Word from the President:

Dear EURASLIC Members,

One more year has slipped by and here we are on the verge of the coming 2014. As you all know in 2013, 13-15 May, was held the 15th Biennial Conference of EURASLIC in Varna, Bulgaria under the title World Ocean of Data & Information: Creating Value by their Organization and Management. Unfortunately, most of you have missed the event. Considering the apology letters I have received, one of the main reasons why people were unable to attend the meeting was the lack of funds. However, 16 persons from 9 countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Russia and Ukraine) managed to take part in the conference. To support their participation the EURASLIC Executive Board had allocated eight travel grants. The conference took place in the cosy meeting room of the Institute of Fishing Resources, on the very sea coast. All participants contributed with their performances for the successful and beneficial running of the meeting. The conference proceedings are already on our website. The 15th EURASLIC Conference coincided with 25th Anniversary of EURASLIC inaugural meeting held in 1988, Plymouth, UK. Thus, we had the opportunity to celebrate together the quarter of a century of existence of the organization and its remarkable achievements. In a power point presentation we followed the history in pictures from all conferences by now remembering with great appreciation the people who were the founders, developers and still supporters of our regional group.

IAMSLIC invitation for a joint IAMSLIC/EURASLIC conference in 2015, Rome, Italy was discussed and accepted by voting at the Board and Business Meetings during the conference in Varna. Let’s hope that the next time more members will have the chance to participate in the joint event.

2013 was also an election year for EURASLIC Executive Board 2013-2015. Marina Mayer (EURASLIC Members Representative 2) and Anne Laure Achard (Environment Librarians’ Representative) are the two newly elected members and I welcome them cordially on the Board. On behalf of the Executive Board I express our thanks to Olena Mykhalechko and Carmen Reverte for their service on the Board during the past two years.

Very soon now we will have to renew our membership and I invite you all to do it without hesitation because everybody needs a helping hand and what is more wonderful than having so many friends and professionals ready to feed back.

I cannot finish without expressing my heartfelt thanks to all members of the EURASLIC Executive Board for their continuous support in all matters under discussion. Special thanks go to our Executive Secretary Sofija Konjević for maintaining our website and coordinating the current issues and to Heike Lust for representing EURASLIC at the 39th IAMSLIC Conference in Dana Beach, Florida, USA and becoming a member of the Joint IODE/IAMSLIC GE-MIM.

Let me wish us all a successful and peaceful 2014!
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Snejina Bacheva,
EURASLIC President
Table of Contents

Word from the President .................................................................................................................. 2
World Ocean of Data & Information: Creating Value by their Organization and Management .......... 4
Visualizing a Bright Future ............................................................................................................ 5
The 42th ASFA Board Meeting ..................................................................................................... 7
ODINECET Activities and Its Continuation .................................................................................. 8
Open Access Week ....................................................................................................................... 9
Implementation of PURE as a Research Information System ........................................................ 11
RBI Open Days Meets Pirates in the Library .................................................................................. 12
Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World ...................................................... 14

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EURASLIC has celebrated its 25th birthday in Varna during the 15th EURASLIC biannual conference entitled *World Ocean of Data & Information: Creating Value by their Organization and Management*. The conference was held in May 13-15th, gathering together attendees from 10 countries. The conference started with a brief overview of EURASLIC history and activities from its foundation in 1998 until the present day. Oral presentations covered subjects such as: information literacy, e-libraries, information systems, Black Sea biodiversity and Black Sea ancient coastlines. ODINECET activities were presented, as well as country and institutional reports and posters.

The Proceedings of the Conference are freely available on the EURASLIC website.

Gala celebration took part in *Hambara* restaurant with folk and exotic music and a lot of dancing and fun, all accompanied by a birthday cake.
Executive Board and Business Meetings were held on Tuesday, May 14th. The results of the elections were received during the conference, just in time to officially present the new Board.

After the Conference participants went to beautiful Kaliakra trip visiting cave monastery Aladzha, then Balchik – queen’s Mary summer residence and its botanical garden and cape Kaliakra.

Although there was more than one institution willing to host the next conference, the IAMSLIC invitation was accepted, so the next EURASLIC conference will take place in Rome, Italy in 2015, as a joint IAMSLIC/EURASLIC conference.

Appreciation goes to the local host Institute of Oceanology, Varna, Bulgaria, to Institute of Fishing Resources where the Conference took place, and also to sponsors Inter-Research and NHBS who supported the organisation of the Conference.

**Visualizing a Bright Future**


*Maria Kalentsits*, IAMSLIC Past-President and the host of 2015 IAMSLIC/EURASLIC conference

This year again, several EURASLIC members were able to attend the IAMSLIC Annual Conference. Heike Lust (VLIZ, Belgium), Marcel Brannemann (AWI, Germany), Peter Pissierssens (IOC, France), Helen Wibley (FAO ASFA Secretariat, Italy), Maria Kalentsits (FAO FBL, Italy), Matthias Seaman and Ian Stewart (Inter-Research Science Center, Germany, Conference sponsor) were among 65 participants who attended 5-day event organized in the new Center of Excellence for Coral Reef Ecosystems Research of the Nova Southeastern University’s Oceanographic Center in Dania Beach, Florida, US from 19-24th of October 2013.

The organizers made every effort for this meeting which was both very interesting and enjoyable. Four conference days were filled with great presentations, Aquatic Commons Work Party, Business meetings, bidding at the Guin Auction in order to raise some travel funds for the participants from the developing countries, a wonderful banquet in Hayat Regency Pier 66 and the exciting field trips to Flamingo Gardens and Billie Swamp Safari. The presenters at the sessions were excellent in sharing their experiences on various topics, including Embedded Librarianship, Outreach, Research Dissemination, Instruction, GIS and Data as well as Library consolidations and Partnership & Collaboration. So many new ideas and much inspiration for new projects! Since FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Branch Library is facing consolidation of its’ collections and services with the Main FAO Library, I was especially interested in the embedded librarians’ experiences and was very keen to learn about the outcomes of the library consolidation that several libraries in US went through recently.

The pre-conference workshop, led by Jennifer Walton from MBLWHOI Library, was aimed to help librarians to develop their role in the data management planning process.
“Jennifer did a very good job. She really spread my horizons concerning the possible role of librarians in the field of data management and curation” says Marcel Brannemann, one of the participants of the Workshop.

The *ad hoc* meeting of the Joint IODE/IAMSLIC GE-MIM was held in conjunction with the conference to welcome new members nominated by IAMSLIC to represent the Association in this group of experts and to discuss the updating of the Memorandum of Understanding between IAMSLIC and IODE. Linda Pikula, the Group Chair, has welcomed Heike Lust as one of the new IAMSLIC members to the Joint GE-MIM.

Helen Wibley, ASFA Editor-in-Chief, participated as one of the panellists in the Aquatic Commons Panel Discussion. Marcel Brannemann chaired the Poster’s Session. The EURASLIC annual report prepared by the EURASLIC President was presented by Heike Lust and well received by the participants of the business meeting. My President’s Report covered major activities in which I was involved as the President of the Association during the inter-sessional period 2012-2013.

The Aquatic Commons Party was held on the last afternoon of the conference and attended by about 25 participants who volunteered to assist with depositing papers from the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute Proceedings into AC. This initiative has turned out to be a big success: within just a couple of hours 623 deposits were added to the repository which brought a total number of records to more than 10,000.

The 40th IAMSLIC conference will be held in Noumea, New Caledonia in September 2014 and the 41st conference will be held in Rome, Italy in October 2015 in conjunction with the 16th EURASLIC Conference and will be co-sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). We hope to see many of you if not next year then surely the year after. Please mark your calendars already now!
The 42th ASFA Board Meeting
Lima, Peru, September 23-27, 2013
Kateryna Kulakova, Southern Scientific Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (YugNIRO)

The 42th ASFA Board Meeting was hosted by IMARPE (Instituto del Mar del Peru) in Callao, Lima, Peru on 23-27 September 2013. The meeting was opened by: Mr Andres Chipollini Montenegro, Director Ejecutivo Cientifico, IMARPE; Mr Jorge Elgegren, Assistant Representative, FAO-Lima; and, Admiral German Vasquez Solis Talavera, Presidente del Consejo Directivo, IMARPE. The Meeting was attended by 30 participants, representing 26 ASFA Partners. Mr Montes (UNAM, Mexico) chaired the Meeting and the Agenda was completed on time. The main reporter was Ms Wibley (FAO ASFA Secretariat).

The main decisions made during the Meeting are as follows:

1. The FAO ASFA Secretariat agreed to prepare a document in the ‘Tips and Hints’ series regarding different types of URL links that could be entered in an ASFA record, how to cite them and in which field they should be entered.
2. Mr. Montes (UNAM, Mexico) agreed to prepare an outline for a soft law agreement (not legally binding) between a National ASFA Partner and its Collaborating Centre(s), together with some guidelines which ASFA Partners could follow to their discretion to assist them in drawing up their own agreement.
3. The ASFA Board approved the proposal to pay IAMSLIC membership fees for the 3 year period 2014-2016.

The Meeting included a half-day excursion on board of the institute’s R/V HUMBOLDT.
ODINECET Activities and Its Continuation...

Olga Akimova, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine; Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas; Library (IBSS Library), Ukraine

Seven years have passed since the first meeting and training on ODINECET program, making it evident that ODINECET has been bearing good fruit. The number of members has increased from 16 to 23 (7 countries and 19 organizations); some projects have been completed, others commenced like, for instance, Digitization of rare books on marine science available in the ODINECET region. Among the projects of the ODINECET group, CEEMaR and IBSS repositories have a successful development. Inputs for the repositories are growing, new partners have been involved. During this year 276 items have been added to CEEMaR reaching to total of 1398 documents so far. The most active are the Ukrainian libraries. IBSS repository is enriched by 485 items and numbers 3485 documents.

ECET Union Catalogue of Serials. The project involves 22 participating libraries from Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Russia and Ukraine. The new web-based input interface using the IMIS software for the management of the ODINECET Union Catalogue of Serials was developed by VLIZ IT staff and launched in September 2012. Some libraries have prepared lists of their serials for submission to the Union Catalogue as required and sent them to VLIZ.

OTA Training Courses. Altogether 16 students from the ODINECET region participated in OceanTeacher Academy courses in 2011, 2012 and 2013. All the participants emphasized the usefulness of the courses for their professional development.

Software for e-catalogues. Installation of Koha software in the libraries of the ODINECET group is going to be on demand. The integrated library system Koha was installed in the IBSS Scientific Library. Inputting has been started and the software is permanently being improved. We plan to create a corporate catalogue for the Ukrainian marine libraries at first, using the Koha software.

Digitization of rare books on marine science available in the ODINECET region (new project).

A framework for Grant Proposal was discussed at the ODINECET Workshop in Sevastopol. During 2011-2012 a list of rare books was prepared. The Project proposal was submitted to the Elsevier Foundation. Despite being in the final 40 of 500 proposals it was not approved for funding. We plan to identify sponsors for the Project implementation and discuss with the Project participants to start it without funding.

Joint ODINECET workshop and meeting of Russian aquatic libraries and information centres staff at VNIRO, Moscow in 2014. We plan to organize a joint ODINECET workshop and meeting of Russian aquatic libraries and information centres staff at VNIRO, Moscow (May, 2014) with financial support from both the IODE Project Office and VNIRO. The purpose of this workshop and meeting is to attract more Russian marine libraries to the ODINECET group and projects. At the IODE XXII meeting (March, 2013, Mexico) it was decided to allocate 10000 EURO for the SG ODINECET meeting in 2014. Hope to see some of you next year and discuss our future projects.
Open Access Week usually takes place in the last week of October. This year (2014) it was October 20th to 26th. All over the world during that week are organized activities like seminars, workshops or some open access databases, repositories are introduced to the public.

Open access emerged as an alternative to commercial publishing. Regarding open access rights and permissions journals are marked as green, yellow, blue or white according to Sherpa/Romeo (http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/browse.php?colour=green).

Although some publishers claim to be open access publishers, they charge authors instead of end users, offering little or no peer review. Jeffrey Beall called them predators and made list of predatory publishers.

In honour of Open Access Week here are a few graphs that show current state of Open access.
1. Percent of Gold and Green OA (measured in 2011) for 2005-2010


2. Potential, possible, or probable predatory scholarly open-access publishers: Jeffrey Beall’s List  [http://scholarlyoa.com/publishers/]

An example: *Journal of hydraulic Engineering*: the same name, 2 journals
ASCE: the good one!
David Publishing: the predator

3. Cost Effectiveness for Open access Journals:  
[http://www.eigenfactor.org/openaccess/]
This service allows researchers to compare the publication price and influence of hundreds of open access journals indexed by Thomson Reuters.
This online tool reveals that you don’t necessarily get what you pay for
Library spot was entitled “Pirates in the Library”, and main topic was copyright vs. Open Access. Online piracy is widespread nowadays so we stressed out the consequences of copyright infringement, presented copyright and Creative Commons as a method of protection of the author’s rights. In the same time we promoted Open Access and showed educational resources freely available on the Internet as well as Open Code software.

More than 4000 visitors, students as well as general public attended the manifestation. This is great opportunity to present Institute research and projects to the general public and to attract high school students to the natural science studies. The grand finale of manifestation was “Night under the stars” where visitors were able to watch the stars and spent a nice evening on the Institute’s grounds.
Even it is Dewey, this time it is not a book about classification, but about a library cat named Dewey. The relationship between cats and libraries goes back for centuries and is present nowadays as well. Although many libraries have cats as library pets, this one has become very popular worldwide.

As a kitten Dewey was found at library book return bin of the Spencer Public Library, Spencer, Iowa on a cold winter night and since then he has been living in the library. Dewey became very popular among users and thanks to him more people started visiting the library. People from far away came to Spenser just to see Dewey. He appeared in some newspaper articles and even in documentaries.

This is a book about Dewey and his adventurous life in the library until his death in 2006, and also about his adoptive librarian mother Vicky Maron, Spencer public library and Spencer community and the role of a library in a community. Maybe this is not quality literature, but it is a touchy, good-feeling book, placed in library and therefore interesting to librarians. The book is translated into more than 30 languages.

Today there is bronze statue of Dewey at the front desk of Spencer public library. On the library page there is whole section dedicated to Dewey (http://www.deweyreadmorebooks.com/index.php). It is possible to buy Dewey postcards, puzzles or T-shirts; read about Dewey at newspaper or watch the cat on Dewey TV etc.

And it is not the only book about Dewey. There are more like this, among them *Dewey’s Nine Lives* and also some picture books about the famous cat.
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