



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

Annex to the :

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION

”i2010 DIGITAL LIBRARIES”

Questions for online consultation

{COM(2005) 465 final}

The Communication ‘i2010: digital libraries’ and the accompanying staff working paper have explored the consequences of the Internet environment for the accessibility and usability of Europe’s intellectual record. The questions below address a set of issues identified in the Communication and the staff working paper, which require further consideration and discussion. The questions have to be read in conjunction with the relevant parts of the main documents.

Digitisation and online accessibility

- 1) What additional measures could be taken at national and European level to encourage digitisation and online accessibility of material in all European languages?*
- 2) What measures could be taken to promote private investments and new business-models such as public-private partnerships for digitising and making historical collections accessible?*
- 3) What measures of a legislative, technical, organisational or other nature, could facilitate the digitisation and subsequent accessibility of copyrighted material, while respecting the legitimate interests of authors?*
- 4) Is the issue of orphan material economically important and relevant in practice? If yes, what technical, organisational and legal mechanisms could be used to facilitate wider use of this material?*
- 5) How could public domain material and other material available for general use (voluntary sharing) be made more transparent and widely known in order to facilitate its online availability for subsequent use?*

Preservation of digital content

- 6) What priority measures – in particular of an organisational and legal nature— should be taken at national and European level to optimise the preservation of digital content with the limited resources available?*
- 7) Is there a risk that national legal deposit schemes lead to a multiplication of requirements on internationally active companies? Would European legislation help avoiding this?*
- 8) How could research contribute to progress on the preservation front? Which axes of work should be addressed in priority by the forthcoming Specific Research Programmes as part of the 7th Framework Programme?*

All interested individuals and organisations - from the private and from the public sector - are encouraged to provide their views on some or all of these questions. Replies and comments should be sent to the following address before 20 January 2006:

European Commission
Attn. Mr. Hernández-Ros,
Head of Unit DG INFSO E4, Information Market
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Organisations and persons contributing to the consultation will get an acknowledgment of receipt of their contribution.

At the end of the consultation period, submissions will be made available at the following web address, unless a request not to do so has been expressly made by those contributing:
http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/digital_libraries/index_en.htm

The results of the online consultation will be an important input for a possible Recommendation on digitisation and digital preservation. They will feed into other processes, such as the implementation of the Community RTD programmes and the revision of the copyrights framework.