

Delft, Hannover, London, Lyngby, Nancy, Zürich on March 18. 2009

EUROPEAN INITIATIVE TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO RESEARCH DATA

A group of Europe's leading research libraries and technical information providers have established a partnership to improve access to research data on the internet. The German National Library of Science and Technology (TIB), the British Library, the Library of the ETH Zurich, the French Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (INIST), the Technical Information Center of Denmark and the Dutch TU Delft Library all signed a Memorandum of Understanding to this effect during the meeting of the International Council for Scientific and Technical Information (ICSTI) in Paris on 2 March 2009.

The goal of this cooperation is to establish a not-for-profit agency that enables organisations to register research datasets and assign persistent identifiers to them, so that research datasets can be handled as independent, citable, unique scientific objects.

“This is an important step in developing a strategy in a new field of responsibility and services for libraries and other information providers”, said Uwe Rosemann, Director of TIB. Maria Heijne, Director of the TU Delft Library added: “Citability of research data will reward researchers and therefore hopefully convince them that long term data preservation is worth while.”

As a first step, this agency will build on an approach developed by TIB and promote the use of Digital Object Identifiers (DOI) for datasets. A Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is used to cite and link to electronic resources (text as well as research data and other types of content). The DOI differs from other reference systems commonly used on the Internet, such as the URL, since it is permanently linked to the object itself, not just to the place in which the object is located. Since 2005 TIB has registered around 600,000 research data sets with a DOI name to allow easy access and improve citability.

The long term vision of the partnership is to support researchers by providing methods for them to locate, identify, and cite research datasets with confidence. Further countries and organisations are encouraged to join the partnership.

Partnership contact:

Jan Brase ,
e-Mail: jan.brase@tib.uni-hannover.de
T: +49 (0) 511 762 19869

<http://www.tib-hannover.de/en/the-tib/doi-registration-agency/>

Partners:

**German National Library of
Science and Technology (TIB)**

Welfengarten 1b

30167 Hannover
Germany

<http://www.tib-hannover.de>

Contact:

Jan Brase

e-Mail: jan.brase@tib.uni-hannover.de

T: +49 (0) 511 762 19869

The British Library

St Pancras
96 Euston Road

London, NW1 2DB, UK

<http://www.bl.uk/>

Contact:

Adam Farquhar

e-Mail: Adam.Farquhar@bl.uk

T: +44 (0)1937 546515

Library of the ETH Zurich

ETH-Bibliothek
ETH Zurich
Raemistrasse 101

CH-8092 Zurich, Switzerland

<http://www.ethbib.ethz.ch>

Contact:

Arlette Piquet

e-Mail: arlette.piquet@library.ethz.ch

T: +41 (0) 44 632 21 79

Institute for Scientific and Technical Information

INIST-CNRS
2 allée du Parc de Brabois

54500 Vandoeuvre les Nancy, France

<http://www.inist.fr>

Contact:

Herbert Gruttemeier

e-Mail: gruttemeier@inist.fr

T: +33 (0) 38 350 47 59

Technical Information Center of Denmark

Technical University of Denmark
Anker Engelunds Vej 1

DK-2800 Kgs. Lyngby, Denmark

<http://www.dtic.dtu.dk/>

Contact:

Alfred Heller

e-Mail: ajh@dtic.dtu.dk

T: +45 4525 7349

TU Delft Library

Prometheusplein 1

2628 ZC Delft, The Netherlands

<http://www.library.tudelft.nl/ws/index.htm>

Contact:

Jeroen Rombouts

e-Mail: J.P.Rombouts@tudelft.nl

T: +31 (0)15 27 87816

Memorandum of Understanding

Recognizing the importance of research datasets as the foundation of knowledge and sharing a common commitment to promote and establish persistent access to such datasets, we, the signed parties, hereby express our interest to work together to promote global access to research data.

Our long term vision is to support researchers by providing methods for them to locate, identify, and cite research datasets with confidence.

In order to achieve this long term vision, we will establish a not-for-profit agency that enables organisations to register research datasets and assign persistent identifiers to them. The agency will take global leadership for promoting the use of persistent identifiers for datasets, to satisfy needs of scientists. It will, through its members, establish and promote common methods, best practices, and guidance. The organisations will independently work with data centres and other holders of research data sets in their own domains.

As a first step, this agency will build on the approach developed by the German National Library of Science and Technology (TIB) and promote the use of Digital Object Identifiers (DOI) for datasets.

Signed this day of March 2nd, Paris, France

Uwe Rosemann, Director, German National Library of Science and Technology, Germany

Wolfram Neubauer, Director, ETH Library Zürich, Switzerland

Herbert Gruttemeier, Head of International Relations, Institute for Scientific and Technical Information, France

Adam Farquhar, Head of Digital Library Technology, The British Library, UK

Mogens Sandfaer, Director, Technical Information Center of Denmark

Maria Heijne, Director, TU Delft Library, The Netherlands



The picture was taken in Paris after the signing of the Memorandum and shows from left to right:

Herbert Gruttemeier, INIST, France,
Adam Farquhar, The British Library, United Kingdom
Maria Heijne, TU Delft Library, The Netherlands
Jan Brase (for Uwe Rosemann), TIB, Germany
Wolfram Neubauer, ETH Library Zürich, Switzerland
Mogens Sandfaer, Technical Information Center of Denmark