

Memorandum of Understanding

between

DRIVER - Digital Repository Infrastructure Vision for European Research

and

SPARC Europe – The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition

Preamble

SPARC Europe 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..

SPARC Europe is an alliance of European research libraries, library organisations and research institutions that provides a voice for the community in order to bring about positive change to the system of scholarly communications.

SPARC Europe and DRIVER share the vision that research institutions should contribute actively and cooperatively to a common, pan-European data and service infrastructure based on digital repositories.

Agreement and Collaboration

Among all objectives and activities of SPARC Europe and DRIVER, respectively, intersections can be clearly identified. In recent years, research libraries have been pressed to improve scholarly communication by establishing digital repositories to expose institutional research outputs to the world. Networks of individual repositories and overarching information services for aggregation, retrieval, share and re-use are being built on the basis of institutional national and regional location, or by subject areas.

This agreement includes:

1. The development of a European infrastructure for repository networks and services.
2. The further separate development of existing networks of repositories created by and linked to each partner.
3. Joint approaches to specific areas of repository support developed by DRIVER, as maintained by The University of Nottingham.
4. Common use of SPARC Europe Mailing list for public dissemination of information.
5. The reciprocal use of DRIVER and SPARC Europe conference platforms to disseminate programme information to respective stakeholder groups.
6. Active joint dissemination of best-practices in countries or regions without formal approaches (policy on) to Open Access and scholarly communication.

Collaboration between SPARC Europe and DRIVER is envisaged in:

- The joint support of an OpenAccess model for repositories in research institutions.
- The joint adoption of emerging technical standards to facilitate open archiving.
- Support for existing organisational structures to ensure access to standards for interoperability between repositories.

- A common framework of influence at a national and international level to leverage change through the scholarly community within their own institutions and countries.
- The joint commitment to build and operate these networks, sustained and at a high level of quality.

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

Signatures

Signed at ISTANBUL on 2 July 2008

David Prosser
Director of SPARC Europe

Norbert Lossau
Scientific Coordinator of DRIVER