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Letter of Intent

With this letter we would like to express the interest and support on behalf of the DRIVER project for the collaboration with the RECOLECTA service, as set out in Appendix A: *Modus Operandi* below.

DRIVER is networking digital repositories both at the organisational and technical level, building a Confederation for repositories with common policies, while providing and operating a distributed technical infrastructure.

[RECOLECTA](#) is the Spanish national service for the search, access and retrieval of full text open access scholarly publications of Spanish academic and research institutions. The service builds on the aggregation of Institutional Repositories and Open Access scientific journals published in Spain that comply with the OAI-PMH protocol.

RECOLECTA is a joint collaboration project between [REBIUN](#) (Network of Academic and Research Libraries of Spain) and [FECYT](#) (Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology)

The aims of RECOLECTA are twofold:

- Coordinate and stimulate the development of a network of interoperable digital scientific repositories as a mean of a national knowledge infrastructure based on the open access principles and open and international standards and protocols.
- To develop, and allow third parties to develop, a set of services on top of the aggregated content, targeting different needs: search, re-use, collaboratives, citation, subject portals, national web portals, etc.

The DRIVER Infrastructure offers technology that can be customized to the specific needs of organizations willing to build a uniform Information Space from an arbitrary number of heterogeneous OAI-PMH data sources. Communities may thus define applications operating over the infrastructure that are specific to their needs. Due to its features, the DRIVER Infrastructure meets the requirements of the RECOLECTA Service, and can be implemented by RECOLECTA as a customization and extension of the DRIVER Infrastructure.

Institutions and researchers represented by RECOLECTA will benefit from the exposure of Spanish data in the DRIVER infrastructure. RECOLECTA will have access to DRIVER technology and expertise, and become integrated as a national portal in the European DRIVER network of repositories.

We therefore welcome your collaboration in establishing a Spanish national instance of an aggregator within the DRIVER infrastructure. It will be beneficial to both parties: to RECOLECTA in the seamless integration with an international infrastructure; and to DRIVER in a closer correspondence with Spanish repositories to support optimal data quality.

We should also like to invite Ms. Alicia López Medina as formal representative of RECOLECTA to the impending DRIVER Confederation. DRIVER will invite further delegates from REBIUN and FECYT to meetings and workshops of the Confederation.

On behalf of the DRIVER consortium

Yours sincerely,

(Dr. Norbert Lossau, Scientific Coordinator)

Appendix 1: Modus operandi for the collaboration of DRIVER and RECOLECTA

The building of a national portal for distributed repositories in Spain (RECOLECTA) on the basis of DRIVER infrastructure is planned as an incremental process. This process is necessary in order to address and answer specific questions during the collaboration.

1. A demonstrator that shows the basic functionality of the existing RECOLECTA service is already in place. Continuing communication between DRIVER and RECOLECTA shall lead to a robust version that can be used as a common point of reference (BETA version).
2. DRIVER will provide RECOLECTA with an own instance of an aggregator service. RECOLECTA will receive administrative rights for this instance. RECOLECTA will test this instance in order to manage the Spanish repositories autonomously. RECOLECTA will work on providing a set of data that complies with DRIVER guidelines – either at the level of individual repositories or at the level of the national aggregator.
3. RECOLECTA will analyse the scenario in which services are not hosted by DRIVER-partners but operated as an own DRIVER infrastructure node that is based on their own dedicated physical machines. This analysis will provide an exit strategy for RECOLECTA that is independent from DRIVER hosting services. DRIVER will provide the required software resources for this analysis as an open-source software distribution.

RECOLECTA already has an existing portal in place. RECOLECTA keeps the existing services running until a robust version of the one based on DRIVER infrastructure is available. RECOLECTA will decide when this time to transform BETA version to production system has come. DRIVER will help to perform the transformation.

DRIVER is in the process of building an organisation for the Confederation of digital repositories. The collaboration with RECOLECTA is developed as part of this process. The designation of a country correspondent from RECOLECTA is recommended to oversee the progress and to responsibly organise the necessary communication with the DRIVER Confederation. Moreover, the collaboration would benefit from the designation of an additional technical correspondent to work with the DRIVER technical partners. This technical correspondent should be able to visit DRIVER-locations for training purposes.

Future obligations between DRIVER and RECOLECTA are subject to separate agreements.