

Cultural Applications:
Local Institutions Mediating Electronic Resources

Co-operation and Partnership



calimera

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Calimera Guidelines

Co-operation and partnership

SCOPE

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POLICY ISSUES

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The need to consider public needs in a more 'holistic' context means that heritage institutions need to work together with other local authority departments, the educational sector, agencies and local and regional offices of central government, as well as with their cultural partners.

There is increasingly a demand for services which no single institution can provide in a given geographical area: partnerships are needed to add cost-effectively to the range of services available to the public or to provide a way of maintaining and developing services where funds are insufficient.

The advent of networked services and the nature of digital content in cyberspace is a further powerful force in the dissolution of organisational barriers and the need for institutions to take an open and innovative approach to co-operation and partnership. For example:

- e-mail etc. has made communication between partners easier and quicker;
- new technologies have made the sharing of resources easier;
- portals can give access to the resources of many different organisations;
- virtual communities of professionals and/or public can be set up and used for a variety of collaborative purposes including e-learning strategies, online discussions and conferences, and sharing of expertise.

By entering partnerships, museums, libraries and archives can address political agenda, find funding for innovation and development, achieve economies of scale, acquire access to skills which traditionally are not to be found among their own staff, and share best practice. The World Library and Information Congress: 69th IFLA

General Conference and Council in August 2003 discussed *Co-operation among archives, libraries and museums* in its Genealogy and Local History section [1].

GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES

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A partnership is a means to an end. Partnerships usually come into being because participants see them as an effective way of furthering their aims and objectives. Partnerships succeed when all participants both benefit and contribute. An effective partnership is one which results in clear and measurable benefits to users.

Potential partners

Various types of co-operation and partnership are effective in delivering different types of objective:

Strategic partnerships

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Strategic partnerships can be established at national, regional or local levels and can provide a platform for creativity and inspiration.

At national level, strategic partnerships can be designed to carry out important national programmes for specific purposes. Examples at this level are the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) of the UK and the Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority (ABM-Utvikling).

At regional level, strategic partnerships may be formed in order to:

- establish a development agency for museum, library and archive organisations facilitating the sector's development across a region through leadership, advocacy, advice, obtaining funding, developing new bids and exemplar projects, and service delivery;
- deliver objectives such as the creation of a regional broadband public information network; the development and delivery of electronic content; re-skilling the workforce; promoting literature and reader development; and providing opportunities for lifelong learning to local and regional communities;
- represent the interests of the three domains within a regional and strategic context, dealing with: government and government agencies; regional political and executive bodies; national and regional professional bodies; education bodies; economic agencies; local authorities; and the voluntary sector.

To succeed, regional strategic bodies need to work in partnership with their member organisations and other stakeholders, recognising the priorities and needs of individual services and local autonomy.

At local level, museums, libraries and archives are often departments of local government and need to work with other departments to provide a seamless joined-up service. One example of collaboration could be developing a joint CRM (Customer Relations Management) system. Several departments might need data about users and a joint CRM can reduce duplication of effort, eliminate contradictory data being stored, and enable a personalised face to be presented to users. Subject to data

protection legislation and privacy considerations (see the guideline on [Legal and rights issues](#), section on Data Protection), a CRM can integrate all contacts with the organisation from a user by e-mail, telephone, mobile device, post or face-to-face, and enable any member of staff dealing with the user to see the complete record of the user's interaction.

Providing integrated services in line with the joined-up government agenda gives museums, libraries and archives the opportunity to work with other local organisations. For example, a library service might engage with a health authority or social services department to deliver services to people's homes.

Cross-domain partnerships

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Museums, libraries and archives have been seen as different kinds of institution with different professional practices and organisational cultures. However these differences are more administrative than purposive since they all have as their mission the collection, preservation and making available of objects, artefacts, documents and information. Digitisation is eroding administrative differences, as the processes involved in managing digital materials is the same whether they originated as books, documents or objects. In fact the term "digital document" is now sometimes used to mean "*all kinds of other things, like text files, audio files, image files, even multimedia presentations and Web pages*" [1]. Groups of museums, libraries and archives may agree to co-operate for example to give people the opportunity to search their holdings simultaneously. People are often not interested in where they find their information, whether it is in a book or a leaflet in a library, from a description of an artefact in a museum, or from an organisation's details in an archive. The importance of interoperability, and therefore of the use of recognised international standards, cannot be over-emphasised if such collaboration is to work. A good example is Denmark's NOKS (see [Links](#)).

Partnerships between institutions in the same domain

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Groups of libraries, museums or archives may agree to co-operate in areas such as consortium purchase of resources (particularly electronic resources), digitisation of key resources and the provision of access through a common website, gateway, portal or retrieval service e.g. by linking their catalogues together. (See [Links](#) for examples.)

Partnerships with the education sector

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There is a great deal of synergy to be obtained from partnerships with the education sector (see the guideline on [Learning](#)). Museums, libraries and archives within the local government sector often have close relationships with local schools and colleges. They can also build partnerships with universities, adult education institutions, training departments in local businesses, independent schools, playgroups and nurseries.

Partnerships with the voluntary sector

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Museums, libraries and archives may benefit from partnerships with the voluntary sector and NGOs (non-governmental organisations) through their commitment to and understanding of the needs of specific target groups, e.g. children, elderly people, disabled people, community groups and ethnic minorities.

Partnerships with industry and the private sector

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- Many businesses and specialist organisations make their libraries and archives available to the public. Because they receive no public funding such resources can be at risk if for example a firm closes down. Creating links between these types of organisations and public sector organisations could enable these resources to be safeguarded. Such partnerships could also lead to these collections being digitised to recognised standards and made more widely available.
- Telecommunications providers need to sell services running over the infrastructure in which they have invested and which will help them generate the revenues they need for a sustainable commercial future. Bandwidth is often purchased by local or regional authorities or consortia to deliver a variety of services. Content can be seen as a key driver for developing a market for broadband, so it is in the interests of the telecommunications companies to encourage the digitisation of content by museums, libraries and archives. The possibility of joint investment in services by the cultural heritage sector and telecommunications organisations, on the basis that risk and income could be shared, could be worth exploring.

Types of partnership

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There are a number of types of and purposes for partnerships:

- regional or location based, where organisations in a given locality agree to co-operate;
- subject based, where groups of organisations specialising in a particular subject, regardless of location, agree to work together;
- activity-based, which might include:
 - **Service delivery** - Heritage institutions might in some circumstances be able to deliver services from a joint local or regional centre. Technology enables co-operative delivery of online services.
 - **Training** - for example IT training and management training. The scope may include: identifying and implementing opportunities for co-operative ventures in staff training and development; discussing common problems and solutions and promoting best practice; organising joint training events and mentoring activities; identifying opportunities for sharing training resources and the joint purchase of training materials; and setting up staff exchanges. (See also the guideline on [Staffing](#)).
 - **IT development partnerships** – these can support improvements in the range of services offered, for example by sharing electronic resources, providing electronic access to catalogues and databases, enabling contribution of content etc., so working co-operatively towards the development of the virtual museum, library or archive.
 - **Purchasing partnerships and consortia** – these have become widespread and influential, especially for example in the library sector where they are seen as an important means of providing better value for money from library budgets by achieving discounts through negotiating bulk purchase and common licensing arrangements, especially for electronic publications. Publishers and suppliers also benefit from consortia through savings in marketing, guaranteed market share and exposure for their products. Such

partnerships are helpful in the development of common collection development policies and the avoidance of wasteful fragmentation in purchasing policy. Consortia can enter into negotiations with suppliers from a position of strength. They may be international in scope (see for example [EIFL](#) (Electronic Information for Libraries [2])).

- **Preservation partnerships** – preservation of unique materials may be done co-operatively in order to pool expertise and avoid duplication of effort. A preservation programme requires concerned and informed staff, accurate data, adequate funding, appropriate standards, preservation policies and procedures, and mechanisms for sharing information and access. Co-operative disaster planning can also be useful, and can include keeping back-up copies of crucial information and resources on each others' premises and systems. (See also the guideline on [Digital preservation](#).)
- **Conservation partnerships** – small institutions may not have the resources in terms of money, staff expertise and space to carry out conservation on delicate objects, documents and books. Sharing resources or setting up centres of expertise might be a way forward.
- **Project partnerships** are often necessary when applying for external funding in a competitive arena e.g. funding for EU research programmes is usually dependant on multi-partner project proposals. The CORDIS Partners Service [3] was set up to provide help and guidance in finding partners for EU projects.
- **Funding partnerships** – jointly bidding for and developing Information Society projects and services, e.g. to support the lifelong learning or e-government agenda, can sometimes be more successful than a bid from a single institution. Small institutions sometimes do not have the staff and expertise to put together successful applications.
- **Partnerships for commercial purposes** – many institutions have to generate some income through paid research services, publishing, sales of books, photographs, copies, gifts etc., and through sales of material to the media. Small organisations sometimes face barriers to the development of such services e.g. lack of staff and time to devote to it, high initial start-up costs, lack of incentive if local authority financial regulations mean that income earned does not go back to the service. Setting up a partnership to encourage innovation and share marketing expertise could help to overcome any problems and improve the prospects of sustainability. A shared outlet might also be a possibility.
- **Outsourcing partnerships** – if it is necessary to outsource work because the skills and resources are not available within the institution, local institutions might achieve economies of scale if they do this in partnership with others engaged in similar projects.

Initiating partnerships

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Informal contacts and soundings between decision-makers from the prospective partners are often a first step, followed by flexible early discussions which seek opportunities to complement the objectives of all partners involved. All partners should aim to understand the needs and priorities of the other partners, and should be able to demonstrate how their own unique contribution can contribute to the synergy of the partnership for the benefit of the end-users. The nature of the agreed

collaboration should be defined in writing, recording goals and each partner's responsibilities. Among the issues to be considered are funding, facilities, time, personnel, audiences, marketing and the use of media.

The organisation and structure of co-operation partnerships

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• **Mission statement**

Once formalised, a partnership needs a mission statement, for example:

- *"to champion and support the sector's unique role in enhancing the cultural, social, educational and economic life of the region";* or
- *"to modernise, revitalise and transform [museums, public libraries or archives] and to fully harness their potential for learning, for social inclusion, for creativity, and for economic and social regeneration".*

• **Key visible activities**

Among the activities which give life and external visibility to a partnership and potentially increase its influence are:

- a strategic plan setting out a number of strategic objectives;
 - published action plans for specific periods of time;
 - task forces to carry out these action plans;
 - key reports and documents to show the results of these action plans.
- A partnership should be an **accountable organisation**. Partnerships may have a formal legal status or legal personality such as registered company or registered charity. A partnership may often need a corporate identity, including a "brand name" and logo etc. A partnership may itself decide to enter other partnerships as a corporate body.
- Partnerships should operate with **clear governance rules** e.g. for board meetings and decision-making. A Board of Directors or similar structure should be set up to represent the range of stakeholders involved and may be drawn, for example, from local authorities; political bodies or assemblies; the academic sector; independent organisations; and professional officers from museums, public libraries and archives. The Board may also include observers from national and regional agencies and other bodies with an overall interest. (See for example the Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority in [Links](#).)

Funding for partnerships

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Funding can be sought from a variety of approaches, for example:

- core grants from national or regional funding programmes;
- member subscriptions;
- local authority support funds;
- generated income;
- project funding from government initiative funds, European Social Funds and the RTD (Research and Technological Development) programme e.g. IST (Information Society Technologies);

In some cases, to obtain further funding, the partnership may need to identify its own "match funding".

Maintenance of successful partnerships

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Several key factors are needed to sustain a successful partnership:

- the senior management and governing body or local authority of each partner organisation should be committed to any partnership arrangement;

- a named individual of the appropriate status within each organisation should be responsible: high profile partnership projects may involve the highest level of management of the organisation;
- good mutual understanding of the partner organisations' institutional cultures, remits and objectives;
- realistic expectations;
- an exit strategy – an agreement to leave the partnership in certain circumstances, covering apportionment of assets and liabilities. There should be an agreed method of winding up the partnership once its work is completed.

FUTURE AGENDA

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The vision of enabling a user to search for material relating to a specific topic and of bringing everything together in an integrated response without the user needing to know the source of the information, be it museum, library or archive, depends on collaboration among cultural organisations at every level. The development of digital technology is making this possible.

Digital technology is having the effect of making cultural institutions less insular and more mutually dependent. New models such as regional cultural service centres may emerge to provide innovative applications, solutions and services for local cultural institutions for the benefit of the end user.

The future of partnerships is closely linked to the future of funding. The exigencies of funding make partnerships desirable or essential for certain purposes: changes in the availability of funding or in the conditions attached to awards of funds affect the viability of consortia and partnerships.

The legal and regulatory framework for partnerships and co-operation within which cultural organisations operate needs to develop to take account of the fact that government agendas are now delivered in a more "joined-up" way. For example, all departments of a local authority are now expected to contribute to e-government targets, learning is no longer the sole responsibility of the education department, etc. Local services are likely to become increasingly integrated. Also many services which were once wholly provided by local authorities may now be provided through partnerships with the private and/or voluntary sectors.

It is now recognised that museums, libraries and archives share many of the same aims and objectives and national and regional associations are being formed to develop an effective regional infrastructure for the museums, libraries and archives sector.

There are many portals and gateways being set up by regional or domain groups. In the future these groups should aim to link together with the aim of providing a seamless response listing information sources wherever they may be housed in response to a single enquiry from anywhere in the world.

Technology has made much easier the sharing of resources, for example among the members of a professional body, among a group of institutions, or among a group of individuals with a common interest. For example peer-to-peer (P2P) networks can collect huge amounts of information from widely distributed sources. File sharing services such as [Foldershare](#), [Groove Networks](#), [Skype](#), [Gnutella](#) and [Kazaa](#) enable all types of digital objects including film, images and software to be shared [4].

The uses for collaborative technologies include online learning, joint exhibitions, virtual museums, etc., and providing copyright issues can be resolved, are limited only by imagination.

On a European level, co-operation needs to be cultivated at a strategic level to provide a platform for creativity and inspiration, exchange best practice, co-ordinate policies on digitisation, multilingualism, access, education, tourism etc. for the benefit of all European people, and to promote European culture to the rest of the world.

REFERENCES

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[1] The World Library and Information Congress: 69th IFLA General Conference and Council, Berlin, August 2003. Genealogy and Local History section. <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla69/prog03.htm> . Papers:

- *Cooperation and Change: Archives, Libraries and Museums in the United States*, by Robert Martin (Institute of Museum and Library Services, Washington DC, USA)
- *If we can do it, so can you: the UK North Yorkshire digitisation project*, by Elizabeth Anne Melrose (North Yorkshire Country Library, Northallerton, England)
- *Library innovation is hard work: lessons from a Norwegian case study*, by Bozena Rasmussen (Gjerdrum Public Library, Gjerdrum, Norway) and Tord Høivik (Oslo University College, Oslo, Norway)

[2] EIFL (Electronic Information for Libraries <http://www.eifl.net/>)

[3] CORDIS Partners Service <http://partners-service.cordis.lu/>

[4] Peer-to-peer (P2P) <http://www.openp2p.com/>

Foldershare <http://www.foldershare.com/>

Groove Networks <http://www.groove.net/>

Skype <http://www.skype.com/>

Gnutella <http://www.gnutella.com>

Kazaa <http://www.kazaa.com>

LINKS

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International

Answers Now

This interactive 24/7 reference service is a partnership of the Brisbane City Council Library Service, Queensland, Australia; the Christchurch City Libraries, Christchurch,

New Zealand; Richland County Public Library, South Carolina, USA; and Somerset County Council Libraries, Arts and Information Service, United Kingdom.

<http://vrl->

live01.lssi.com/wcscgi/CDM.exe/ansnow?SS_COMMAND=CUST_SUP&Category=SOMERSET

Europe

AMICITIA (Asset Management Integration of Cultural Heritage in the Interexchange between Archives)

Broadcasting companies and technology partners from across Europe worked together on a demonstration project to link digital video archives together by establishing a P2P (peer-to-peer) network. A DRM (Digital Rights Management) system was developed to deal with rights issues and a CMS (Content Management System) to store the various contracts.

<http://www.amicitia-project.de> and <http://www.cultivate-int.org/issue4/amicitia/>

eMarCon (Electronic Maritime Cultural Content)

An EU supported project which created a platform allowing geographically distant European museums and their visitors to arrange and subsequently experience common virtual exhibitions via the Internet. The partners were 9 institutions from 7 European countries representing 4 maritime museums and a broad cross-section of the academic, regional and informatics/communication technologies organisations in Europe. The demonstration exhibitions are tailored for adults, children or experts.

<http://www.emarcon.net/>

MIRROR

MIRROR aims to establish a Europe-wide community of practice for natural science museums by developing a novel learning methodology and by implementing state-of-the-art tools, techniques and systems. <http://www.mirror-project.net>

Armenia

Academical Scientific Research Computer Network (ASNET-AM)

Links academic, research, educational and other organisations engaged in scientific and educational activity by hosting web resources.

<http://www.sci.am/>; <http://www.asnet.am/index.php>

Austria

Bibliotheken Online

Over 500 Austrian public libraries have pooled their resources to enable the retrieval of information on the availability of titles in these libraries via the Internet.

<http://www.bibliotheken.at>

Belgium

VLACC (Vlaamse Centrale Catalogus Openbare Bibliotheken or the Flemish Union Catalog)

Union catalogue of the holdings of all public libraries in Flanders. VLACC II will be a stepping stone towards a Flemish Digital Library which will systematically include all holdings, and will integrate day-to-day work saving an estimated 10% of staff time on cataloguing back-office tasks. Internet access is through Bibnet.

<http://www.bibliotheek.be>

Bulgaria

Old Varna Project

Co-operative project involving Varna Regional Library, Varna State Archive, Varna Regional Museum and VASSAN Media for creating a historical chronicle of Varna available on the web site of the Regional Library. <http://www.libvar.bg>

Cyprus

University of Cyprus Library

In addition to links to its own material and databases, also has links to other Cypriot libraries and to a Greek library network. It also hosts the catalogues of 7 public libraries. <http://library.ucy.ac.cy/>

Czech Republic

Archives Direction Division of the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic

Czech archives are represented in ICA, EURBICA and in special commissions and they participate in the Blue Shield. In addition international co-operation is organised on the basis of bilateral agreements. Archives closely co-operate with domestic cultural institutions in the areas of development and research, preparation of publications and exhibitions and on preservation of national cultural heritage.

<http://www.mvcr.cz>

Informace pro knihovny - portál Knihovnického institutu Národní knihovny ČR.

Librarianship Institute Portal of the National Library of the Czech Republic.

<http://knihovnam.nkp.cz>

State Technical Library in Prague

Provides lists of local library activities, information about conferences, etc.

<http://www.stk.cz/akce>

Uniform Information Gateway

UIG provides uniform and easy access to various information sources including full texts and document files. <http://www.jib.cz/>

Denmark

DANPA (Denmark's national private archives database)

The database contains search capabilities for approximately 120,000 descriptive records from 190 private archive institutions with digital catalogues, including the State Archives, the Emigration Archives, the Royal Library, and the Library and Archives of the Labour movement. <http://www.danpa.dk>

NOKS (Nordjyllands Kulturhistoriske Søgebase. Cultural historical database for searching material concerning the North of Jutland)

Project involving 9 institutions: archives, libraries and museums. Their catalogues have been amalgamated giving access to 115,000 items including photographs, books, leaflets, newspaper clippings, archives, museum items etc.

<http://www.noks.dk> (For a description of how this was set up see *Benefits of archives, libraries and museums working together*, by Ruth Hedegaard (Vendsyssel Historical Museum and Archives, Hjoerring, Denmark), 2003. <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla69/papers/051e-Hedegaard.pdf>.)

Estonia

ELNET - Consortium of Estonian Libraries Network

Not-for-profit association of libraries, archives and other informational organisations. The main areas of its activity are administering and developing the ESTER shared catalogue of Estonian libraries, coordinating the acquisition of electronic publications for ELNET member libraries and coordinating other joint projects.

<http://www.elnet.ee/>

Finland

ELEF (ELECTRONIC LIBRARY OF EASTERN FINLAND)

ELEF projects are carried out in all the regions of Eastern Finland. The main object of these projects is to improve electronic library and information services available on the web and to offer better access to these services.

<http://www.ncp.fi/projektit/elef/eng/alku.html>

Elkad-project

In this co-operative project a documentation system for the digital materials of companies is being built, functionality of the system tested, specialists trained and long-term preservation of information and its use through the networks enabled.

<http://www.elka.fi/>

France

Région Centre Museums

Represents a network of some 50 museums and gives details of their collections, services, exhibitions, virtual exhibitions etc. <http://www.musees.regioncentre.fr/>

Iceland

SagaNet

This is a co-operative project involving the Library, Cornell University in the USA and the Árni Magnússon Institute. It gives online access to manuscripts and printed works on Old Icelandic Literature. <http://www.sagnanet.is>

Italy

Municipality of Florence

The Municipality of Florence has set up a complete documentation system which provides links to 18 municipalities of the wider metropolitan area and to more than 40 public and academic libraries and libraries run by associations and cultural organizations. The system coordinates the funding process and guarantees complete management of shared services.

<http://www.comune.firenze.it/comune/biblioteche/biblioteche.htm>

Latvia

Co-operation of Archives, Museums and Libraries in a Digital Environment

Special purpose programme set up in 2003 by the Culture Capital Foundation of Latvia to survey and evaluate digitisation projects focusing on the use of standards and interoperability. <http://www.linc.lv>

Norway

ABM-utvikling (Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority)

Established January 1, 2003, this institution is the result of a merger between the Norwegian Directorate for Public Libraries, the Norwegian Museum Authority, and the National Office for Research Documentation, Academic and Special Libraries. Joint development in the Archive, Library and Museum sectors, in addition to sector specific challenges, are priorities. <http://www.abm-utvikling.no/>

National Museum Reform

ABM-utvikling is currently administering a five-year reform of the museum domain, due to be completed in 2006. The goal is to create a museum domain with fewer and stronger units. These units will engage in different national networks, based on the various thematic fields they work in. The reform is referred to as a consolidation process, and the aim is to create more cohesive units and promote a high degree of professional competency and administrative effectiveness.

<http://www.abm-tvikling.no/prosjekter/Interne/Museum/museumsreform/index.html>

Primusbase for Akershus

A shared online database for all the museums in Akershus County, handling information about collections and enabling easy routines for publishing information on the web. (Website forthcoming.)

Russia

Corporate Library Systems

In a number of Russian regions work on the establishment of regional corporate nets has been set up to integrate the regional library and Russian city information resources and optimise user-friendly services. All the projects have local aims and objectives, many including digitisation, computerised union cataloguing, etc. The CLS can include public libraries, specialised libraries and university libraries. Examples include:

Corporate Library System of the Tver Region <http://corbis.library.tver.ru/>

Corporate System of the Republic of Karelia <http://libraries.karelia.ru/system.shtml>

Novgorod Regional Information and Library Network <http://library.novgorod.ru/>

Novosibirsk Regional distributed Corporate Library System (developed under the Mega project "Pushkin's Library" <http://pushkin.rstlib.nsc.ru/2002/index.shtml>

Corporate Network of the Uralian Libraries <http://consensus.eunnet.net/>

Corporate System of the Libraries of the Khabarovsk Region

<http://www.fessler.ru/korp/>

PRIOR NW (E-Development Partnership in the North-West of Russia)

Part of the Partnerstvo dlya Razvitiya Informatsionnogo Obshestva v Rossii (PRIOR) programme, the main goals of PRIOR NW are to facilitate development of an Information Society and Knowledge Economy through building a partnership among government, business, civil society, the research and education community, donors and investors with the aim of making targeted efforts to bridge the digital divide in North-West of Russia. <http://www.prior.nw.ru/eindex.htm>

Through Joint Efforts to New Round of Development

Reference libraries in four neighbouring Russian south-western regions are working together to strengthen their role in making a modern civic society, developing new management approaches to forming library policies, and applying innovative techniques to library professional training.

<http://www.scilib.debryansk.ru/undesign/5program/korporat/index.html>

Local Community in the Modern Information Space

The Bryansk Regional Research Universal Library and Unech Central Library have developed and implemented this project which represents a comprehensive library programme of providing improved services through development of a new model of partnership among the regional library (as the resource centre), the district (town) library (as the information intermediary) and the regional population (as the main customer of the information services).

<http://www.scilib.debryansk.ru/undesign/5program/unecha/index.html>

Serbia and Montenegro

Digitisation and central information system for all museums of Montenegro

Project for creating a wide range of information and documentation systems which will connect all museums in Montenegro with the National Museum as its central institution. (Website in preparation.)

Slovenia

Conference of Slovene public libraries

The main topic at the 2003 conference was co-operation between libraries, archives and museums, and in 2004 co-operation in the digital environment.

http://www.neumann-haz.hu/db/dia_en.html

Visiting Art Project

All three domains took part in this project from Sept. 2003 to March 2004. The goal of the project was the compilation of *Mapping the Infrastructures of the Museums, Archives and Libraries Sector in Slovenia and Hungary. Resource, 2003. ISBN 1-903743-36-2*. <http://www.mla.gov.uk/documents/id585arep.pdf>

Spain

State Public Library of Tarragona

Support and documentation service for the Local Studies Centres, the result of a strategic partnership with the Instituto Ramon Muntaner, a foundation for the development of local studies in Catalonia.

<http://cultura.gencat.es/bpt/actual/docs/conveni.pdf>

Sweden

Image Databases and Digitisation - platform for ALM-collaboration

A joint digitisation project between the Royal Library - National Library of Sweden, the Nationalmuseum, the National Heritage Board and the National Archives of Sweden. <http://abm.kb.se/eng.htm>

Ukraine

Museum.org.ua

Gathers countrywide cultural heritage focused on art and history in electronic media. Representatives of Ukrainian museums prepare and send e-materials (text, photos, video, etc.) to the Ukrainian Intermuseum Centre (UIC). UIC publishes these materials free of charge on the project website.

<http://museum.iatp.org.ua/UIC/INDEX.HTM>

United Kingdom

Creating Partnerships

An online resource designed to support creative collaboration between libraries, museums and the arts. It draws upon the East Midlands *Books Connect* project <http://artsandlibraries.org.uk/bc/>, which was designed as a pilot to demonstrate how books and reading can inspire new ways of working together, taking into account the themes of social inclusion, community cohesion and cultural diversity.

<http://www.artsandlibraries.org.uk/creatingpartnerships/index.html>

Citizenship Past

A major learning resource being developed by a cross domain consortium consisting of the Ford Collection of British Official Publications, the University of Southampton Library, the West Yorkshire Archive Service and the Children's Society.

<http://www.citizenshippast.org.uk/about/about.html>

East Midlands Oral History Archive

This partnership between the Centre for Urban history at the University of Leicester, Leicester County Council and Leicester City Museums and Library Services has brought together more than 20 collections, and has also generated new oral history recordings. <http://www.le.ac.uk/emoha/>

Linking Arms

This is a partnership of the National Archives, the National Archives of Scotland, the National Library of Wales and the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland together with regional and local organisations and community-based archives to develop an archives gateway that will bring together and develop all the existing networked information about archives in the UK.

<http://www.ukat.org.uk/news/lcraven20040616.pdf>.

Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA)

This is the national development agency working for and on behalf of museums, libraries and archives and advising government on policy and priorities for the sector. It is represented at regional level by nine Regional Agencies (RAs), one in each English region. <http://www.mla.gov.uk/>