

A Common Journey to New Frontiers

DL.org–Co-ordination Action on Digital Library Interoperability, Best Practices & Modelling

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In the near future all citizens anywhere, anytime will be able to use any internet-connected digital device to search all kinds of human knowledge. Via the Internet, they will be able to access knowledge in digital collections created by traditional libraries, museums, archives, universities, government agencies, specialised organisations, and even individuals around the world.

Digital Libraries (DLs) will play a central role in achieving important transformations in our society: the way we communicate, the way we deal with information, the way we learn, the way we conduct commerce, the way we work, the way we deliver and use government services, the way we carry out research, and the way we practise and benefit from health care.

Digital Libraries will make the vision for universally accessible collections of human knowledge a reality. In order for this to happen, considerable advances in Digital Library technologies and systems are needed. In particular, there is the need for Global Digital Library Infrastructures resulting from the federation of regional, national, international interoperable DL systems and digital repositories. However, making DL systems interoperable is a complex process that needs to take into consideration core requirements for digital library architecture, content, functionality, policy, quality and user perspectives.

DL.org, a recently EC-funded project, will pave the way for the future interoperability of DL systems thus making feasible the implementation of Global Digital Library Infrastructures.

DL.org aims to forge strong alliances with major stakeholders and the wider digital library community to harness the global expertise and knowledge that exists and maximize opportunities for the enhanced development of the next generation of Digital Library systems. Key **DL.org** goals focus on capitalising on key achievements made, addressing the main, open research & technical issues, capturing best practices, promoting shared standards, and producing guidelines for the development of the next generation DLs systems.

In order to achieve its objectives, **DL.org** will operate a number of **Working** and **Liaison Groups** composed of representatives of international DL initiatives and internationally known experts.

DL.org has also the ambition to influence the development of the next generation Digital Libraries. The community will benefit from knowledge exchange on key DL issues, as well as from eTraining courses designed to enable the next generation of DL professionals.

The DELOS Digital Library Reference Model will constitute the basic conceptual framework within which **DL.org** will conduct its activities addressing the DL interoperability problem from the Architecture, Content, Functionality, Policy, Quality and User perspectives.

Key expected outcomes of **DL.org** include:

- ❖ A “*Digital Library Technology and Methodology Cookbook*” providing a portfolio of current best practices and patterns to facilitate cross-fertilization among existing systems and their enhancement in terms of critical interoperability issues.
- ❖ A consolidated and enhanced version of the DELOS Digital Library Reference Model.
- ❖ Workshops, summer schools, eCourses and Dissemination activities to communicate the impact of DL.org achievements to relevant communities.