



# EURASLIC NEWSLETTER

## European Association of Aquatic Sciences Libraries and Information Centres

2003, N° 28 (October) ISSN 1560-5299

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members

During the last few months, members of the Board have been engaged in a number of activities aimed at raising the profile of Euraslic with other European aquatic networks and initiatives, and with international organisations such as the Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of Unesco, as well as progressing various other specifically Euraslic projects and initiatives.

#### **EurOcean**

During the latter part of August, Jan Haspeslagh and I attended a meeting in Paris with Laurent d'Ozouville, the Director of EurOcean. The purpose of the meeting was to explore potential areas of collaboration between Euraslic and EurOcean. A number of ways in which Euraslic could collaborate with EurOcean were identified and included in the full report of the meeting that was circulated to members via the Discussion List on 12th September. On 12th October I circulated a EurOcean Questionnaire which had been especially prepared by Laurent for Euraslic members. I would like to encourage all members from marine and oceanographic libraries to complete and return this questionnaire to EurOcean. The EurOcean Portal is specifically focussed on marine science and technology within the European context and, as such, is an initiative that I believe Euraslic should be supporting. I encourage you to visit EurOcean Portal at: <http://www.eurocean.org> to explore the various ways in which both librarians and scientists can become involved, and draw this initiative to the attention of staff within your institutes.

#### **Black Sea Library Cooperation Project**

The meeting with EurOcean was kindly facilitated by Peter Pissierssens of IOC, who also attended the meeting. As often happens at such meetings, an unforeseen opportunity arose with Peter inviting us to prepare a proposal for funding to support a meeting of the Black Sea Library Cooperation Project at the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) in October. The proposal for funding from IOC was successful and that meeting is taking place as I write. We look forward to hearing the outcomes from the Project Coordinator, Olga Akimova.

## **IODE / GEMIM**

I have recently initiated a discussion on the Euraslic List about Euraslic representation at International meetings such as IODE and GEMIM. Whilst these meetings are held only every three years, they do provide an important opportunity for Euraslic to help influence IODE activities and projects and related funding over the ensuing three years. Pauline Simpson has very kindly represented Euraslic at these meetings in the past, and Sofia Goulala is also a member of GEMIM. I would like to encourage members to read the last GEMIM Report which is available online at <http://ioc.unesco.org/iode/files/ggemim07.pdf>, and to respond via the Discussion List with any comments both about the report and about Euraslic attendance at future meetings.

## **Freshwater Libraries**

I am conscious of the fact that many of the initiatives mentioned above are primarily of benefit to our members in marine and oceanographic libraries and information centres. The Board is therefore now turning its attention toward efforts to support our members from freshwater institutes. FreshwaterLife

(<http://www.freshwaterlife.info>) is a project that a long-serving member of Euraslic Ian Pettman is involved in, and the Board is currently considering entering into discussions with this group to explore potential areas of collaboration, and what benefits that might bring to Euraslic members. I will bring you news about the outcomes of those discussions via the Discussion List or in the next issue of the Euraslic Newsletter.

## **Other activities...**

Maria Kalenchits and her colleagues in the ECET - European Countries in Economic Transition - group are progressing well with their efforts to compile a ***Union List of Serials for ECET Libraries***. There has also been a suggestion of developing this into a Union List of Serials for all Euraslic Libraries, so I wish all of those involved in this project well, and we look forward to further news on their progress. Sofia Goulala has made good progress with the ***Euraslic Membership Directory***, and you should all be receiving your copy very soon. Jan Haspeslagh has recently returned from the ***Iamslic Conference in Mystic*** where he was the official representative of Euraslic. A number of issues are currently under discussion concerning the linkages between Euraslic and Iamslic, and the Board looks forward to discussing these over the next few months and taking them forward with members. Progress has been slower than anticipated on the ***European Directory of Aquatic Sciences Libraries and Information Centres*** and ***Euraslic Website*** Projects, but I hope that within a few weeks Jan and I will have been able to take these forward to the next stage.

## **Euraslic Board 2004-2006**

The current Board is now moving into the last six months of its term of office, and you will have seen the recent messages to the Discussion List about nominations for the next Board. I would like to encourage all members to consider whether they can spare some time to serve on the Board of Euraslic - we have a healthy and active organisation, with an increasing number of projects and initiatives in progress, and we are already in the planning stage for our next Conference in Split, Croatia in May 2005. Please feel free to contact any member of the

current Board directly if you would like to know more about what is involved.

**And finally...**

Many thanks go to Ian McCulloch and Snejina Bacheva for the production and distribution of this *Newsletter*. Please contact Snejina if you would like to continue to receive printed copies of the Newsletter. Sadly, Ian is now standing down as Newsletter Editor, but his efforts over the past two years have been very much appreciated. I hope to be able to announce the name of the new Editor very shortly.

Best wishes

*Joan Baron Varley*, Euraslic President.

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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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## OceanPortal

OceanPortal ([www.oceanportal.org](http://www.oceanportal.org)) is an online catalogue of 4000+ Internet websites covering the marine sciences and closely related disciplines - especially those dealing with the coastal environment.

Metadata descriptions of the sites include a very basic suite of fields (title, URL, abstract, email contact, etc.) and up to three categorical descriptors assigned from a hierarchical, controlled vocabulary (e.g. DATA & PRODUCTS > ONLINE SERVERS > MAPS/CHARTS/GIS).

Nearly all current records were originally catalogued with a prototype system that imposed a single categorization, so emphasis was placed on the functionality of the site (i.e. what it did) or the basic activity that the site represents (e.g. organization or project), with lesser emphasis on topicality (which usually appears, as shown by the example, at the sub-categorical level). In many cases, major data or information resources within websites are also catalogued separately, to surmount the limitations of the older, single-category system. In the new system, records are being catalogued by function, activity, and topic, but only about 1% of the records have been extended so far.

The catalogue aims to list resources at a level above the individual document or dataset, attempting instead to cover omnibus sites where searching of primary materials can be conducted using the tools and catalogues found there. Toward this end, great effort was placed on including discipline-oriented portals, on-line catalogues, and libraries. In this respect, OceanPortal can be considered the "portal to marine-related portals."

In addition, even where individual site resources are limited, OceanPortal

attempts to include as many oceanographic institutions as possible - especially in developing nations - with a view toward providing users with basic access to primary contact information.

Finally, some very specialized areas of marine science are included, such as marine data formats documentation, designated ocean data centres, "official" data coding schemes, research vessels, online calculators, CD-ROMs, and marine analysis software. None of these items are known to be catalogued elsewhere.

At IOC we are committed to continue the development and maintenance of OceanPortal but we consider that IAMSLIC should be our main partner in this initiative due to the extensive knowledge available in the IAMSLIC community. Over the years we have seen many small and not so small initiatives of IAMSLIC members who compiled excellent web-based information sources related to IAMSLIC's mandate. I recall that OceanPortal started out using these as source material.

I would like to invite you to have another look at OceanPortal and let us know your comments, critique and suggestions so we can continue to improve OceanPortal. We also need your help in adding sites.

We believe that OceanPortal has become an excellent tool for locating relevant ocean related information on the Internet. If you agree then please promote the tool in your institution through your data centre, library, or by talking about it to your colleagues. If you wish to make any suggestions for its improvement then please do not hesitate to contact us!!

AND: if you wish to contribute sites from your own favourite list of ocean web sites then please submit the sites to OceanPortal!

## **EURASLIC Board Elections**

The positions for which nominations are required are:

**President**

**Vice-President**

**Members Representative (2)**

**Treasurer** (must be a French National)

The Nominations Committee consists of:

Sarah Heath ([heaths@marlab.ac.uk](mailto:heaths@marlab.ac.uk))

Jadwiga Zdanowska

([iga.zdan@infish.com.pl](mailto:iga.zdan@infish.com.pl))

Valentina Khazova ([hazova@pinro.ru](mailto:hazova@pinro.ru))

The final date for receipt of nominations will be announced shortly.

According to the bylaws, "The Committee shall obtain the written acceptance of each nominee prior to submission of its list" but following consultation with the Board, the consensus of opinion from voting members is that written acceptance by nominees can be by email.

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## **IAMSLIC Conference**

A report by Jan Haspeslagh.

The 29th IAMSLIC Conference was held from 5-9 October 2003 in Mystic, CT (USA) (see: <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/nefsclibrary/2003iamslic/2003home.html>). The chosen theme of the meeting (Navigating the Shoals: Evolving User Services in Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries) resulted in some very interesting contributions. In this short report, it is not my intent to highlight each paper that was presented. The forthcoming Proceedings will certainly cover this, and they will be essential reading material for us all. I will therefore only briefly mention some presentations that were, for one reason or another, of particular interest to me.

The first day of the meeting saw the keynote paper, presented by Dr James T. Carlton (The Maritime Studies Program of Williams College and Mystic Seaport). In

a half-hour speech, Dr Carlton took us back in time almost to the Middle Ages, and showed us, on a time line from the early explorers until modern times, how the issue of invasive and alien species has evolved through the process of hundreds years of worldwide shipping activities. He explained his (at times very surprising and illuminated) view on what the natural status of an environment should be. At the same time, we could enjoy the way he linked the curriculum of his students to this very complex topic. Years of teaching experience, and the zeal of a gifted scientist did the rest. It was, to use the popular phrase, a very rewarding experience.

There was strong representation from Afriamslic, the new African regional group, and from the South American regional group. Samuel O. Ngete, Edna Nyika, Mac-Anthony Cobblah and Marian Jiaage all presented papers relating to the rapidly evolving user services and networking activities on the African continent. Their contributions prove that Afriamslic is becoming a very active regional group. Clara Ramirez-Jáuregui and Germán Ramírez-Reséndiz explained to us how South American aquatic libraries are working towards better information management systems for their centres, with emphasis on much needed standardization and with much attention to the eventual enhanced user services, which is their primary goal.

Two Euraslic members also had a paper at the conference. I had a talk on the different information services of the Flanders Marine Institute (Belgium). A paper on this will be included in the Conference Proceedings. Marcel Brannemann (Alfred Wegener Institute, Germany) showed us how he manages a quite complex situation of remote users from North to South Pole. His presentation showed that old, simple solutions remain very valuable. Although scientists in remote places such as an underground base (or should that be

‘under-ice’?) in Antarctica, do have email connection and Internet-access, their books and journals are still sent in large boxes by ships! Of course modern techniques for reaching remote users are applied where possible, but for the Alfred Wegener Institute, a very strict organization of their different services is essential. Marcel showed us that he copes very well with this situation. I am also very pleased to inform you all that during this Conference, Marcel Brannemann was elected as Iamslic President-Elect 2005-2006. Congratulations Marcel!

Several discussion sessions were on the program. One in particular was very important because its topic suggests all aquatic information centres: Diving into our Digital Future: Defining IAMSLIC’s Digital Architecture. The talk that was given by Pauline Simpson on the project of an ‘Iamslic Digital Repository’ showed particularly that our networking activities should strongly support preservation of, and access to our digital resources.

I had also the opportunity to represent Euraslic at the Iamslic Board meetings (replacing our president, Joan Baron Varley). I reported on the Euraslic Conference in Kiel, highlighting the different actions and projects that are underway within the Euraslic group. Our initiatives are very well received by Iamslic and they prove that Euraslic, as a regional group of Iamslic, remains a very important and active partner on the international scene. Some ‘problematic issues’ were also discussed during these Board Meetings, and it is my conviction that these issues will find a positive solution in the near future through mutual efforts by the Iamslic and Euraslic Boards.

Overall, this was yet again a rewarding week, where all attendants learned a lot, met new friends and colleagues, where old ties were strengthened again, and where we all received an extra energy boost for

another year of “marine information labour”.

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### **eScholarship Repository Journal, San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science Now Available**

The first eScholarship Repository peer-reviewed journal, San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science (SFEWS) <http://repositories.cdlib.org/jmie/sfews> is now available. Repository journals are free and available to any Internet user.

SFEWS is published by the John Muir Institute of the Environment at UC Davis for the San Francisco Bay-Delta Science Consortium. It features peer-reviewed research on the science and ecology of the San Francisco Bay, Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, and upstream watersheds. The first issue focuses on San Francisco Estuary tidal wetlands restoration.

The eScholarship Repository <http://repositories.cdlib.org/escholarship/> offers UC departments, centres, and research units direct control over creation and dissemination of the full range of scholarly output, from pre-publication materials through journals and peer-reviewed series. The faculty unit is responsible for the review, selection, and deposit of content, including editorial support for journals. The CDL is providing the repository infrastructure in response to expressed interest in experimentation with new forms of scholarly communication.

Complete information on eScholarship Repository journals and peer-reviewed series is available at: <http://repositories.cdlib.org/escholarship/about.html>.

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## **EURASLIC Black Sea Regional Library Cooperation Project Meeting**

*20–22 October, 2003, held at the Flanders Marine Institute, VLIZ, Oostende, Belgium*

The purpose of the meeting was to review the proposals for the ongoing phases of the Project, assess the suitability and portability of the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) Integrated Marine Information System (IMIS) as the software for the Black Sea Regional Library Cooperation Project, and prepare a detailed, costed proposal for Phases 2-5 of the Project to be submitted to the IOC.

The Meeting was attended by Jan Haspeslagh (the host), Edward Vanden Berghe (invited expert), Olga Akimova (Project Coordinator) and Snežina Bacheva (co-partner representative).

The funding was provided by IOC, thanks to the kind support of Mr. Peter Pissierssens.

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### **The Spanish Aquaculture Observatory**

<http://www.oesa.csic.es/>

The Spanish Aquaculture Observatory (OESA) is a digital resource that explores the industrial sector, the I+D area, the Universities, plus the innovation network showcasing Spanish activities in aquaculture. A “Who’s Who” is also available. The whole device is conceived as a directory; bibliographic references can be retrieved by species, taxonomic groups and subject content. There is a presentation in English on the background, the tasks, the aim, the significance and the diffusion, and the actions promoted by this initiative are examined. The search robot looks quite user-friendly. The Observatory is managed by information specialists attached to the Benchmarking Policy Unit of CSIC (<http://www.iesam.csic.es/juan-ei.htm>).

## **Union List of Serials Project initiated by ECET group aquatic libraries**

The idea of creating a Union List of Serials received by the ECET Group (European Countries in Economic Transition) aquatic libraries was approved by the participants of the discussion session at the 10th EURASLIC Conference in Kiel.

A principal objective of the project is the optimisation of the Interlibrary Lending service within the Association through improved access to information about serials available at the aquatic libraries of Central and Eastern Europe.

The libraries of the following institutions are already involved in the project: Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas (Ukraine), Russian Federal Research Institute of Fishery and Oceanography (Russia), Polar Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (Russia), Research Institute of the Azov Sea Fisheries Problems (Russia), AtlantNIRO (Russia), K.A. Timiryazev Moscow Agricultural Academy (Russia), Estonian Marine Institute of the University of Tartu (Estonia).

The Guidelines for compiling the list (in Russian and English) were distributed among the project participants earlier this year. The first stage of the project comprised efforts to collect the information for the list of national publications, i.e. those published in the countries represented by ECET. The information received from the libraries is already merged into a union list. We plan to make this available to the members of the Association through the EURASLIC website at the end of the current year after some editing.

There is a possibility in the future of using a journals module of the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) IMIS-system, which can



be combined with a search interface on the EURASLIC website.

If you would like to join the project, please contact Maria Kalenchits, Estonian Marine Institute, Maealuse 10a, 12618 Tallinn, Estonia, tel: 372 6 267 408, fax: 372 6 267 417, e-mail: [maria@phys.sea.ee](mailto:maria@phys.sea.ee)

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## On the Web

*Preliminary inventory of underwater research vehicles*

<http://ioc.unesco.org/eurocean/contents.php?id=49>

On the EurOcean web site.

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## Publications

### Alexandria

The Journal of National and International Library and Information Issues

Editor: Ian D. McGowan

ISSN: 0955-7490

Volume 15, Issues 1, 2 and 3 £105.00

*Described by the publisher as: Alexandria* focuses on national and international library and information issues, from both policy and practice perspectives. Featuring leading articles on national or major research libraries, it also includes articles examining country and regional activities with regard to bibliographic networks, cooperative provision of library materials, interlibrary document supply and national information planning. For subscriptions or information about this journal please email [journals@ashgatepub.co.uk](mailto:journals@ashgatepub.co.uk)

**Sustainable Aquaculture: Global Perspectives**, Jana, B. B. and Carl D. Webster (Eds), 2003. 365 pp. with Index. Haworth Press. Hard Cover ISBN: 1-56022-105-4 \$59.95; Soft Cover ISBN: 1-56022-104-6 \$34.95. A monograph published simultaneously as the Journal of Applied Aquaculture, Vol., 13, Nos. 1/2 and 3/4.

From the Publisher: ... one-of-a-kind primer on the world's leading sources of aquatic production, presenting expert commentary that includes the latest advancements, developments, and research findings. The book examines essential elements of aquaculture (water quality, nutrition, genetics, culture methods) and addresses problems such as over-fishing, coastal and wetland destruction, and habitat and environmental degradation.

Further information / to order:

<http://www.haworthpressinc.com/store/product.asp?sku=4849>

### The Ecology of the Rocky Shores of Sherkin Island

#### A Twenty-Year Perspective

Price Euro 25.00 (softback) Price Euro 50.00 (hardback)

ISBN: 1 870492 57 9 (sb)

ISBN: 1 870492 37 4 (hb)

305pp 175mm x 246mm

Published by Sherkin Island Marine Station 2003

The Ecology of the Rocky Shores of Sherkin Island - A Twenty-Year Perspective is the first major analysis of rocky shore data from a programme begun in 1975 in Co. Cork, southwest Ireland by Sherkin Island Marine Station - a programme which still continues today.

### Fisheries Management Issues Report

This is a monthly publication which pulls together current topical information on fisheries management issues taken inter alia from news releases issued by organisations including DEFRA, the Scottish Executive and the European Institutions. For further information concerning the report or for inclusion on an e-mail or hard copy distribution list, contact Jonathan Bryson at the UK Sea Fish Industry Authority: email: [j\\_bryson@seafish.co.uk](mailto:j_bryson@seafish.co.uk)

## **Disaster Management for Libraries and Archives**

Edited by **Graham Matthews**, University of Central England in Birmingham, UK and **John Feather**, Loughborough University, UK

ISBN 0 7546 0917 0 November 2003 256p  
Hardback \$69.95 /£40.00

*Described by the publisher:* A guide to minimizing the effects of disasters on digital and print-based libraries and archives through better risk assessment and planning, introducing preventive measures and establishing recovery procedures. For subscriptions or information about this journal please email [journals@ashgatepub.co.uk](mailto:journals@ashgatepub.co.uk)

## **Managing Preservation for Libraries and Archives**

Current Practice and Future Developments  
Edited by John Feather, Loughborough University, UK

ISBN 0 7546 0705 4 January 2004 188 p  
Hardback \$69.95 /£40.00

*Described by the publisher:* A guide to state-of-art digital and non-digital preservation principles for library and archive materials, ranging from paper to sound and film collections, written by leading international specialists. For subscriptions or information about this journal please email [journals@ashgatepub.co.uk](mailto:journals@ashgatepub.co.uk)

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## **Announcement**

The First African Conference on the Digital Commons will be held in Cape Town, South Africa between 11 and 15 January 2004, at the University of the Western Cape.

You will find full information on the Conference web site <http://idlelo.uwc.ac.za>

The conference will address the challenges and opportunities of the creation and use of free/open source software and open content and their development potential for Africa. The conference has both strategic and practical objectives, bringing together participants from government, education, business and civil society together with the developer community.

The purpose of this conference is to:

- Review progress on implementation of open source and open content in Africa
- Create opportunities for peer-to-peer networking and learning among Africans participating in open source and open content initiatives
- Lay the groundwork for collaborative creation of open source software in Africa
- Expose Open Source companies and products to a variety of participants

The conference will operate through a number of plenary sessions given by world leaders in the area of open source and open content, parallel sessions with contributed papers and posters addressing specific themes, breakaway sessions for networking, a mini trade fair, and a hackathon that will run in parallel with the conference beginning two days before the conference starts.