

Joint EUCLID and EBLIDA-conference on education: call for papers

Librarian@2010 – Educating for the future

EBLIDA <http://www.eblida.org> and EUCLID <http://euclid.hio.no/>, are proud to announce their first ever joint conference to be held in Lisbon from the 19th to the 21st of September 2007.

Background and goals

EBLIDA and EUCLID share the belief that Europe needs strong libraries and knowledgeable librarians who can help in creating a strong European economy. Today libraries and the information sector face a series of complex challenges due to fundamentally changing expectations of users. The introduction of ICT, born digital material, digitization of large volumes of traditional material and a shift from the public to the private domain have profoundly changed the library environment.

The Bologna process aims at creating a European educational space characterized by transparency and promoting mobility of academic staff and students, as well as professionals within the LIS Sector in order to promote employability and facilitate integration. This process is of vital interest for the academic field as well as the field of practice. So far European education and research institutions on one side and the field of practice on the other have, to a large extent, discussed these issues separately. There is a need to bridge the gap between the academic field and the field of practice when discussing the future of European library and information science education, the profession and its services. In order to promote such a joint discussion, EUCLID and EBLIDA are arranging a joint conference in Lisbon, Portugal, in September 2007.

This conference aims to bring educators, researchers and practitioners together in order to discuss the effects of profound social changes related to digitization, multiculturalism and the growth of the knowledge economy. The conference will also consider the impact of the Bologna process, both in the arena of education and research and also in professional practice, and the relationship between the two. The conference will be organized according to the following themes and the submission of papers is welcomed.

Theme 1. "Cooperation between academia and practice"

How can LIS research be incorporated, integrated and disseminated into LIS practice? How can research and education be stimulated and enriched by practice? Can "arenas" or "fora" be established where researchers and practitioners can meet and discuss"? Are there institutional or other barriers which make this cooperation difficult?

Theme 2. "Mobility and flexibility"

How can the LIS community work together on issues of mobility and ensure cooperation between academia and practice for the benefit of students and professionals in the LIS sector? Are mobility and flexibility in the employment market-place important for its development?

Theme 3 The role of academia and the LIS associations in the continuous training of library professionals.

What role can the LIS associations and organizations play in partnership with the LIS educational sector to ensure that there is relevant and research based continuous education for the LIS sector as whole. Are the associations and organizations prepared to meet the needs of its members and other stakeholders?

Panel discussion: "Towards a common curriculum"

Does the LIS educational sector need a common curriculum or guidelines for LIS academic institutions? A panel of practitioners and researchers will analyse and discuss the "European curriculum reflections on library and information science education" published in 2005 by The Royal School of Library and Information Science, Copenhagen to see if these curriculum suggestions meet the needs of the institutions in the future.

Call for papers

The conference will consist of several types of contributions:

- Invited guest speakers
- Submitted papers
- Panel discussion

Authors who wish to contribute papers for the conference should submit an abstract of approx. 500 words addressing one of the three overall conference themes “Cooperation between academia and practice”, “Mobility and flexibility” and “The role of academia and library associations and organisations in the continuous training of the library professionals”.

Abstracts should be submitted to:

Pedro Hipola

by email no later than 1st May 2007 (pkipola@ugr.es). The review process will be completed by the end of May and authors will be notified immediately thereafter.

Accepted papers will be considered for publication in the journal Education for Information.

A final programme, including details of venue, registration fee, accommodation and a full list of speakers will be published in June.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee

Helena Patricio

Executive Committee Member, EBLIDA