

Memorandum of Understanding

between

DRIVER - Digital Repository Infrastructure Vision for European Research

and

eIFL.net – Electronic Information for Libraries

Preamble

eIFL.net 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.

eIFL.net is a not for profit organisation that enables access to knowledge through libraries in transitional and developing countries, supports and advocates for the wide availability of electronic resources by library users.

eIFL.net and DRIVER share the vision that research institutions should contribute actively and cooperatively to a global, interoperable, trusted and long-term data and service infrastructure based on Open Access digital repositories.

Agreement and Collaboration

Among all objectives and activities of eIFL.net 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 DRIVER development of sustainable infrastructure of European scientific repository networks and services.
2. The further development of global, interoperable, trusted and long-term repository infrastructure, where eIFL- federated repositories are nucleus to this infrastructure.
3. Joint approaches to consolidation of national communities as the basis and as natural partners for the European repository network.
4. Common use of eIFL.net and DRIVER mailing lists for public dissemination of information.
5. The reciprocal use of DRIVER and eIFL.net conference platforms to disseminate programme information to respective stakeholder groups.
6. Active joint dissemination of best practices of Open Access scholarly communication in countries and regions without such formal policy.

Collaboration between eIFL.net and DRIVER is envisaged in:

- The joint support of an Open Access model for repositories in research institutions.
- 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.
- Joint actions on securing Open Access mandates from all funding organisations.
- The joint provision of training and organization of workshops on Open Access repositories and their role in scholarly communication.
- The consolidation of eIFL- federated repositories into the DRIVER infrastructure.
- Public acknowledgement of partnership on websites of both organisations.
- Joint efforts to seek funding to further extend mission and work of both organisations.

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

Signatures

Rima Kupryte
Director of eIFL.net

Norbert Lossau
Scientific Coordinator of DRIVER