

Memorandum of Understanding

between DRIVER - Digital Repository Infrastructure Vision for European Research

and LIBER - Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche

Preamble

LIBER and DRIVER have identified demand for cooperation in order to progress and enhance the provision, visibility and application of European research outputs through digital repositories, i.e. systems providing access to texts, data or other types of content.

DRIVER is a joint initiative of European stakeholders, co-financed by the European Commission, setting up a technical infrastructure for digital repositories and facilitating the building of an umbrella organisation for digital repositories. DRIVER relies on research libraries for the sustainable operation of repositories and provision of high quality content through digital repositories.

LIBER represents and promotes the interests of research libraries in Europe and assists these to become a functional network across national boundaries. As an early supporter of the Open Access movement LIBER supports the development and interconnectivity of repositories in European research libraries.

LIBER and DRIVER share the vision that research libraries should contribute active/y and cooperatively to a common, pan-European data and service infrastructure based on digital repositories.

Agreement and Collaboration

Among all objectives and activities of LIBER and DRIVER, respectively, intersections can be clearly identified: Over the last years, research libraries have been opening up digital repositories for exposing institutional research outputs to the world. Networks of individual repositories and overarching information services for aggregation, retrieval, share and re-use are being built for some regions or countries or subject areas.

The next steps include:

1. The further development of existing approaches for networks of repositories.
2. Active spreading of best-practices in countries or regions without such approaches.
3. The forming of a European umbrella for repository networks and Services.

Windows of opportunity in the cooperation between LIBER and DRIVER open up for:

- The joint adoption of a network paradigm that relies on repositories in research libraries.
- The joint fulfilment of the plan to build and operate these networks, sustained and at a high level of quality.

LIBER and DRIVER will cooperate on these issues and will draw up a Work Plan, identifying lines of action, deliverables, resources, requirements and timescales. The Work Plan and progress reports will be disseminated widely amongst the European Digital Library and research communities. We will also actively take into account developments in the area of subject based or disciplinary repositories and will seek collaboration with the organisations involved.

The overall cooperation will be coordinated by the President of LIBER and the Scientific Coordinator of DRIVER. They may delegate responsibilities to further representatives of their organizations.

Signatures

Signed Tilburg, the Netherlands on the 29th August 2007

Hans Geleijnse
President of LIBER

Norbert Lossau
Scientific Coordinator of DRIVER