

## **Addendum to the Report of the DML Economic Model Working Group**

One of the specific recommendations of the report, namely, that a 'tax' be imposed on subscriptions to pay for the maintenance of digital files, was not met with universal approval by participants at the DML Meeting in Goettingen.

Members of the WG felt there was agreement about the general principles alluded to in the report, namely:

- (i) that the DML should have some sort of structure with duties and benefits for members, i.e. that the DML was not just an ad hoc collection of documents;
- (ii) content owners and providers needed to be attracted to DML; thus 'membership' of the DML would imply no transfer of ownership of content, nor any loss in realisable income;
- (iii) since the cost of digitization needs to separate from the cost of maintenance, the latter ought to be funded separately.

The question of how to advance the report centered on the issue of file maintenance: who does it and how it's paid for.

The answer to the first is straightforward (recognising that maintenance is not the same as archiving): content owners are responsible for file maintenance, though they are free of course to contract the work to other parties, including libraries.

As to the second, the WG proposed the 'taxation' model as something fair and straightforward to implement. The WG appreciates that other models fit the general principles, for example, pay per use, subscription fees, or even free to users, with costs being borne by grants.

Each of these models could be examined further.

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6 August 2003