

CONSORTIUM *of* EUROPEAN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

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Selection of the next Chairman for the Consortium of European Research Libraries

Dear colleagues,

At the Consortium's last Annual General Meeting in Paris in November 2008, Professor Elmar Mittler announced that he would have completed his three-year term as the Consortium's Chairman by the time of the next AGM (which will be held on 7 November 2009 in Brussels). As you are all aware, Professor Mittler has played a leading role in the Consortium as a Director and as Treasurer before replacing Dr Ann Matheson as Chairman in 2006.

It is obvious that the function of Chair is crucial to the Consortium's continuing development, and that the election of the person who is to fulfil this role is of immediate concern to all members. A proposal to use a similar procedure as in 2006 for the election of the next Chairman has been approved by the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. A document setting out the procedures and the timetable for this process can be downloaded from the CERL web site (see below).

The Board of Directors at their Annual Meeting on 20 March 2009 approved the establishment of a Search Committee with responsibility for proposing the name of a suitable person to be the next Chairman of CERL. The members of the Committee are Dr Claudia Fabian (BSB Munich), Dr Margherita Spinazzola (Soprintendenza per i beni librari e documentari, Bologna), Mr Ivan Boserup (Royal Library, Copenhagen), Mr Jean-Dominique Mellot (Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris) and Dr Kristian Jensen (British Library, London) representing the Executive Committee, and Drs Jan Bos (National Library of the Netherlands, The Hague) representing the Board of Directors. I shall act as Secretary to the Committee and I am writing to you now on their behalf.

Two documents describing the job responsibilities of the Chairman and the abilities, qualities and experience required have been prepared. These documents, together with a copy of this letter and a document outlining the timetable for consultation, are available on the CERL web site at the address http://www.cerl.org/web/en/about/chairman_2009.

The Search Committee has been given the task of seeking a suitable candidate who can be proposed as Chairman but this will not prevent a member of the Consortium putting forward an alternative candidate in October. The new Chairman will become a Director of the Consortium (if not already a Director).

Professor Mittler has indicated that he is willing to continue as Chairman for a further one or possibly two years but does not wish to serve a full three-year term. The Board of

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Directors has expressed concern that there should be continuity in November 2009 when Jan Bos ceases to be Treasurer and I cease to be Secretary.

To assist the Search Committee in its work, the members of CERL are invited to submit names for consideration for nomination as Chairman of CERL. Your suggestions should reach me at the CERL Secretariat office in London by 15 June 2009.

It would be helpful if your proposals could be accompanied by a short text giving a very brief account of the nominee's relevant experience and the reasons why this person is suited for the function. The list of requirements as formulated may serve as guidance. You may wish, as a matter of courtesy, to discuss in advance any such step with the person whose name you intend to propose.

At the beginning of October, I shall circulate to you the outcome of the Search Committee's work and the name or names proposed. It will still be possible for members to propose alternative names at this point. The formal procedure for the election of Directors will be followed: I shall ask the members of CERL for nominations, to reach the Secretary not less than 14 days and not more than 35 days before the Annual General Meeting (i.e. in this year between 3 and 24 October 2009). Nominations can be made by any members who have voting rights.

We hope that this timetable will ensure the best possible involvement of all members of the Consortium in this decision which will be so important for the Consortium's future.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



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Secretary

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