



## Frequently Asked Questions

[www.driver-community.eu](http://www.driver-community.eu)

### Introduction to the DRIVER Project

Digital Repository Infrastructure Vision for European Research

This is an EU-funded project which sets out to build a tested for a future knowledge infrastructure of the European Research Area. DRIVER aims to deliver any form of scientific output, including scientific/technical reports, working papers, pre-prints, articles and original research data to the various user groups.

Its main objective is to build a virtual, European scale network of existing institutional repositories using technology that will manage the physically distributed repositories as one large scale virtual content resource.

### What does DRIVER offer?

DRIVER provides a unified approach and is leading the way as the largest initiative of its kind in helping to enhance repository development worldwide.

Even where regional networks and local projects exist within a country there is often no single online website available to view all Open Access and repository efforts within that country. DRIVER offers the DRIVER Wiki as a common space where information on all Open Access and repository projects and groups can be found and continually updated. In addition, repositories vary greatly in their content and in their role within their institution. Even where national networks exist, repository managers may benefit from the broad range of experiences available through the DRIVER Mentor service. Details on the wiki and mentor service can be found on the DRIVER support website.

As a European project DRIVER can provide a unified voice for the repository community in Europe and can lobby policy makers on behalf of the community.

As part of the advocacy programme, the DRIVER partners set out to answer questions posed by parties interested in the project.

### I am trying to establish a repository but there is no national assistance for this.

Repository managers often face issues in the day-to-day management of a repository that are not easily addressed by standard information sources. The Mentor service is available to developers and managers of institutional repositories across Europe. The purpose of this service is to introduce developers and managers of institutional repositories to their peers on a one-to-one basis in the belief that the sharing of experiences can assist those that follow.

### My country/region already has a national/regional network. How can our network benefit from DRIVER?

Existing networks can benefit from an increased visibility in the European repository community through their linking and news items on the DRIVER Support website. Where regional networks and local projects exist within a country there is often no single online website available to view all OA and repository efforts within that country. The DRIVER Wiki provides a common space where information on all OA and repository projects and groups can be found and continually updated. In addition, repositories vary greatly in their content and in their role within their institution. Even where national networks exist, repository managers may benefit from the broad range of experiences available through the DRIVER Mentor service. Details on the wiki and mentor service can be found on the DRIVER support website.

DRIVER can help to raise awareness of national programmes and facilities. DRIVER can also be customised to search only selected repositories. Hence, DRIVER Search provides a national search service or subject searching.



- National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece
- Bielefeld University, Germany
- Consiglio Nazionale Delle Ricerche, Italy
- STICHTING SURF, Netherlands
- SHERPA, University of Nottingham, UK
- Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique DIS, France
- University of Bath, UK
- Uniwersytet Warszawski, Poland
- Universiteit Gent, Belgium
- Goettingen University, Germany

[www.driver-community.eu](http://www.driver-community.eu)  
[info@driver-support.eu](mailto:info@driver-support.eu)  
[helpdesk@driver-support.eu](mailto:helpdesk@driver-support.eu)

### There is no national group/project coordinating the development of repositories in my country. What can DRIVER do to help?

Through the experience of its partners in the development of national networks e.g. DAREnet, DINI, Archives Ouvertes/HAL and SHERPA, DRIVER can provide advice to national initiatives and groups in the development of such networks as well as providing support through the DRIVER Support website and wiki.

The DRIVER Support website provides links to national groups/projects and services where they exist and acts as a source of news and information to the general OA community in Europe.

DRIVER is working with national groups to facilitate the development of national coordination websites and their collaboration with the DRIVER Support website.

The DRIVER Wiki provides a space for contributions from the general repository community. Information on individual repositories, local projects, events or news may be added to the Wiki to inform the wider community. Where national coordinating groups/projects do not exist, the Wiki can provide a platform for their initial development.

### Will DRIVER offer subject specific services?

As identified in the DRIVER Inventory Study, available on the DRIVER support website, search services and, in particular subject-specific services are needed by the research community. DRIVER Search offers a range of features to support the research community and can be customised to search particular repositories.

### I provide services for the repository and OA community e.g. repository software, search services. What can DRIVER do for me?

In the rapidly evolving repository landscape, a unified approach and implementation is needed to ensure high level interoperability and retrieval of content.

DRIVER provides such a unified approach and is leading the way as the largest initiative of its kind worldwide. Hence DRIVER Guidelines and technical infrastructure are expected to influence the development of repositories and associated services worldwide.

The DRIVER aggregator and associated technologies will allow DRIVER Search as well as third party search providers to provide more sophisticated searching e.g. full text only records and subject searching, in an efficient and timely manner. This is possible through the implementation of the DRIVER Guidelines which improve available metadata and through services developed by DRIVER to simplify the use of this metadata by service providers.

### The Future for DRIVER

The initial phase of DRIVER focused on the support of institutional repositories and textual content in repositories. DRIVER II follows on from this and is funded under the Seventh Framework Programme.

In DRIVER-II, subject communities will feature more prominently in the project and DRIVER technical developments will focus on the development and enhancement of services for specific communities. In DRIVER-II, the technical focus will expand from the management of textual content in repositories to also include the management of complex objects such as data and multimedia. DRIVER's original partnership of 10 European partners which will expand to 13 with a further 6 additional partners to join later.

### What technical support can DRIVER offer?

The current level of interoperability between repositories and services is not sufficient to allow the development of high quality services such as search, citation etc. The DRIVER Guidelines have been developed to allow such services to be developed. Any repository manager can download and implement these guidelines from the DRIVER support website. For FAQs on the DRIVER Guidelines, please see the DRIVER support website. Questions on the Guidelines can be directed to the DRIVER Helpdesk at helpdesk@driver-support.eu

DRIVER is working with software developers to facilitate the implementation of the Guidelines. DRIVER can also offer advice directly to repository managers to facilitate compliance with the DRIVER Guidelines.

A validator tool will soon be available to allow repository managers to check their repository for conformance to the Guidelines as well as for conformance to standard OAI-PMH functionality and for OAI-PMH functionalities specific to DRIVER issues.

Any repository or network of repositories can benefit from DRIVER advice and information and, if compliant with the Guidelines, can be included in the DRIVER infrastructure and services. DRIVER is working with national and regional networks to develop translations of the Guidelines in all European languages.

Furthermore, the DRIVER technical team will liaise with national and regional networks who wish to be included in the DRIVER infrastructure and resultant services to minimise the effort required for such networks to meet the DRIVER Guidelines. DRIVER is working with national and regional networks as well as service providers to facilitate the re-use and customisation of the DRIVER infrastructure for emergent services.

