organisation directories, literature, symposia, projects, and datasets) are accessible and

searchable through one access-point (www.vliz.be/vmdcdata/lmis/index.htm).

Conclusion

Of course, many other very relevant activities take place in MUMM and VLIZ. For a complete overview, please consult www.mumm.ac.be/en/index.php for information on MUMM, and for information on VLIZ www.vliz.be/en/intro.htm.

Even though the two cited institutes play an important role in the Belgian marine field, there are, as already mentioned, many other important players in the field. The interested reader will find a complete overview of the Belgian marine scientific world, and of organisations dealing with marine information through a simple search in the IMIS-database (see: www.vliz.be/vmdcdata/lmis/index.htm).

A lot of work has been done in Belgium in recent years to enhance the visibility and efficiency of the marine scientific community, and in the field of marine information dissemination, and much progress has been made. We feel that the Belgian marine community has very strong assets and qualities, and that this group of people, institutes and organisations will continue its positive work to improve the knowledge of the marine environment. Nationally and internationally, this community will strive to further cooperate with all interested partners in the marine area. Networks like EURASLIC play an important role as information channels to carry out the message of continued interest in, and concern for the seas around us. We hope that Belgium can continue to add its efforts to this huge task, together with as many other sea states as possible.

Jan Haspeslagh

Announcement

EurOcean, a new European centre for information on marine science and technology, was opened by Portuguese and French officials in Lisbon on 28 February. The new centre aims to provide an impetus to creating a European marine policy and also to contribute to the development of a marine European research area.

The centre will be using the conclusions of the report 'Towards a new marine

dimension for Europe through research and technological development', which was presented to the Research Council in June 2000, as some of its goals. The Council took place during the Portuguese Presidency of the EU, and the Portuguese Research Minister, Jose Mariano Gago, was present at the opening of EurOcean. The initiative to establish the centre came from the Portuguese government, supported by France, during the year of the ocean in 1998.

Specifically, EurOcean plans to facilitate cooperation between European organisations involved in marine science and technology, to compile information on new trends in marine research and technology and to implement an operational online system to identify sources of information.

The first project EurOcean has taken on is to establish an Internet portal for marine science and technology, which will provide information on areas related to marine research. In addition, an agreement has been reached whereby EurOcean will maintain the Intergovernmental oceanographic commission's regional portal for Europe.

E-mail: eurocean@fct.mct.pt

For further information:
<http://www.eurocean.org>

Publications

PUSHING FORWARD THE LIBRARY OF THE MARINE SCIENCES INSTITUTE OF ANDALUSIA.

Enrique Wulff Barreiro. *Managing Information* March 2002. p.32.

Promoting the library of the Marine Sciences Institute of Andalusia, Spanish Council for Scientific Research. This article displays the very essence of what e-content is about. A complete, varied and very important collection in its field, held in a variety of formats and media, and the need to make it all available electronically. International forums where the library has been welcome, like the International Council for Scientific Unions (CODATA), and IAMSLIC/EURASLIC, are listed.

MANAGING RESOURCES IN A SEA OF CHANGE: Proceedings of the 27th Annual Conference of the International

Association of Aquatic and Marine Sciences Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC) and the 9th Conference of the European Association of Aquatic Sciences Libraries and Information Centres (EURASLIC), 14-19 October 2001, Brest, France. Eds. James W. Markham, David J. Hyett and Andrea L. Duda. IAMSLIC, Fort Pierce, Florida, 2002.

Obituary

Frank Clark Hirst, O.B.E.

Frank Hirst died on 22 September, aged 84. Born in Saltaire, Yorkshire, Frank was Chief Librarian of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) from 1949 until his retirement in 1981. As Chief Librarian, Frank was based in MAFF's main library in Whitehall Place, London, but was also responsible for the many government institute libraries, including those of the fisheries institutes, which came under MAFF. A supporter and mentor of Biaslic from its earliest days, Frank attended many of the annual meetings, and participants benefited not only from his shrewd and practical advice during the meetings, but also in the evenings when he entertained us with stories, often self-deprecating, of life inside and outside Whitehall. As UK coordinator, Frank Hirst was active and well-known in Agris, the international agricultural information system, and in its European offshoot EurAgris, travelling frequently to the Food and Agriculture Organisation in Rome and to other European centres. From the beginning, Frank was a strong supporter of the UK's participation in the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) programme, and was always ready with comments and advice. Frank's wife Irene was Librarian of the Ealing School of Librarianship, and when they retired they moved back north - but to Lancashire, where they lived in Lytham St. Annes. I always regarded Frank as a mentor, and was grateful for his support and advice on many occasions, not only during ASFA's early years, but also in the 1980s when negotiating with (or circumventing) the Machiavellian bureaucracy of the UK Natural Environment Research Council. Frank was always ready to help, never failing to remind me that he felt it was an obligation because we had both attended the Sir

Titus Salt High School in Yorkshire - though with many years in between.

Allen Varley
25 November 2001

Snippets

The Library of the Institute of Marine Research in Kiel has rented a "Bookeye-Scanner" and can now scan articles and send them as pdf-files (without any costs). Barbara says "Do not hesitate to use our help in getting articles you cannot get anywhere else!"

Olga Akimova, on behalf of our Euraslic ECET members, has been successful in applying for an Iamslic Grant of \$1,500 to fund a Scoping Study and Meeting in support of the Black Sea Regional Library Cooperation Project.

Websites

Bibliographic Software Board

<http://www.researchsoftware.nl/kb/gforum.cgi?category=10>

An archive of three email discussion lists, for ProCite, EndNote and Reference Manager users, has recently been set up. If you've got a problem, chances are someone else has had it first, and maybe got an answer here.

Events

27-29 September 2002

Seminar to Focus on Sustainable Development in the Black Sea Region, Mamaia, Romania.

An international seminar on team input and multiprofessional approaches to sustainability. The aim of the event is to strengthen links, make new contacts, exchange experience and identify new projects for environmentally focused approaches to sustainable development in the Black Sea region. The conference languages will be English and French. For further information contact either: Alexandru Bologa, abologa@alpha.rmri.ro or Roger Charlier, roger.charlier@pophost.eunet.be

October 6-11, 2002

28th IAMSLIC Annual Conference

Mazatlan, Mexico. "Bridging the Digital Divide".

The main theme for the conference is the digital divide and its effect on aquatic library services in developing countries. Papers and posters that present examples of "bridging the divide", within developing countries and across the north-south divide, will be especially welcome. Iamslic would like to see delegates attend from Latin America, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

<http://www.nefsclibrary.nmfs.gov/2002iamslic/2002home.html>

Fax: +49 431 6634-345
e-mail: Berliner.Hof.Kiel@t-online.de
Please quote "EURASLIC" when booking a room! (Single bedroom: 56 Euro; double: 77 Euro; incl. breakfast). We have until the 3.2.2003 to book the rooms! Please forward any requests for subjects that you would like to see covered to Barbara Schmidt (bschmidt@ifm.uni-kiel.de)

October - December 2002

STIMULATE 2

Scientific and Technological Information Management in Universities and Libraries: an Active Training Environment.

The training is mainly organized at the University Library of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (V.U.B), close to the city of Brussels, Belgium.

This initiative is aimed primarily at persons with a university degree, who work in universities, information and documentation centers, and libraries, including of course university libraries, and who have a few years of practical experience. The main aim is to offer a stimulating learning environment to participants, who have a function as information intermediary in the area of science and technology, so that they can sharpen their skills in collecting, storing, retrieving, presenting and managing information.

Contact: Paul NIEUWENHUYSEN
(Paul.Nieuwenhuysen@vub.ac.be)
<http://www.vub.ac.be/BIBLIO/itp/stimulate-announcement.htm>

May 7-9, 2003

EURASLIC 10: "Smooth sailing : crossing the boundaries in Aquatic Sciences Information Management"

The Tenth Biennial Conference of the European Association of Aquatic Sciences Libraries and Information Centres, 7-9th May 2003, Institut fuer Meereskunde, Kiel, Germany.

Rooms are reserved (from 6-11.5.2003):
Hotel Berliner Hof
Ringstrasse 6
24103 Kiel
Germany
Tel: +49 431 6634-0
