

Memorandum of Understanding between the Swedish Research Council and the National Archives regarding e-infrastructure

The National Archives (NA)

NA is one of the oldest public agencies in Sweden, with a history leading back to the Middle Ages. Today NA is charged with the supervision of all public records, generated by central as well as regional and local state authorities. Its commission by law is to preserve, organise and care for the records in order to uphold the legal right of access to public records in the pursuit of justice, continuity of public administration and facilitation of research. NA is and has been a partner in several EU framework projects in this area.

Since 2011 NA is tasked by the Swedish Government to host a secretariat for coordination of digitalization, on line access and digital preservation for all state cultural heritage institutions (Digisam). Digisam's main task is to support the goals set up by the Government in the national strategy of digitalization of cultural heritage through coordination and promotion of collaboration within the culture heritage sector. Digisam is tasked to support the cultural institutions in their work with the plans for digitisation, for example by producing general advice on setting priorities for digitisation projects. Digisam is also tasked to develop proposals for national guidance on coordinated digital information management, infrastructure and a coordinated and cost-effective long-term digital preservation of collections and archives, including audio-visual archives at the state institutions. The proposal will also include a role and responsibility for the work on aggregation, digital access and digital preservation for the state cultural heritage sector.

The Swedish Research Council (SRC)

SRC is a government agency under the Ministry of Education and is the largest Swedish funding agency for basic research at Swedish universities, colleges and institutes. SRC is administratively responsible for the Swedish University Network (SUNET). SUNET is dedicated to support the needs of the research and education communities within Sweden. Apart from offering high-capacity computer networks, SUNET also hosts a wide variety of different services for connected organizations. The services of SUNET are partly government funded and connected organizations are charged for services.

Cultural heritage and e-infrastructure

Digit@It kulturarv is the national strategy for work on digitization, digital preservation and for making cultural heritage material digitally accessible. The overall objective of Digit@It kulturarv is to ensure that cultural activities, collections and archives increasingly are preserved digitally and made available electronically. In order to increase use, preservation and access to digital cultural heritage information a stable and sustainable national infrastructure is required as in regard to technology, standards, formats, services and tools.

With closer collaboration between SRC/SUNET, NA/Digisam and other digital cultural heritage institutions the ability to develop and maintain such an infrastructure can be realized.

Overall objective

NA/Digisam and other digital cultural heritage institutions have a common interest in collaboration with SRC/SUNET to contribute to the set-up of a European e-infrastructure for digital cultural heritage. NA wants to make better use of the SUNET infrastructure, and the associated services and expertise for digital cultural heritage. SUNET is the obvious e-infrastructure to which the majority of State heritage authorities and institutions are already connected.

SRC/SUNET recognises the value in a closer collaboration with digital cultural heritage institutions to make better use of the SUNET infrastructure and connectivity, as well as the services SUNET can provide for its customers.

Therefore NA and SRC/SUNET are willing to work together to contribute to the set up of a European e-infrastructure for digital cultural heritage.

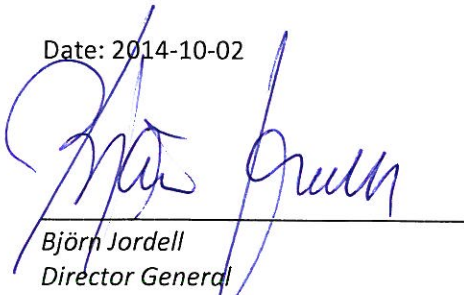
Miscellaneous

This Memorandum of Understanding will from the date of its signature be in full force and effect for a period of two (2) years, after which it may be prolonged through mutual and written agreement between the parties.

Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding shall be construed as to constitute a legal or financial commitment.

In case of misunderstanding, differences in interpretation and/or conflict an amicable solution shall be sought.

Date: 2014-10-02



Björn Jordell
Director General
Swedish National Archives

Date: 2014-10-10



Maria Häll
Manager
The Swedish University Computer Network

Date: 2014-~~10-20~~ 12-08



Sven Stafström
Director General
The Swedish Research Council