

## **NOTICE: CAMPAIGN FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF ENGLISH STUDIES AT L'AQUILA**

The Board of AIA (Associazione Italiana di Anglistica) would like to disseminate information on the fate of English Studies at the University of L'Aquila, which was practically destroyed by the recent earthquake, and to promote concrete action in support of research and teaching activities there.

In brief, the current situation is as follows: the library, located in the historic Palazzo Camponeschi, is now completely buried under its ruins; the entire equipment of the Language Centre has been destroyed and the Centre has suffered such heavy damage that physical access is a risk; the interlibrary loan service and other services are located in a portakabin; lectures, seminars, examinations and other teaching activities are being held in tents.

It is expected that research and teaching activities will be relocated in a disused industrial area about 5 kms from the city, integrated by PREFAB UNITS, possibly in October. However, colleagues are sadly aware that there are no books left, no journals etc available for research, teaching and dissertation work – this, in a University which traditionally hosts a very large student population particularly in the domain of English LANG-LIT studies. Also, they fear that funds from benefactors etc. may easily be destined to other scientific domains, considered as more “central” or less “voluptuary” than English studies.

Under such circumstances, the Board of AIA, in concert with the senior members of the English faculty in L'Aquila, who have all miraculously survived, has issued a solidarity plan, now published in the latest *Newsletter*, suggesting two sets of actions, now and in the longer term respectively, for aid specifically targeted at English studies.

Should any individual researcher or National Society among ESSE members wish to take part in this effort, we take the liberty to report these suggestions below.

### **URGENT action plan:**

- a) Contacting publishers who could make available online products **FREE OF CHARGE**: books (Cultural Studies, English language/linguistics, Literature, especially the **BASICS!**), software, journals;
- b) Offering the English Studies section of the Università dell'Aquila (teachers & students) electronic accounts for the consultation of online library resources, which any given University could put at their disposal if it so wishes;
- c) Donations:  
Università degli Studi dell'Aquila  
Current account with UNICREDIT/BANCA DI ROMA  
IBAN: IT 80 T 03002 03601 000400 240569  
Swift Code: BROMITR 1 A 20  
CIN: T  
Code of the institution 9005964

In case donations are made, the motivation should clearly state **FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE ENGLISH LIBRARY, UNIVERSITA' DELL'AQUILA**, or **FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE LANGUAGE CENTRE, UNIVERSITA' DELL'AQUILA**, to make sure that the donation does not just end up in an undifferentiated fund of which English Studies may get a very small slice. Please inform a senior colleague at L'Aquila that the donation has been made, kindly writing to: [laura.dimichele@cc.univaq.it](mailto:laura.dimichele@cc.univaq.it).

### **AUTUMN action plan:**

When the restored industrial area has been accessed by faculty and students and *ad hoc* space prepared for the storage and shelving of traditional library material, donations will be welcome in the form of books and journals.

The AIA Board thank ESSE for hosting this Notice and will be grateful to any ESSE members who join this campaign for the reconstitution of the cultural capital of L'Aquila in the field of English Studies.

Giuseppina Cortese,  
President, AIA