

CENL Luxembourg Resolution on digitisation of European Cultural Heritage

The Conference of European National Librarians (CENL) holds that digital libraries and the digitisation of cultural and scientific heritage facilitates global access to content and supports both life-long learning and research, education and leisure activities. CENL therefore strongly supports a co-operative and widespread approach to digitisation by European national libraries and other major cultural institutions.

CENL fully supports the Lund Principles which highlight the value and importance of Europe's digitised cultural and scientific content. CENL believes that cultural diversity and multilinguality are basic values of European culture. To promote the awareness of the value of cultural and linguistic diversity it is imperative that the rich collections of European national libraries and other cultural institutions are made visible on the Internet, as this is the primary access route to information of the past, present and the future.

CENL, by creating The European Library offers a model platform and organisational network for co-operation between national libraries and for the co-ordination of national initiatives on a European level and avoids duplication of work. CENL is committed to the development of a network of digital activities as well as to the promotion and exchange of experiences regarding long-term preservation of digital and digitised objects. The European Library is an ideal point of entry to the digitised material of national libraries and other European cultural institutions.

CENL will engage actively with the proposals of the Information Society and Media Directorate stakeholder consultation and anticipates being a key player in any subsequent initiatives. CENL will seek further funding and partnerships to reach its goals. Given the increasing importance attached to public/private partnerships in digital library activity CENL will seek to articulate a common set of negotiating conditions to support libraries as they aim to balance private sector imperatives with their own public good responsibilities associated with the stewardship of national collections. CENL will ensure that requirements of rights holders are respected in any new arrangements.

Adopted by the CENL annual meeting, Luxembourg, September 30th 2005

Approved by the CENL Board, December 2005

Approved by the CENL Executive Committee, December 5th 2005