



Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche
Association of European Research Libraries

LIBRARIES JOINING LIBER: ENDORSEMENT PROPOSAL

This paper, which sets out the text of LIBER's proposed 'Endorsement Proposal', is to be read in association with the background paper on the definition of research libraries (*vide*: LIBER Definition of Research Library. 1. Background Paper).

As LIBER's Participant (i.e. member) base has grown, it has begun to attract interest from university libraries in Europe that have not traditionally been viewed as 'research libraries', although their universities do support research and researchers. While taking account of this movement and responding to it, it is nevertheless important that the focus, value and mission of LIBER is preserved. It is difficult fully to assess the extent to which institutions applying to become Participants of LIBER are active in supporting researchers or whether their collections may be classed as a research collection.

It is, therefore, proposed by the LIBER Executive Board that institutions applying to join LIBER are asked to agree to support LIBER's mission and to adhere to LIBER's values.

At its meeting in February 2017 in Lille, the LIBER Executive Board has unanimously recommended that the following text should henceforth be incorporated in the application form for institutions joining LIBER:

'LIBER's mission is to enable world class research. By submitting this application form, I agree to support this mission and to uphold the values of LIBER.'

LIBER Values - Collaboration and Inclusivity:

- **High-quality services for all users of library and information services**
- **Intellectual freedom and access to scholarship**
- **Collaboration with campus, local, national, European and international partners**
- **Stewardship of collections and institutional resources, in the most appropriate format**
- **Leadership, innovation and a willingness to embrace opportunities for change**
- **Inclusivity, equality of opportunity and fulfilment of potential.'**

This proposal is being circulated in the March 2017 and May 2017 LIBER Mailings for the information of LIBER Participants, and will be presented at the Meeting of Participants on Thursday 6 July 2017, when LIBER Participants will be invited to discuss and give their approval. If the proposal is approved, the new statement will be incorporated in the application form to join LIBER, following the Meeting of Participants in July 2017.

In the meantime, if there are any immediate comments or questions on the proposal, please send them to Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen (hormia@helsinki.fi) and/or Ann Matheson (a.matheson@tinyworld.co.uk), who will be glad to reply.

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