

Dialogue Forums Update

Actions required:

- Information, no action required

Annual report of the FEP / CENL Dialogue Forum March 2023 to March 2024

The Dialogue Forum between representatives of the Conference of European National Librarians and the Federation of European Publishers discusses common issues between national libraries and publishers such as legal deposit, copyright, European framework regulations, digitization etc.

Currently the group consists of 10 persons:

Chair Ute Schwens, German National Library

Representatives of FEP Anne Bergman (FEP), Catherine Blache (SNE), Barbara Kalumenos (STM), Giulia Marangoni (AIE), Jessica Sanger (Borsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels)

Representatives of CENL Jasper Faase (National Library of the Netherlands), Emmanuel Jaslier (National Library of France), Richard Price (British Library), Jonny Edvardsen (National Library of Norway), Ute Schwens (German National Library)

In 2023 until now the group met 3 times – March 2 and September 4, 2023 (online) and March 4, 2024 at the German National Library in Frankfurt/Main.

The main issues on the agenda have been

- Digitization of Out-of-Commerce Works
- WIPO toolkit for preservation
- Implementation of the European Accessibility Act
- Use of research data: legal aspects and scientific demands
- Consequences of the adoption of the AI Act
- European Language Data Space
- Current activities on legal (e-)deposit
- Other national developments and best practices

Minutes of the meetings are shared with the members, but not publicly available. They can be made available to either CENL or FEP members if required.

French-German meeting on copyrighted works in digital libraries

A subgroup of the FEP CENL Dialogue Forum is the **French-German meeting on copyrighted works in digital libraries**. In 2023, the group met on 14 December at the National Library of France in Paris.

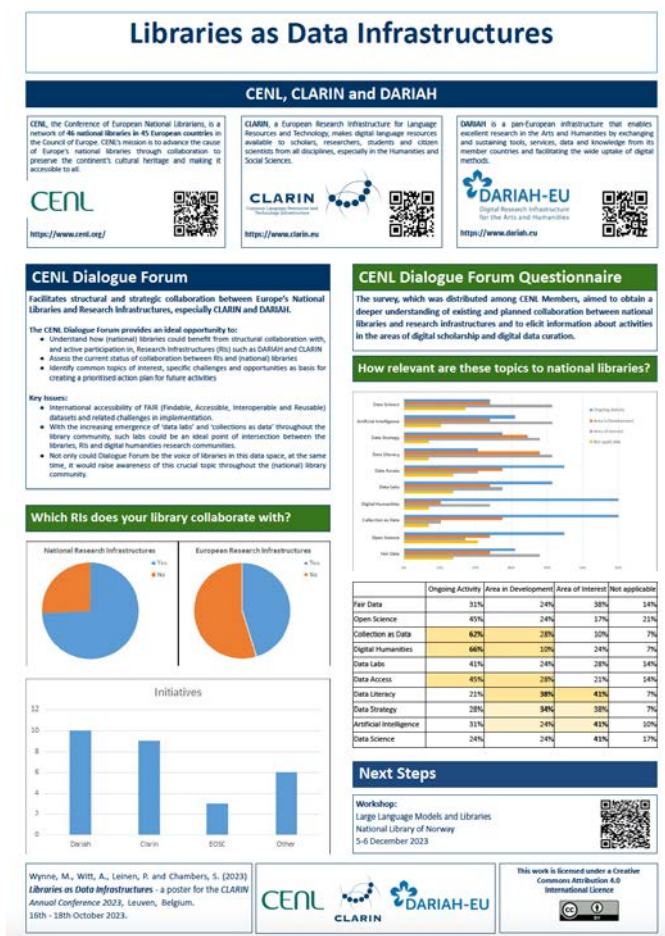
CENL Dialogue Forum: National Libraries as Data Infrastructures

National Libraries are not only pioneers in the development of data infrastructures, but they also play an essential role in facilitating research, especially through the provision of their digitised and born-digital collections. Similarly, European Research Infrastructures such as CLARIN, the Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure, and DARIAH, the Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities have been established to support research in the Humanities and Social Sciences using digital methods. Furthermore, the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) is becoming increasingly important. To facilitate structural and strategic collaboration between Europe’s National Libraries and Research Infrastructures, the idea of a CENL Dialogue Forum “National Libraries as Data Infrastructures”, was born and approved by the CENL Executive Committee in Autumn 2022.

2023 was therefore the inaugural year for the [CENL Dialogue Forum: National Libraries as Data Infrastructures](#). This resulted in a [presentation](#) at the [DARIAH Annual Event 2023: Cultural Heritage Data as Humanities Research Data?](#) in Budapest on 6th-9th June 2023 and a [poster](#) at the [CLARIN Conference 2023](#), which took place in Leuven on 16th-18th October 2023.

A survey of CENL member’s institutions was chosen as the starting point for the activities. The survey aims to obtain a deeper understanding of existing and planned collaboration between national libraries and research infrastructures and to elicit information about activities in the areas of digital scholarship and digital data curation. Questions cover areas including compliance with the FAIR principles and Open Science, collections as data, data labs, data access, digital literacy, artificial intelligence and data science.

Libraries as Data Infrastructures Poster
at the CLARIN Conference 2023



Libraries as Data Infrastructures

CENL, CLARIN and DARIAH

CENL, the Conference of European National Librarians, is a network of 46 national libraries in 40 European countries in the Council of Europe. CENL's mission is to advance the cause of Europe's national libraries through collaboration to preserve the continent's cultural heritage and making it accessible to all.

CLARIN, a European Research Infrastructure for Language Resources and Technology, makes digital language resources available to scholars, researchers, students and citizen scientists from all disciplines, especially in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

DARIAH is a pan-European infrastructure that enables excellent research in the Arts and Humanities by exchanging and sustaining tools, services, data and knowledge from its member countries and facilitating the wide uptake of digital methods.

CENL Dialogue Forum

Facilitates structural and strategic collaboration between Europe's National Libraries and Research Infrastructures, especially CLARIN and DARIAH.

The CENL Dialogue Forum provides a shared opportunity for:

- Understand how (national) libraries could benefit from structural collaboration with, and active participation in, Research Infrastructures (RIs) such as DARIAH and CLARIN
- Assess the current status of collaboration between RIs and (national) libraries
- Identify common topics of interest, specific challenges and opportunities as basis for creating a prioritised action plan for future activities

Key Issues:

- International accessibility of FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) datasets and related challenges in implementation.
- With the increasing emergence of 'data labs' and 'collections as data' throughout the library community, such labs could be an ideal point of interaction between the libraries, RIs and digital humanities research communities.
- Not only could Dialogue Forum be the source of interest in this data space, at the same time, it would raise awareness of this crucial topic throughout the (national) library community.

Which RIs does your library collaborate with?

National Research Infrastructures: Yes (blue), No (orange)

European Research Infrastructures: Yes (blue), No (orange)

Initiatives

Bar chart showing initiatives: Dariah (10), Clarin (9), Eosc (4), Other (6)

CENL Dialogue Forum Questionnaire

The survey, which was distributed among CENL Members, aimed to obtain a deeper understanding of existing and planned collaboration between national libraries and research infrastructures and to elicit information about activities in the areas of digital scholarship and digital data curation.

How relevant are these topics to national libraries?

Horizontal bar chart showing relevance of topics to national libraries.

Topic	Very relevant	Relevant	Not relevant	Not applicable
Open Science	32%	24%	38%	14%
Open Science	49%	24%	17%	23%
Collection as Data	62%	28%	10%	7%
Digital Humanities	66%	20%	24%	7%
Data Labs	41%	24%	28%	14%
Data Access	45%	23%	21%	14%
Data Literacy	21%	38%	41%	7%
Data Strategy	28%	34%	38%	7%
Artificial Intelligence	31%	24%	41%	10%
Data Science	24%	24%	41%	17%

Next Steps

Workshop: Large Language Models and Libraries
National Library of Norway
5-6 December 2023

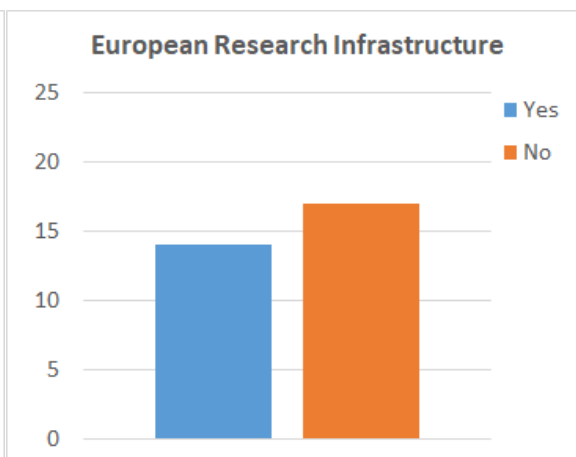
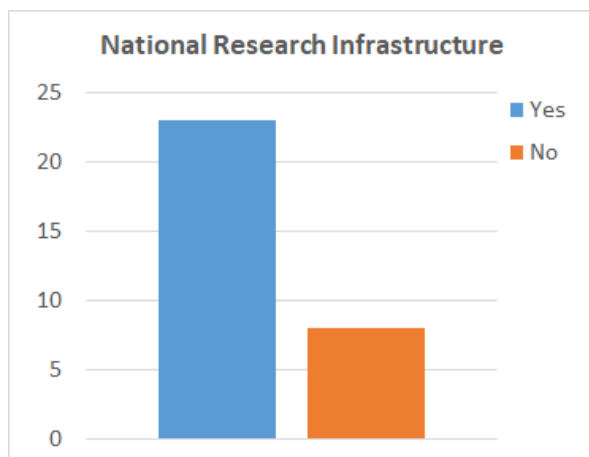
Wynne, M., Witt, A., Lehms, P. and Chambers, S. (2023) *Libraries as Data Infrastructures* - a poster for the CLARIN Annual Conference 2023, Leuven, Belgium.

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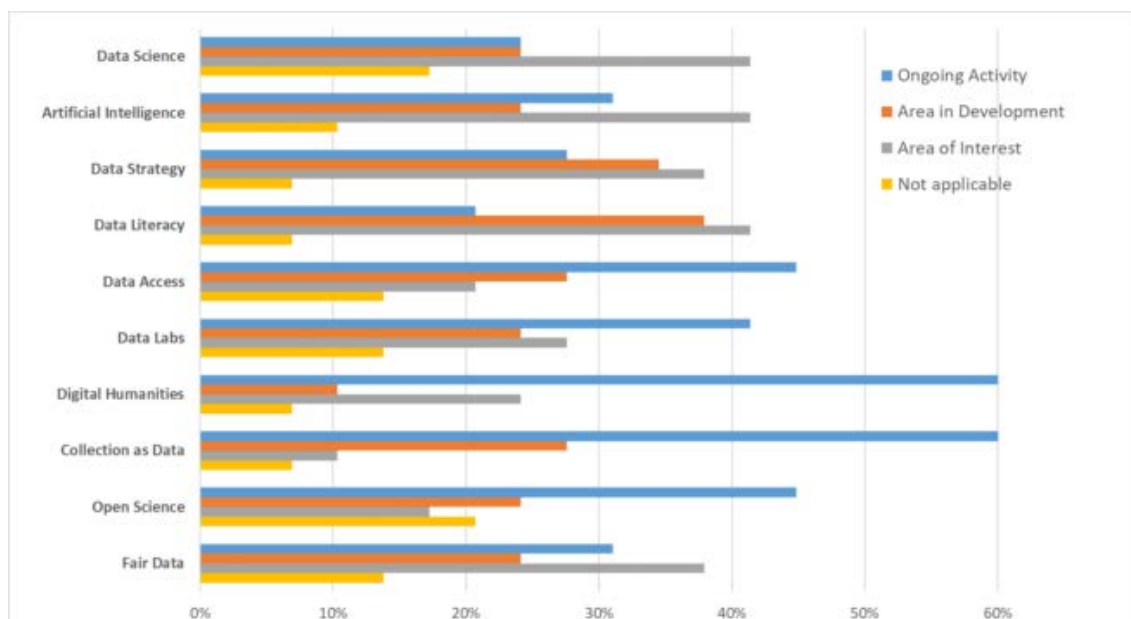
There were 31 National Libraries that responded to the survey, of which 20 (64%) institutions indicated that “Participating in Research Infrastructure” initiatives is a strategic priority of the National Library. However, feedback in other responses also indicated that activities may well already be part of everyday life, not a priority for development or preparing a strategy on research Infrastructure. Overall, the responses indicate that the percentage of institutions actively engaged in research infrastructure or intending to do so is 82%.



There are 23 (74%) responding institutions already active in National Research Infrastructure initiatives. Of the participating institutions, 14 (45%) – i.e. just less than half – state that they are participating in a European initiative, and a further 6 institutions are currently planning to do so. Thus, at the European level, Research Infrastructure appears to be a current topic at more than half of the participating institutions. DARIAH (10) and CLARIN (9) are the most frequently mentioned initiatives.



When asked about the different stages of development of individual topics, the institutions responded as follows:



or with the numbers behind:

	Ongoing Activity	Area in Development	Area of Interest	Not applicable
Fair Data	31%	24%	38%	14%
Open Science	45%	24%	17%	21%
Collection as Data	62%	28%	10%	7%
Digital Humanities	66%	10%	24%	7%
Data Labs	41%	24%	28%	14%
Data Access	45%	28%	21%	14%
Data Literacy	21%	38%	41%	7%
Data Strategy	28%	34%	38%	7%
Artificial Intelligence	31%	24%	41%	10%
Data Science	24%	24%	41%	17%

There is a clear focus on “Digital Humanities” and “Collection as Data” as established activities, while “Data Literacy” and “Data Strategy” are currently in development at nearly half of the institutions, and topics such as “Data Science” and “AI” are still very much identified as topics that could become important. The significance of the topics “Digital Humanities” and “Collection as Data” becomes all the

clearer when the values in the columns “Ongoing Activity” and “Area in Development” are summarised.

These results were presented and discussed at both the DARIAH Annual Event (2023, Budapest) and the Clarin annual conference (2024, Leuven). The focus was on both strategic aspects and best practices. Both presentations attracted a great deal of interest, which is also reflected in the diverse collaborations between libraries and infrastructure projects that have now been established. Many of the participating institutions met for the second workshop "[Clarin and Libraries](#)" in Oslo on the topic of Large Language Models in December 2023. Presentations and discussions in the group showed the different status of developments in the national libraries as well as the opportunities and risks of this development. Finally, the CENL Dialogue Forum will participate in the [Collections as Data: Collaborating across Data Spaces for Cultural Heritage and Open Science](#) to be held at KBR, Royal Library of Belgium in February 2024.

The [CENL Dialogue Forum](#) was organised by Sally Chambers (DARIAH-EU), Andreas Witt (CLARIN) and Peter Leinen (German National Library).

Organisations who took part in the meetings include: CLARIN, DARIAH, Austrian National Library, German National Library, KBR Royal Library of Belgium, National and University Library in Zagreb, National and University Library Slovenia, National Library of Armenia, National Library of Finland, National Library of Lithuania, National Library of Luxembourg, National Library of Norway, National Library of Poland, National Library of Serbia, National Library of the Netherlands, National Széchényi Library (Hungary) and the Swiss National Library.