Memorandum of Understanding

Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to establish and promote a strategic and cooperative partnership between DuraSpace and euroCRIS.

euroCRIS is a not-for-profit, statutory association (http://www.eurocris.org), governed by Dutch law, dedicated to the development and implementation of efficient and effective institutional, national and international research information systems and their interoperability, based on CERIF (Common European Research Information Format). One of euroCRIS's main objectives is the promotion of cooperation and exchange of expertise between stakeholders in the research information domain, in particular by setting up Strategic Partnerships with international organisations in the field of Research Information Management.

Duraspace (http://duraspace.org) is an independent 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization providing leadership and innovation for open technologies that promote durable, persistent access to digital data. We collaborate with academic, scientific, cultural, and technology communities by supporting projects and creating services to help ensure that current and future generations have access to our collective digital heritage.

Our values are expressed in our organizational byline, "Committed to our digital future."

Motivation

Both euroCRIS and DuraSpace share a vision of realising optimal ecosystems for academic and scientific research, using technology to store, preserve, manage, use, and re-use digital data and information.

Current Research Information Systems (CRISs) and Institutional Repositories (IRs) are two fundamental and interoperable components of such an ecosystem and their features have gradually been extended and their role within institutions is permanently evolving in response to new policies on Open Access, Open Data, National Assessment, and Research Funding.

It is strategically important to work collaboratively on enhancements to CRISs and IRs so that all stakeholders benefit from the best possible interoperability between the two systems now and in the future.

The motivation for this MoU is to share knowledge and experience and to support each other's endeavours in the fields defined in the agreement.

Objective

The strategic partners will work together:

(a) To promote interoperability between IRs and CRISs, including the following aspects:

- Identification and use of business-level and technological standards to exchange data and information
- Mapping of existing data models to identify interoperability opportunities
- Organisation of training on the importance of interoperability for the various user and stakeholder groups (researchers, research managers, librarians, policy makers, funders, etc.).

(b) To promote the realisation of optimal repositories and research information policies and practices, and in this respect to influence policies and policy makers on both a national (governmental) and international level on:

- The importance of CRISs and IRs in implementing an Internet of FAIR Data, information and Services.
- The importance of the use of international open standards (e.g.: CERIF) for the implementation of systems, the exchange of data and information, and for interoperability and integration.
- The support of policy formulation for the adoption of IR and CRIS systems at national and international level.
- The need to establish interoperability, using open standards, between information systems at various levels.
- The rendering of consultancy-services in policy development.

(c) To make known and communicate each other's activities and accomplishments with their stakeholders and at each other's events.

Mechanisms
In order to achieve the above mentioned objectives, both partners agree on the following concrete actions for collaboration:

1. Mapping the data models of DSpace, VIVO, and FEDORA to identify opportunities to adopt standard formats, such as CERIF, to promote a bi-directional exchange of metadata.
2. Sharing best practices and implementing new (and common) integration/interoperability approaches (e.g.: ORCiD, OpenAIRE, SHARE).
3. Working jointly and together with other partners on the analysis of the current use of IRs, CRISs (joint Survey), and VIVOs (research profiles systems) and the definition of the next steps for the future of such systems (joint analysis).
4. Contributing to the open source repository-CRIS project: DSpace-CRIS.
5. Representatives of euroCRIS shall be invited to conferences, seminars and webinars organised by DuraSpace (e.g.: DuraSpace Summit).

6. Representatives of DuraSpace shall be invited to to conferences, seminars and webinars organised by euroCRIS (e.g.: Strategic Membership Meeting, Conference).
7. DuraSpace agrees to participate in appropriate euroCRIS Task Groups to contribute to the development of the repository-CRIS interoperability roadmaps.
8. euroCRIS agrees to participate in appropriate DuraSpace working groups to contribute to the development of the repository-CRIS interoperability roadmaps
9. Both organisations will regularly offer information on activities for the other partner to disseminate via their respective communication channels.
10. For reasons of efficiency in time and costs, communication will be through teleconference or webinar when appropriate.

Publicity
The logo of both strategic partners will be placed on each other's website under the respective heading with a hyperlink to the homepage of the strategic partner. Both parties shall approve any public announcement regarding this MoU. Each party may suggest that its logo be used in accordance with provided guidelines.

Liabilities and Termination
This agreement does not define a financial relationship between the strategic partners, but does not exclude that such relationships could be negotiated. The agreement does not restrict the rights and responsibilities of each partner nor increase them. This agreement remains in force until terminated in writing by each party. Upon termination, both parties will remove the logo and hyperlink of the other party from their websites.
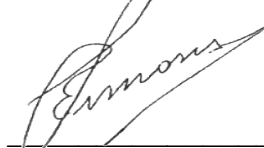
February 21, 2017

For DuraSpace   **For euroCRIS**

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Debra Hanken Kurtz   **Ed Simons**
CEO   **President**