

The 15th Biennial Conference
of the European Association of Aquatic Sciences
Libraries and Information Centres (EURASLIC)
will take place in Varna, Bulgaria, 13 - 15 May, 2013



The city of Varna is situated at the north shore of the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. It is famous for its rich natural resources, which make it one of the most popular resort centres in Europe and the largest one in the Black Sea region. Varna is the third largest city after Sofia and Plovdiv and is commonly referred to as Bulgaria's marine capital.

Find more at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Varna
http://www.varnahotels.com/varna_tourism_info.html

Please, don't forget to keep an eye on the EURASLIC website for further information regarding the meeting arrangements $\ensuremath{\bigcirc}$

Looking forward to welcoming you all in Varna in 2013!

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PAST EVENTS

14th Biennial Meeting of EURASLIC, 17-20 May 2011, Lyon, France Caught in the "fishing net" of information

The forum was attended by 42 participants from 11 countries. The program included 16 oral presentations, 4 posters and country several reports. **Executive Board and Business** were held Meetings Wednesday 18th May. During these meetings were discussed issues referring EURASLIC membership, funds, revising the list of National Representatives, **EURASLIC** Regional Groups activities,



website, Newsletter and Leaflet. Three suggestions were made for the venue of 15th EURASLIC Meeting in 2013 – Bulgaria, Russia and Poland, one of which had to be confirmed by the end of the year. The results of EURASLIC Executive Board elections arrived in the last day of the conference because of the time difference with USA. The list of the new Executive Board members is on our website.

The Proceedings of the Conference are open access available on the website and distributed on CD on demand.

Our hosts, Cemagref staff, took care for the gala dinner at Quai des Arts Restaurant where we had a lot of dancing and fun. Post conference outings included a visit to Traboules (a type of passageway primarily associated with the city of Lyon), Perouges and a bird park excursion.

On behalf of EURASLIC Executive Board I would like to express our great thanks to the Conference Committee and local hosts: Marie-Pascale Baligand, Anne-Laure Achard, Yves Confesson, Emmanuelle Jannes-Ober and Ashley Tilghman-Sibille for the brilliant organization of all conference events and their kind hospitality.

Appreciation also goes to the sponsors that have contributed to the success of our biennial meeting, namely Cemagref, EBSCO, ELSEVIER, ProQuest and Springer.

Snejina Bacheva EURASLIC President

37th IAMSLIC Conference – 5th AFRIAMSLIC Conference, 16-21 October 2011, Zanzibar, Tanzania

Information safari: discovering and sharing resources



Some sunshine, and sunny smiles, from the friends at the IAMSLIC meeting in Zanzibar!

Photo courtesy of Amy Butros

The last IAMSLIC conference took place in Zanzibar in Tanzania, 16-21 October, 2011. It was the first IAMSLIC meeting in Africa. It gathered around 40 persons. Zanzibar is a semi-autonomous part of Tanzania in East Africa. It is situated in the Indian Ocean, 25–50 kilometres off the coast of the mainland. Zanzibar's ecology is of note for being the home of the endemic Zanzibar Red Colobus Monkey and the island is well known for spices.

This meeting was a good opportunity for African libraries to present how they share knowledge and resources.

ORDINAFRICA is the Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa. AFRILIB is the online union catalogue of library partners of ORDINAFRICA. The main objective is to assist the marine information centres and libraries within Africa in making available online their local resources. It contains now more than 15,000 records. The central database is hosted in IODE. The ODINAFRICA libraries have moved to the new integrated library management system ABCD (formerly ISIS) and repository systems AGRIOCEAN- DSPACE. The new version of AFRILIB will be developed upon Dspace technology and will use its harvesting functionalities to update automatically the database with new records form local libraries.

Alice Endra from National Fisheries Resources Research Institute (NaFIRRI) Information Centre, Uganda (http://www.firi.go.ug) presented their new portal E-board and Aqua link program. This program was established to disseminate information on biodiversity

conservation among school children and teachers. About 1570 students are involved in this program (http://www.vecotourism.org/takeatour/tours/aqualink).

Ibeun Moses from Freshwater fisheries Research (NIFFR), Nigeria evaluated the African countries to the Aquatic Commons (http://aquaticcommons.org/) and highlighted the problems encountered in searching for information in the system. Results showed that 82 agencies worldwide uploaded articles (3,867 documents) into the Aquatic Commons repository. Further results showed that African agencies were only 8, or 9.8% of the total number of contributors. The eight agencies uploaded 596 entries which formed 15.4% of the total submission to the repository. The report suggested that the possible reasons for low level participation were: ineptitude of African librarians and other stakeholders, inability to create awareness of the project, lack of feedback mechanism to participating agencies and language of the repository. Suggested ways to beef up African participation included: identification of relevant agencies in the different countries, creating awareness of participation among agencies identified, having a feedback mechanism for contributing institutions and finding a way of accommodating actively the French speaking countries in Africa. The paper further evaluated problems in retrieving information on specific subjects and geographic areas. Results from the evaluation showed a subject categorization had been used to describe the documents uploaded. That had led to false drops in most searches. Thus, precision was never achieved while searching the repository. The subject allocation in the metadata did not help anyone who wanted information on specific subject area. Descriptors were not the true description of the document. Retrieving information on geographic areas was not precise. Bearing in mind that the Aquatic Commons repository is a growing collection and the number of contributions will be increasing, it is recommended using a thesaurus for describing the articles uploaded to facilitate the retrieving of documents. In the absence of this it will be difficult to bring out the useful information which abounds in the repository. The most tested thesaurus for recommendation is the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Thesaurus.

Marc Goovaerts, representative from UNESCO -IODE, presented the open archive AgriOcean Dspace. AgriOcean Dspace is a joint initiative of the United Nations agencies of FAO and UNESCO- IOC/IODE to provide a customized version of DSpace using high standards for metadata, thesauri and other controlled vocabularies in oceanography, marine science, food, agriculture, development, fisheries, forestry, natural resources and other related sciences. The communities supported by FAO and UNESCO-IOC/IODE are synergistic and the standards on metadata and controlled vocabularies are similar for both. Collaborating offers an opportunity to integrate in a common repository tool the best of both worlds. AgriOcean Dspace will make scientific publications in the fields of marine, agriculture and related sciences easy and freely accessible and will facilitate the publishing of research by scientists. More specifically it will enhance internal scientific communication and help involve institutional repositories with setting up OAI-compliant repositories. AgriOcean DSpace will be used by partners in the OceanDocs network who want to set up their own repositories. A training course was organized for OdinAfrica in Lomé, Togo (April 2011). The repositories will also be harvested by the AGRIS database of FAO and by VOA3R.

An evening workshop took place during the conference to see how librarians can use AgriOcean Dspace software.

Pamela Marinda from ITOCA (http://www.itoca.org/) proposed online training on resources like TEEAL, AGORA, HINARI and OARE.

TEEAL (http://www.teeal.org/) is a digital collection of research journals for agriculture and related sciences. Researchers, students, faculty staff and librarians can discover and access thousands of full-text PDF articles without the use of internet. TEEAL is available to institutions in income-eligible countries.

AGORA program (http://www.aginternetwork.org/), set up by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) together with major publishers, enables developing countries to gain access to an outstanding digital library collection in the fields of food, agriculture, environmental science and related social sciences. AGORA provides a collection of 1900 journals to institutions in 107 countries. AGORA is designed to enhance the scholarship of many thousands of students, faculty staff and researchers in agriculture and life sciences in the developing world.

HINARI program (http://www.who.int/hinari/) set up by WHO together with major publishers, enables developing countries to gain access to one of the world's largest collections of biomedical and health literature. More than 8000 information resources (in 30 different languages) are now available to health institutions in 105 countries, areas and territories benefiting many thousands of health workers and researchers, and in turn, contributing to improve world health.

OARE (http://www.oaresciences.org/), Online Access to Research in the Environment, an international public-private consortium coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Yale University, and leading science and technology publishers, enables developing countries to gain access to one of the world's largest collections of environmental science research. Over 4,150 peer reviewed titles (as of 10/2011) owned and published by over 350 prestigious publishing houses and scholarly societies are now available in more than 100 low income countries. Research is provided in a wide range of disciplines.

The last session title was "Shaping the future: using new technologies and defining new roles for librarians". In this last session we had a very interesting presentation by Pavlinka Kovatcheva, Sciences Librarian, University of Johannesburg, South Africa:

The technologically challenged academic librarian: What has changed in the provision of information services in the age of social interactions? - "Since late 2007 my professional life has changed from that of a traditional librarian to a 2.0 librarian. From the implementation of social tools such as Facebook, Twitter, blogs, wikis, social bookmarking to becoming a web designer and content creator for subject portals. So, the question is: What librarian am I now? Am I a hybrid librarian? Did I have the required skills to handle all the new online interactions? Three to four years down the road, I'm looking back at my experiment to provide "one click" access to services and resources for the Natural Sciences users. I have found that skills are learned, change is possible, social tools can be very helpful and we, the librarians, are still current and

competitive. Oh, and we can work 24/7 if we need to. Will the implementation of mobile technologies in the libraries be a value added option?"

The paper covers the new roles the librarians are taking in assisting researchers and learners in locating and accessing relevant information. The South African academic library environment is challenging both the traditional and online roles of the librarians. Do we meet the users' expectations?

My presentation concerned metrics: Which alternative tools for bibliometrics can we use? Nowadays, bibliometrics is a frequently used tool in scientific and technical information, it can be useful to quantify scientific production and for collective or individual evaluations. Web of Science (Thomson ISI) and impact factor calculated by JCR are the better known references. I underlined the limits and setbacks of these overused indicators, especially the bias h-index.

Metrics are often misunderstood, misinterpreted, misused. No scientist's career can be summarized by a number. Other alternative tools are emerging today. My presentation focused on comparing all these products, and I studied their interests for librarians and researchers. I presented new tools for journal evaluation like Eigen factor (http://www.eigenfactor.org/) or SCImago (http://www.scimagojr.com/) as well as for researchers evaluation, such as Gindex.

Marie-Pascale Baligand Irstea

Sea Fisheries Institute in Gdynia 90th Anniversary

Last year the Sea Fisheries Institute in Gdynia celebrated the 90th anniversary of marine fisheries research in Poland and the jubilee of 90th anniversary of its foundation.

The celebration was held at the Institute headquarters under the honorary patronage of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development on 16 and 17 June, 2011.

The event began with the ceremony of awarding the <u>Professor Kazimierz Demel Medal</u>, followed by lectures delivered by the laureates.

Prof. Victor Sapozhnikov of the Russian Federal Research Institute of Fishery and Oceanography (VNIRO), Moscow, Russia, gave a lecture entitled "Causes of ecosystem changes in the seas of southern Russia – Black Sea, Sea of Azov, and Caspian Sea". Prof. Bodo von Bodungen of the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research, Rostock, Germany, the 2011 medal laureate, delivered a lecture entitled "Do we conduct research out of curiosity or from within a framework – or how best to help our ecosystem".

After the scientific session, Vice-Minister Kazimierz Plocke, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, presented the most accomplished personnel of the SFI with state decorations awarded by the President of Poland. The staff of the Institute library was also awarded.



The head of the Scientific Information Center, Małgorzata Grabowska-Popow (in the center) together with colleagues of other departments and the director Prof. Tomasz Linkowski (first on the right).

Minister Plocke announced that the Council of Ministers had awarded the SFI with the status of National Research Institute. As of June 30, 2011, the official name of the SFI will be the National Marine Fisheries Research Institute (in Polish: Morski Instytut Rybacki – Państwowy Instytut Badawczy).

Upon attaining the status of NRI, the Sea Fisheries Institute in Gdynia has joined the elite ranks of Polish national research institutes. Of the approximately 80 scientific institutions in Poland, fewer than fifteen have attained such a status, which indicates that the research and monitoring performed consistently by these institutions is exceptional, wide-reaching, and significant for the planning and implementation of national policies.

In the case of SFI, the research and development work performed at the Institute provide sound scientific foundations for managing marine fisheries, and this is crucial to the fisheries policy of both Poland and the European Union.

Together with the Institute its Library has developed. In the beginning it possessed only dozens of books and periodicals (1921) and now it houses about 15 000 of books and 9,000 volumes of journals. The SFI Library offers a unique and the only collection in Poland dedicated to sea fisheries research.

Since 1921, a rich collection of books, journals, etc. has been built and it encompasses publications from numerous international publishers and organizations related to fisheries. Besides, the Library has collected a number of atlases, encyclopaedias, dictionaries and keys for identifying fish and living sea organisms. It also offers the Polish Bibliography of Sea Fisheries from 1945 to 1991.

The topics of the collection are: biological and physical oceanography; ichthyology and the biology and ecology of the seas; living resources and their management; catch techniques; processing technologies for raw food of marine origin; fishery market economics. The most precious collections of the Library are: a complete collection of ICES documentation of the meetings – the only such a collection in Poland and the collection of old Polish and foreign scientific books and journals from the early 20^{th} century and even older.

Małgorzata Grabowska-Popow Sea Fisheries Institute, Gdynia, Poland

Joint ODINECET – ODINBlackSea Meeting

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ODINECET Workshop on Marine Information Management

12 - 14 September 2011, Sevastopol, Ukraine



Twenty two persons from eight countries participated in the ODINECET Workshop.

The participants analyzed the ODINECET action items for 2010-2011 proposed during the ODINECET-MIM Workshop held in March 2010, Oostende, Belgium.

http://odinecet.iode.org/index.php/events-calendar/15-eventmarch2010

The results of the analysis showed that the most action items were fulfilled and some of them were done only partly.

ODINECET noted useful cooperation with the ODINBlackSea. This collaboration is (i) assistance in searching for oceanographic data in printed sources held in libraries of the ECET region; (ii) updating of the ODINECET page on the IODE website; (iii) development of integrated library system Koha,(iv) administration and maintenance of IBSS and CEEMaR repositories.

Dr. V. Vladymyrov, Coordinator of the ODINBlackSea, highlighted further possible collaboration fields between ODINECET and ODINBS projects, such as searching, digitizing and archiving of historical oceanographic datasets in libraries archives, development of open repositories and implementation of integrated library systems.

Dr. L. Kulagina presented information on creation of the RuFIR (Russian Fishery Industry Repository), which provides access to papers produced by the staff of the Russian Fishery Industry Institutes. She pointed out that they had been using Manakin, a new front end for DSpace created by Texas A&M University Libraries.

Dr. M. Grabowska-Popow described a very interesting experience – an analysis of a Questionnaire prepared by the Polish Marine library in Gdynia.

After lunch, the participants of the joint ODINECET – ODINBS meeting visited the scientific library of the Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. The library staff informed the participants about the history of the library and its recent activities and made presentation of rare books collection.

The second day started with a presentation by Jan Haspeslagh, who described the program developed by VLIZ for managing of the ECET UNION Catalogue of Serials. Training on data input was provided.

The new version of Dspace software for IBSS and CEEMaR repositories was described by D. Slypetskyy. The training on data input was finished.

Late in the afternoon the participants visited the Preserve of Tauric Chersonesos and its library.

On the third day, Kseniya Skuratova (IT staff from the IBSS) presented integrated library system Koha describing its functionality and in particular cataloguing and record storing unit as the most useful one in the system of small libraries.

A new project "Digitization of rare books on marine science in the ODINECET region" was discussed.

Pauline Simpson made a presentation highlighting the requirements for the digitization project and framing decision-making questions. The project now is under elaboration.

O. Akimova presented the action plan for 2011 – 2013. After the discussion the participants endorsed the plan.

At 2 pm the Workshop was closed by O. Akimova and V. Vladymyrov. They thanked the Sevastopol Banking Institute of the Ukrainian Banking Academy of the National Bank of Ukraine for hosting the joint ODINECET — ODIN Black Sea Workshop and ODINBS Steering Committee meeting, as well as the IOC Project Office for IODE for the support they provided to the ODINECET and ODINBlackSea.

We would like to say words of thanks to Peter Pissierssens and Vladimir Vladymyrov and their teams for the great help in the Workshop organising.

Words of thanks go to Pauline Simpson, Linda Pikula and Jan Haspeslagh for the assistance in the ODINECET projects elaborating.

More detailed report you can see at the ODINECET website http://odinecet.iode.org/

Olga Akimova ODINECET coordinator

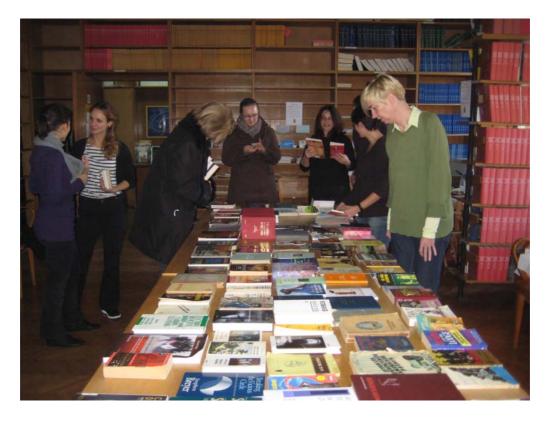


"Take It or Leave It" Book Exchange at Rudjer Boskovic Institute Library

Working in a scientific research institute's library (as most of you do) for a number of years, you might think you've learned all about your patrons' reading habits and tastes. Rudjer Boskovic Institute (RBI) Library's holdings cover physics, chemistry, oceanography, biology, biomedicine, computer science, electronics engineering. Literature requests we get and titles we hear mentioned in talking the corridors mostly mention



Science, Nature, Physical Review Letters, Chemical Communication, Cancer Research or books with terms such as string theory, DNA sequence, ionization and alike. However, it would be very wrong to presume that's all our scientists ever read. They also have their private reading tastes and interests that are not connected with their work. With that thought in mind, last year we have decided to organize a new kind of event in our Library: a free book exchange. We were also inspired by a few similar initiatives in Zagreb, by the fact that at home we all have way too many books we don't need or read anymore, and with a wish to attract our patrons to visit the library and socialize during an informal occasion.



Organization was quite simple and easy to do. For the venue we chose one of the reading rooms in the library: two or three big tables put together made a very good

stall for displaying exchange goodies. We have set a few rules for the exchange. Patrons could just bring the books they wanted to give away, or just take some, or both. We asked them to bring books in a good condition, covering both fiction and scientific literature, preferably newer editions, and not to bring books in bad condition, out-of-date scientific literature and journals/magazines. We have put posts about the book exchange on our blog and Facebook profile, sent a few e-mails on the RBI mailing-list and made small posters and put them up all around the Institute. Leaflets were put on places where people frequently gather (coffee machines, restaurant, info-boards...).

The first exchange was organized in June 2011. We were pleasantly surprised when first visitors started to come even before the official start of the exchange, carrying boxes and bags full of books. Because of the big interest, we decided to prolong the exchange from just one day to the whole week. Books were coming and going all the time. We have estimated that over 200 books found new owners during those few days. On display were all kinds of books, from very recent scientific literature and popular science, through classics to SF novels and books for children. After the end of the exchange, we were left with cca 150 books which we offered to the other libraries via mailing-lists and eventually donated to one public library.

The second exchange took place in December 2011. The time frame was from the start the whole week and the respond was even better than before. We estimated that cca 400 books were "adopted" and what remained was again to be donated. The timing was right for finding some free Christmas presents (summer exchange, on the other hand, provided people with some easy readings for the summer holidays on the beach).

Participants in the exchange gave us very positive and encouraging feedback. Lots of them told us that this event gave them the kick to go through their private book collections and get rid of the books they hadn't been using for years. Boxes of books stored in the attics or basements were finally brought to light and have found new owners. We met a lot of new faces (RBI staff who normally hardly ever come to the library) and drew positive attention to the Library. This gave us the encouragement to continue with this book story. We already have some new plans for the next exchange which we hope to carry out this year.

From this little action we have learned a number of things. Firstly, we shouldn't be afraid to introduce new things into our libraries, be imaginative and attract patrons in, perhaps, a bit unusual ways. Secondly, we have remembered Ranganathan and his Five Laws of Library Science: Books are for use; Every reader his [or her] book; Every book its reader; Save the time of the reader; A library is a growing organism. How very true! Thirdly, you don't need extra financing in your budget for activities like this – we only needed a few tables, paper for promotion material, some time and a good will and enthusiasm! The content and happy faces of our patrons proved it to be worthwhile.

Marina Mayer Rudjer Boskovic Institute, Croatia

UPCOMING EVENTS

Exploring New Frontiers in Aquatic Sciences Information Management

38th IAMSLIC Annual Conference, August 26-30, 2012 &
24th Cyamus Annual Meeting, August 24-25, 2012
Anchorage, Alaska, USA



Anchorage skyline. Photo courtesy of Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau

For more information see Conference webpage: http://www.iamslic.org/conf2012/

ENTERTAINMENT TIME





This year Oscar winner in the category Best Short Film, Animated is **The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore (2011):** William Joyce, Brandon Oldenburg. This short animated movie could be interesting for the library community as it is about those who devote their lives to books and about healing power of stories.

The movie can be watched on You tube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Adzywe9xeIU
More about the movie: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1778342/

Reviewed by Sofija Konjevic Rudjer Boskovic Institute, Croatia



EURASLIC Executive Board 18 May 2011 – 18 May 2013

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