



# eIFL- Electronic Information for Libraries

LIBER, Universitaetsbibliothek Graz, Austria  
July 2 - 5, 2002

by Anna Balogh  
eIFL Project Coordinator  
Open Society Institute - Budapest



# eIFL- Electronic Information for Libraries

1. Project background and methodology
2. Current and future services
  - eIFL Direct, participation and usage
  - eIFL Science and Technology
3. Funding models
4. Building consortia
5. eIFL.Net

# Background

In 1990ies:

- OSI Network Library Program support for library automation, infrastructure, collection development, improvement of services and training of librarians
- OSI Internet Program: support for Internet connection and infrastructure
- provision of content: Science Journals Donation Project (print)
- Electronic scholarly journals: very few subscriptions in the countries of the OSI region, in most of the countries none

## Guiding principles

- Access to scientific information is essential in education and research and has a direct impact on the social and economic development of societies
  - the combined purchasing power of libraries in the countries of the Soros foundations network can be leveraged
  - multiple access costs only marginally higher than access by a few institutions
- ⇒ the solution: consortial deal for licensing electronic journals

## Methodology

- April 1999: open invitation to tender for the provision of electronic journals in social sciences and humanities
- Why social sciences and humanities?
  - area of priority for OSI programs
  - lack of international scholarly journals in this area in post-soviet countries
  - targets large group of libraries

## How EBSCO was chosen?

Call for proposal: a few criteria

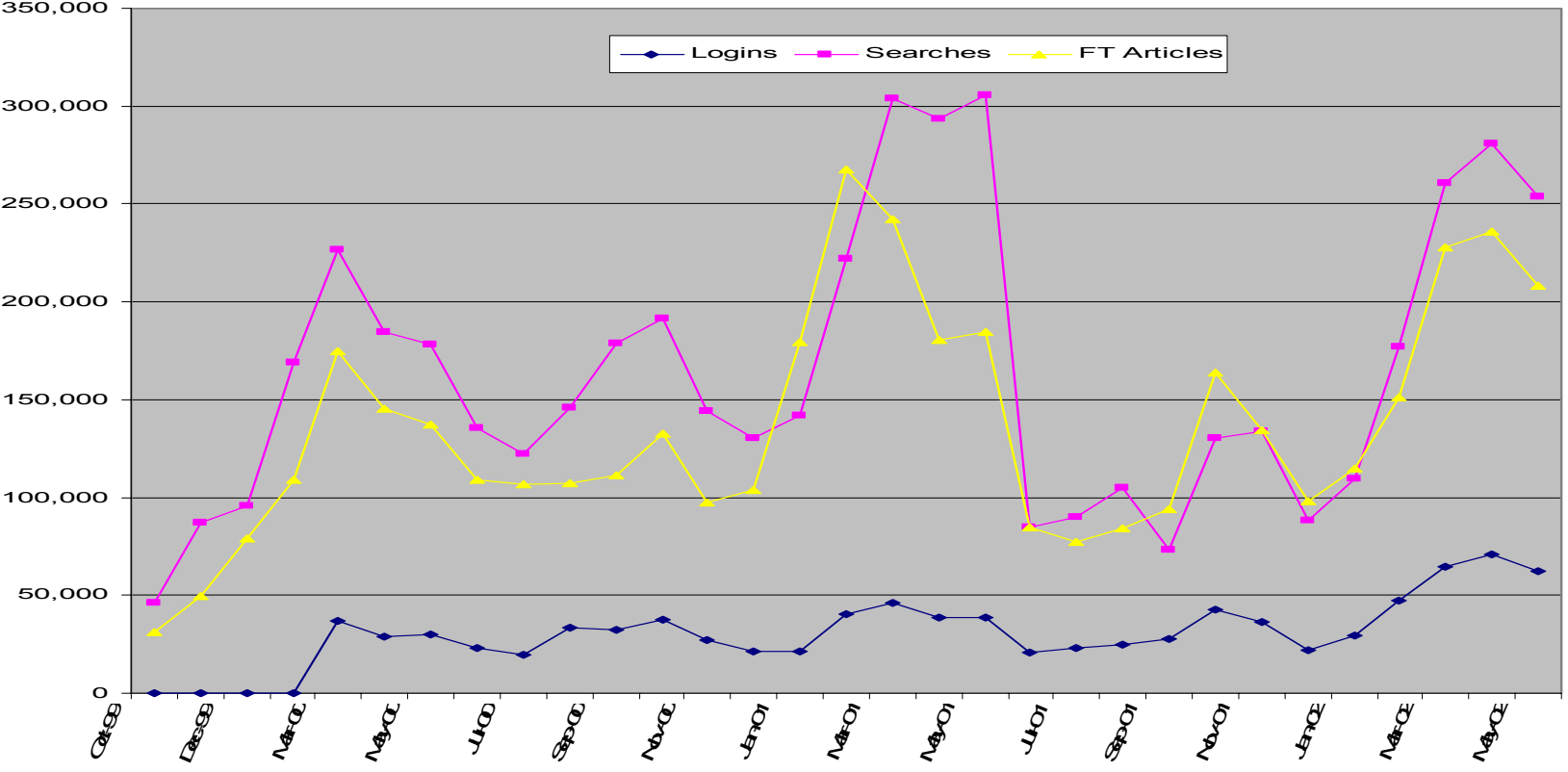
- country wide license
- lowest access prices by country
- prices guaranteed for 3 years
- divorce electronic from print
- highest number of FT titles
- both online and CD/DVD format
- possibility of remote access
- training on the use of product included in price
- Winner: EBSCO Publishing



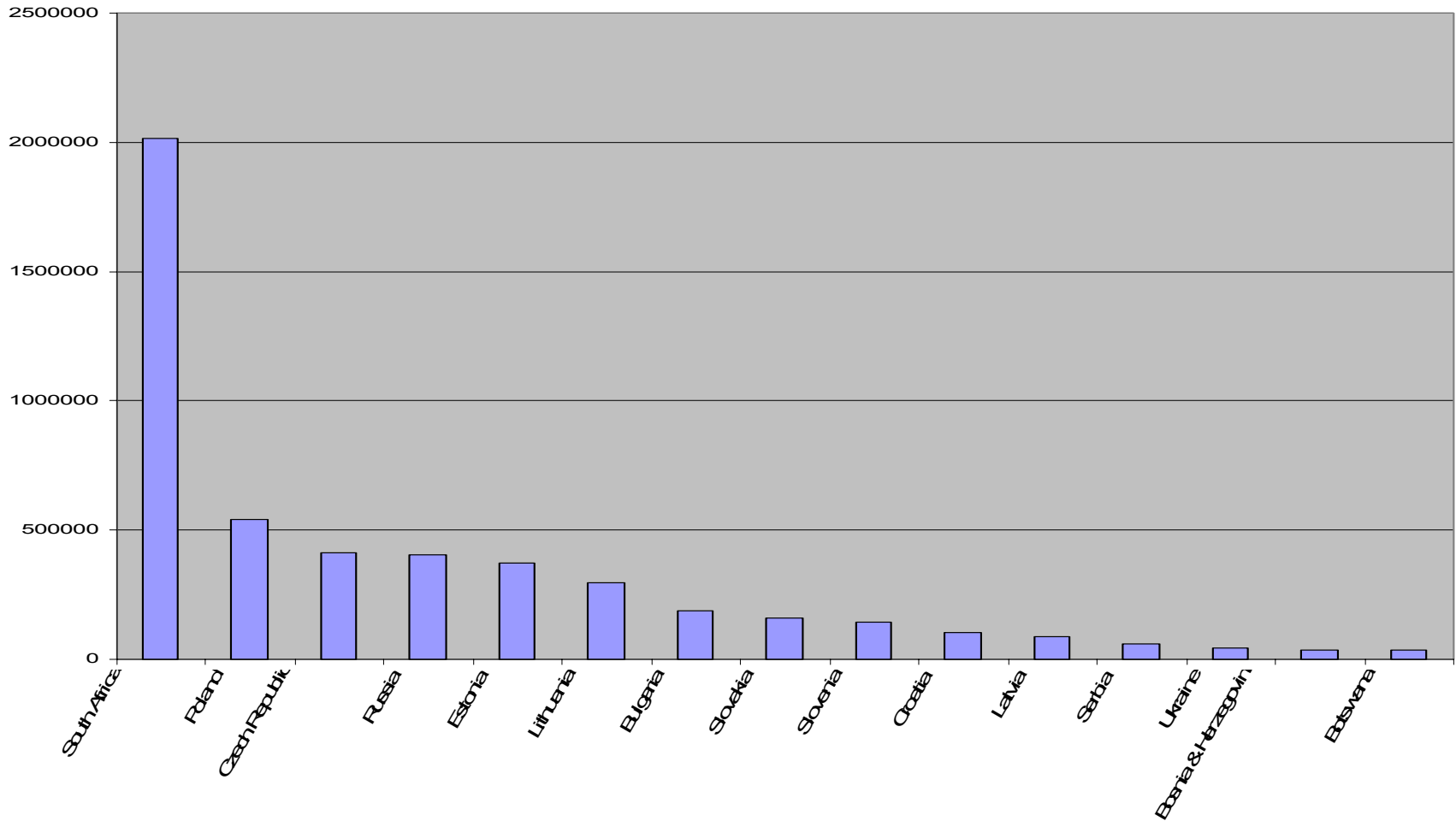
## A few figures

- Offer: 9 EBSCO databases including ASP and BSP as well as ERIC and Medline
- over 5,500 full-text titles
- 41 countries participating
- 2,250 libraries registered
- over 5,000,000 searches performed

# eIFL Direct online usage from Oct 1999 to May 2002



# Top user countries by number of searches Oct 1999 - May 2002





## eIFL Science and Technology

- Survey indicates huge demand for S & T information within eIFL member countries
- July 2001: new Request for Proposal
  - request for country prices for 3 years
  - low-income countries should get free access
  - focus on full-text titles
- Instead of one exclusive partner, multiple providers will be selected in order to provide a menu of services



## eIFL Sci & Tech Timeframe

- July 2001: call for proposals
- Sept 2001: 11 proposals received, 6 shortlisted
- Dec 2001: expressions of interest from eIFL member countries were collected
- Jan 2002: negotiations on licensing have started
- April 2002: free trial periods have started
- Oct - Dec 2002: licensing
- Jan 2003: subscriptions start



## Successful sci & tech publishers

- The American Physical Society
- Blackwell Publishing
- Cambridge University Press
- HighWire Press
- Institute of Physics Publishing
- Proquest



## Licensing and payments

- eIFL Direct: main licensing agreement between EBSCO and OSI, but EBSCO is collecting payments directly from participating countries
- Funding models:
  - Central funding by government (ministry of education, culture etc)
  - subscription covered by participating libraries
  - Hybrid: one part by government, the rest by libraries

**SOLUTION:** creating national consortia that could take charge of administration, fundraising and payments

## Building consortia

- 1999-2000: eIFL coordinated mainly by OSI
- from 2001: shift of coordination from OSI offices to local library community
- More stakeholders' involvement:
  - eIFL Task Forces advising on strategic developments and on eIFL Sci Tech
  - welcoming new coordinators (national library, library associations)
  - coordinators express general interest in building consortia for the purchase of electronic resources



## eIFL activities to support consortia

- Advice and grant scheme on building consortia
- Regional workshops on consortium building
- training on copyright and licensing (CELIP)
- Participation in international fora
- annual eIFL coordinators' meetings
- Knowledge and resource sharing throughout the eIFL network at meetings, via website and listserv



## eIFL.Net

- “Outsource” the role of OSI
- independent, non-profit organisation with multiple sources of funding
- governed by its national member consortia
  
- Mission: an international consortium of library consortia that leads, supports, motivates and advocates for the wide availability of information by library users in member countries in transition



## Motivation for eIFL.Net

- To unite purchasing power of a large number of libraries in countries in transition
- To represent these libraries and their consortia when talking with vendors and producers of information
- To represent views and needs of consortia to policy makers and funders
- To provide knowledge and resource sharing + networking opportunities for members



## eIFL.Net objectives I.

- Negotiate for and provide access to a wide variety of content from multiple sources
- Provide support to members on licensing and payment
- Provide educational, training and consulting services for library consortia on electronic resources as well as on consortium issues: licensing, negotiating, marketing, fund-raising
- Promote international access to local electronic content

## eIFL.Net objectives II.

- Influence the electronic environment and practices related to the access to and the use of electronic resources
  - Assist in the building of strong national library consortia
  - Impact on government policy
  - New economic models with publishers
  - Model partnerships with international funding agencies, consortial groups, content providers and other organisations with similar initiatives



## eIFL.Net: state of affairs

- Business plan approved in autumn 2001
- Foundation being registered in the Netherlands
- Governance and membership: management board, advisory board, executive council, secretariat, task forces
- Constitutional full assembly: autumn 2002



Contact:

[Http://www.eifl.net](http://www.eifl.net)

abalogh@osi.hu