

DELOS

ASSOCIATION for DIGITAL LIBRARIES

STATUTE

TITLE I – NAME, PLACE, DURATION

Article 1 – Name

The Association named “DELOS: Association for Digital Libraries”, is constituted according to articles 14 and following of Italian civil code.

Article 2 - Place and duration

The Association is located in Pisa.

The duration of the Association is 10 (ten) years, renewable by a resolution of the Assembly.

TITLE II – PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION

Article 3 - Objectives

The Association is not-for-profit and intends to pursue the following objectives:

- a) To promote scientific and educational activities in the area of Digital Libraries and related scientific disciplines.
- b) To promote theory, methodology and practice in the use of Digital Libraries through the encouragement and exchange of scholarly research and the development and improvement of professional competence among all the peoples interested to Digital Libraries.
- c) To engage in a diversity of activities and to enter into, perform and carry out projects, agreements, contracts of any kind as long as they are convenient to the accomplishment of the not-for-profit purposes of the Association.
- d) In particular, the activities in which the Association may engage are (but not limited to) the following:
 1. organization of scientific events(e.g. conferences, workshops, schools, etc.);
 2. establishment and maintenance of information channels on activities related to the development and use of Digital Libraries (e.g. web sites, newsletters, etc)
 3. launching of actions to promote the development and use of Digital Libraries;
 4. launching of actions to increase awareness of the strategic importance of Digital Libraries to industry and commerce;
 5. development and provision of information services and training activities in the area of Digital Libraries.

TITLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Article 4 - Members

- a) Members of the Association can be:
 - 1. Individuals (natural persons) who, due to their work activity or study, are interested in the activities of the association.
 - 2. Public and private organisations (i.e. juridical persons such as universities, research centers, enterprises, etc) interested in the activities of the Association, in relation to their fields of activities.
- b) Members are expected to actively participate in the activities of the Association and contribute (in cash or in kind) to the fulfilment of the objectives of the Association.

Article 5 – Request for association

- a) Individuals or organizations interested in becoming members of the Association must present a written request signed by the requestor (the legal representative in case of organizations) stating the motivations for the request and declaring to accept the rules of this Statute.
- b) Requests for admission are examined by the Executive Committee for evaluation of their acceptability with reference to the objectives of the Association and the proposed contribution to their fulfilment. The Executive Committee will then submit the acceptable proposals to the Assembly for final approval, in accordance with what is stated in the By-Laws.

Article 6 – Withdrawal and suspension

- a) The status of Member ceases in the following cases:
 - 1. if the Member withdraws with a written communication to the President with at least two months advance notice;
 - 2. by decision of the Assembly with at least a two third majority of the members present or represented, caused by negligent or unfair behaviour towards the Association;
 - 3. if the Member definitively ceases its activities.
- b) The status of Member is suspended, with the loss of the voting rights, in the following cases:
 - 1. more than three months delay in the payment of the annual membership fee;
 - 2. if the Member temporarily ceases its activities.

TITLE IV - BODIES

Article 7 – Governing bodies

The governing bodies of the Association are:

- a) the Assembly;
- b) the Executive Committee;
- c) the President;
- d) the Scientific Committee;

Article 8 – The assembly

- a) The Assembly is composed of all the individual members and one representative for each member organisation.
- b) The duties of the Assembly are the following:
 - 1. appoints the Executive Committee;

2. approves the members of the Scientific Committee, as proposed by the Executive Committee;
 3. approves the strategic lines of activity, as proposed by the Executive Committee;
 4. approves the detailed plan of activities of the Association for the following year, as proposed by the Executive Committee;
 5. approves the annual Balance Sheet and the annual Report of Activities prepared by the Executive Committee;
 6. approves the amount of the annual membership fees, as proposed by the Executive Committee;
 7. approves the requests of new memberships, as proposed by the Executive Committee;
 8. accepts donations and bequests in favour of the Association;
 9. deliberates on all the points listed tabled in the agenda;
 10. deliberates on modifications to the By-Laws (with a majority of at least half of the members plus one);
 11. deliberates on modifications to the present Statute (with a majority of at least half of the members plus one).
- c) The President will call a meeting of the Assembly at least once a year, within four months of the closing of the Association fiscal year, which ends on June 30th of each year. A meeting of the Assembly can be called also by deliberation of the Executive Committee, or by written request made by at least one fourth of the members.
 - d) The Assembly is chaired by the President, or by the Vice-President in his/her absence, or by the oldest (in age) member of the Executive Committee, if both are absent.
 - e) The Assembly must be called at least three weeks in advance of the planned date, either by mail, with a written notification, or by email, specifying the agenda.
 - f) At the first summoning, the Assembly is valid only if half of the members plus one are present in person or represented by power of attorney. At the second summoning the Assembly is valid whatever the number of members present or represented. Decisions of the assembly are taken by majority vote of the members present, except for what is stated in points 10) and 11) above. Each member (Founding or Regular) who has paid the annual membership fee has a vote in the Assembly.
 - g) Each member can be represented, with written power of attorney, by another member. A member can represent a maximum of five other members.
 - h) Officers of the Commission of the European Communities can attend the meetings of the Assembly as observers.

Article 9 – The Executive Committee

- a) The Executive Committee is composed of a minimum of three and a maximum of nine members, to be chosen among the members of the Association. At least half of the members plus one of the Executive Committee must be Founding Members.
- b) The Executive Committee members are elected by the Assembly and remain in charge for a period of three years; they can be re-elected at most once.
- c) The Executive Committee appoints (from among its members) the President of the Executive Committee, who is also the President of the Association; it can also appoint the Vice-President, the Treasurer and the Secretary, whose competencies are defined in the By-Laws.
- d) A meeting of the Executive Committee is called by the President at least twice a year; it can be called also by a request of at least one third of the Executive Committee members.
- e) The duties of the Executive Committee are:
 1. define the strategic lines of activity;
 2. define the detailed plan of activities of the Association for the following year;

3. define the amount of the membership annual fees;
4. examine the requests for association of the new members;
5. manage the activities of the Association for the attainment of its objectives;
6. establish the Scientific Committee.

The activities related to points 1, 2, 3 and 4 must be submitted to the Assembly for final approval.

- f) Deliberations of the Executive Committee are valid only if taken by a majority of its members.
- g) The Coordinator of the Scientific Committee and officers of the Commission of the European Communities can attend the meetings of the Executive Committee as observers.

Article 10 – The President

- a) The President is the legal representative of the Association, calls the meetings of the Assembly and of the Executive Committee.
- b) In case of absence, the President can be substituted first by the Vice-President or, if both are absent, by the oldest (in age) Executive Committee member.

Article 11 – The Scientific Committee

- a) The Scientific Committee has an advisory and consultancy role to the Executive Committee and to the Assembly; it is composed of a maximum of nine members.
- b) The members of the Scientific Committee and its Coordinator are appointed by the Executive Committee among distinguished representatives and scientists in the disciplines of interest to the activities of the Association.
- c) The members of the Scientific Committee remain in charge for three years and can be reappointed.

TITLE V - ESTATE

Article 12 – The assets

- a) The assets of the Association are constituted by the annual membership fees, by contributions from public or private organizations, by donations and bequests, by reserve funds created by gains of balance in activities organized by the Association, and by all movables and real estate rightfully acquired by the Association.
- b) Members abandoning the Association for any cause have no right on assets, can not ask for any division of the properties, and can not ask for the reimbursement of the membership fees paid to the Association.

Article 13 – Winding-up

In case of cessation of the activities of the Association, the Assembly, with a majority of half plus one of the members, will nominate one or more liquidators, establishing their powers. Any remaining properties will be transferred to not-for-profit organizations with objectives similar to those described in Article 3.