

Agreement on the creation of a consortium:
Polish Digital Libraries

Modern network applications and services, including an ever increasing number of digital libraries and repositories, as well as published material existing in electronic form only, are becoming the foundation for the development of an information society. Science and education benefit from the new possibilities offered for storing and sharing sources and resources supporting research and the teaching processes. Digital collections, as well as the sites offering them, are an important component of the activities undertaken to promote culture and support regional development and tourism, as well as assisting the processes of continuous education and development of society.

More and more cultural and scientific institutions have staff who are able to participate in the creation of digital libraries, and academic centres have research backup resources which support their implementation. With a view to active cooperation to ensure better conditions for supporting local initiatives aimed at extending digital resources and applying the latest technologies for the storage and sharing of those resources, and for promoting these collections and services, the undersigned parties have come forward with the initiative of creating a consortium called **Polish Digital Libraries** (*Polskie Biblioteki Cyfrowe*).

§ 1

1. The strategic objective of the consortium is to provide all interested persons with general and free access to digital resources of scientific, educational and cultural importance by developing a network of digital libraries and repositories which form a reliable permanent structure.
2. The consortium achieves its objectives by:
 - a. supporting actions relating to the creation, accumulation, design, sharing and archiving of digital resources;
 - b. recommending and promoting international standards and best practices relating to the creation, design, sharing and archiving of digital resources;
 - c. supporting initiatives to ensure perpetual archiving of digital collections.
3. In striving to achieve the objectives referred to in paragraph 2, the consortium recognizes the following priorities:
 - a. recommendation of guidelines and standards needed in the creation of digital resources;
 - b. joint development of good models and practices for Polish digital libraries and repositories;

- c. making of joint applications to appropriate Polish and European institutions for funds for the creation of digital resources;
- d. joint participation in Polish and foreign projects
- e. common use of hardware and software architecture where necessary;
- f. submission of project and legislative initiatives to the appropriate state authorities to ensure conditions allowing the creation of Polish digital resources.

§ 2

1. The decision-making body of the Consortium is the Consortium Board, hereafter called the Board.
2. The Board includes one representative of each of the institutions being Consortium Participants.
3. Each Consortium Participant appoints a Board member for a calendar year; however each Consortium Participant may freely change its representatives, provided that on each occasion the remaining consortium members are notified of the change in writing.
4. The function of Chairman of the Board is performed by the representative of the institution being Consortium leader in the year in question.
5. The Board's functions include in particular:
 - a. oversight over the implementation of the terms of the present Agreement;
 - b. coordination of work relating to the creation, accumulation, development, sharing and archiving of digital resources;
 - c. action to support the building of digital resources in Poland;
 - d. undertaking of and support for initiatives, in particular methodological and technological initiatives, relating to the consistency of metadata and free and easy searching for resources on the Internet;
 - e. initiation of cooperation with other institutions/persons whose activity is convergent with the objectives of the Consortium;
 - f. promotion of the Polish Digital Libraries consortium in Poland and abroad.
6. A meeting of the Board is called at the reasoned request of any of the members of the Board. Meetings of the Board are called by the Chairman.
7. The Board adopts resolutions by a simple majority of votes. It is required that an opinion on a given matter be expressed by each of the members of the Board (given in writing in case of absence).

§ 3

The agreement is of the nature of informational and network cooperation. Thus the agreement does not limit any individual actions of the Participants in the achievement of the objectives of that agreement, but only imposes obligations to give mutual notification of actions taken.

§ 4

Concluding stipulations:

1. The Consortium is open in nature and may admit new participants on their expression of will to join, through the signing of a Declaration on joining the Consortium, as contained in the annex to the present agreement.
2. The Consortium Leader is elected annually from among the Participants by the members of the Consortium Board.
3. For the first year of the Consortium's activity the Participants appoint the Poznań Academic Libraries Foundation (*Poznańska Fundacja Bibliotek Naukowych*) as Leader.
4. The agreement shall come into effect on the day on which it is signed, for an indefinite period.
5. Any of the Participants may leave the Consortium by giving written notification of that fact to all Participants.

§ 5

Participants in the Polish Digital Libraries consortium

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Annex

Declaration of joining the Polish Digital Libraries Consortium

In the name of

I hereby declare the will to join the Consortium called Polish Digital Libraries (*Polskie Biblioteki Cyfrowe*).

At the same time I appoint the following person as a member of the Consortium Board:

.....
(*forename and surname*)

.....
(*signature*)

.....
(*place, date*)