europeana
libraries

Consortium *of* European Research Libraries
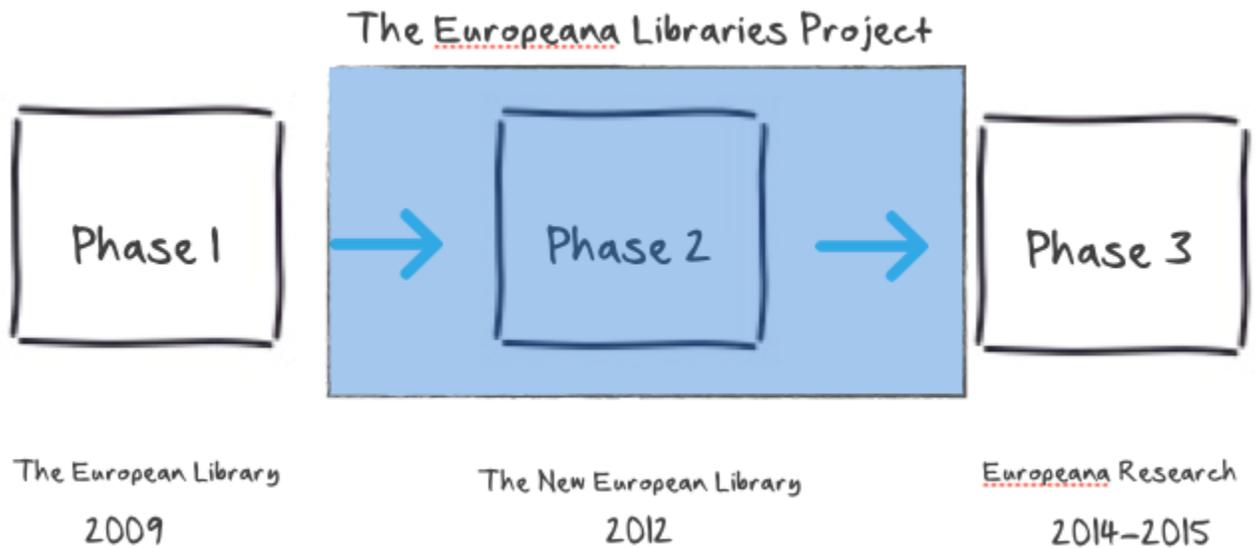
LIBER · LIBER
LIGUE DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES
EUROPÉENNES DE RECHERCHE
ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN
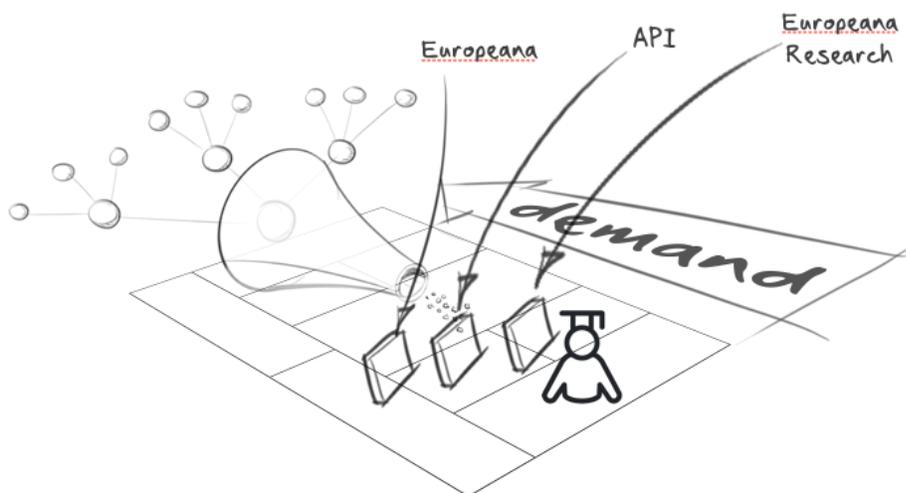RESEARCH LIBRARIES

The
**European
Library**
Connecting knowledge

Europeana Libraries Proposal

1. Vision

The Europeana Libraries Project

| Phase 1 | → | Phase 2 | → | Phase 3 |

The European Library
2009

The New European Library
2012

Europeana Research
2014–2015

The new European Library is a research portal giving access to resources from all over Europe, and offering services for researchers in the humanities and social sciences, by which they will be able to discover new resources and links between their research and others, and establish new research relationships.

The new European Library offers national and research libraries a platform to showcase their resources to a wide audience, draw new customers to their repositories, provide cost-effective aggregation, and offer collaborative participation in new development and funding opportunities.

Europeana Research will form part of Europeana, providing a tailored service for researchers
This prospectus outlines our vision for the development of a strong and lasting partnership between Europe's libraries to reach a worldwide audience of researchers in the humanities and

social sciences with our collections and services. Its foundation is the *The European Library*, which was founded in 2001 and has been operational 2005. Under the framework of the Europeana Libraries project, the participating libraries, including Europe's research libraries (LIBER and CERL) are investigating how this service can be strengthened to offer members a range of services tailored to libraries, and to provide the backbone for strong end-user-oriented services for researchers in the humanities and social sciences.

The four European libraries organisations (CENL, LIBER, CERL and Europeana Foundation) that founded the Europeana Libraries project have come together to establish a powerful and enduring network. By becoming a member, libraries will benefit from the following suite of services:

1. Cost-effective aggregation

The European Library provides a fast, scalable aggregation service, mapping all formats commonly employed in libraries. It uses an efficient, automated workflow that requires minimal staff input from member libraries.

2. A unified voice and representation in Europeana

Archives, museums and audio-visual collections already have established domain aggregators. The library community can now present themselves as a unified force via The European Library, creating a pan-European index of library data, and working together to help shape the future of Europeana.

3. Widened access to resources

Member libraries' content is exposed to multiple researcher workflows, via linked open data, scholarly Virtual Research Environments such as DARIAH, resource discovery services such as Summon, via Europeana, and through the continued development of The European Library as a research portal that will deliver tailored collections to scholars in the humanities, social sciences and cultural heritage.
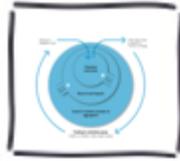
4. Enriched data

The European Library enriches and links the data it aggregates (and then passes it back to member libraries), thus creating semantic richness amongst data sets and increasing the visibility of member libraries' collections on the web.

5. R&D opportunities

Within the consortium, member libraries can share expert knowledge and form new innovative partnerships, exploiting such partnerships in project bids, and thereby helping enhance their own library service.

1. Cost efficient aggregation   2. Voice in Europeana   3. Widened access to resources   4. Enriched Data   5. R&D opportunities
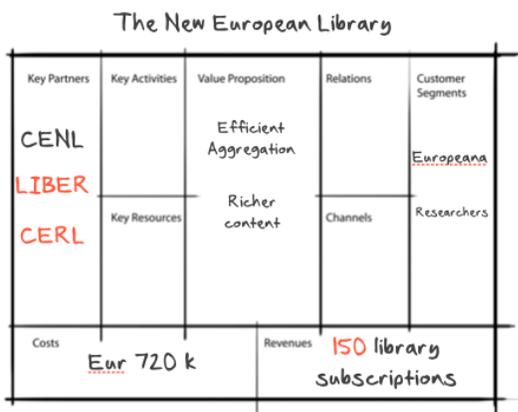
2. Business Model

Based on extensive surveys and workshops on value propositions, we have mapped out the main changes in the evolving business model of The European Library from an aggregation service towards an end-user-oriented service for researchers.
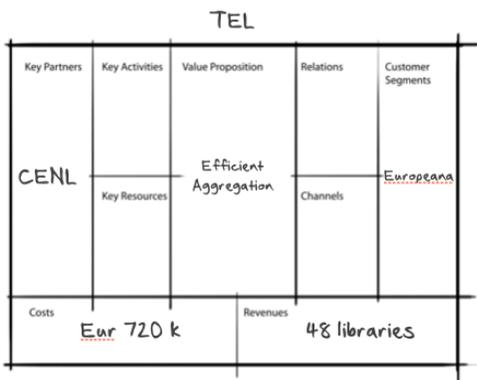
The European Library business model

During the first phase (2001-2011), the CENL members, consisting of 48 National Libraries, set up an infrastructure for the aggregation of library catalogues and objects. This is now has over 70m records representing over 630 collections.

The new European Library business model

In the current phase (2012-13), as we round off the Europeana Libraries project and continue to work as a sustainable aggregation service, the content of the service is enriched by an extended network of partners from the research libraries. Libraries can use the service as a collaborative platform for data enhancement, for work on ontologies, for increasing the retrievability and re-use of their collections, and for increasing the visibility of our European cultural heritage. This extended network will also considerably reduce the costs for all participating libraries.

*Europeana for Research business model*

In the third phase (2014-15 and onwards), new tools and services will be developed, content will be enriched by the addition of new partners and by the implementation of new technologies and ontologies, and subscription prices of participating libraries will go down even further. Researchers in the humanities and social sciences will see this as an invaluable addition to their work processes.

3. Services

1. Cost-effective aggregation

We already aggregate the content of all of Europe's national libraries, as well as major university libraries, and significant scholarly collections such as DRIVER and DOAJ.

We provide a complete service, preparing libraries' data for distribution into a variety of channels, including Europeana. The European Library currently holds over 70m records; this will rise to over 200m by the end of 2012. Libraries can submit data via any common format and delivery mechanism at a time of their choosing. The European Library can then process and aggregate the records at a rate of 450 records per second.
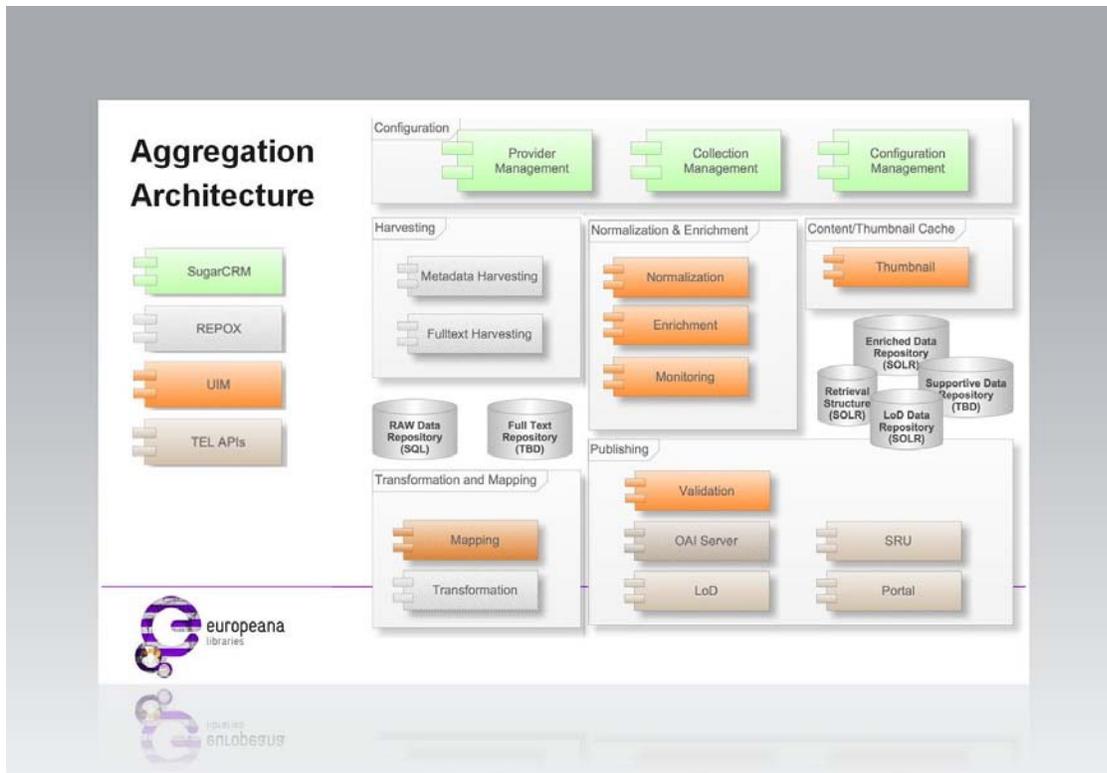
Aggregation provides a backbone for other services. For libraries running book digitisation projects, we provide quick and easy rights clearance through membership of the ARROW rights information infrastructure. We are also members of the ENUMERATE consortium, mapping the progress of digitisation across Europe.


2. A unified voice and representation in Europeana
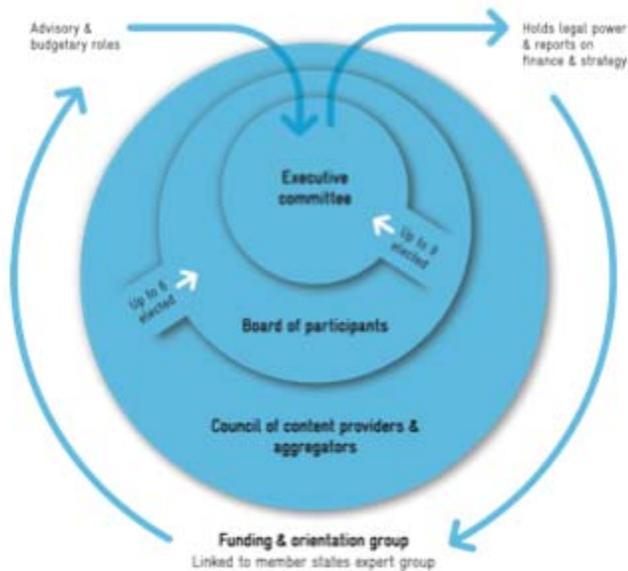
Governance structure of Europeana

As a joint network of hundreds of libraries, we form a strategic libraries grouping that has significant influence on the future direction of Europeana. We are well-represented on the boards of both Europeana Foundation and the Europeana Network (formerly the Council of Content Providers and Aggregators). For individual libraries, this gives them the opportunity to provide strategic direction as to how their unique collections can be contextualised and used within the European environment.
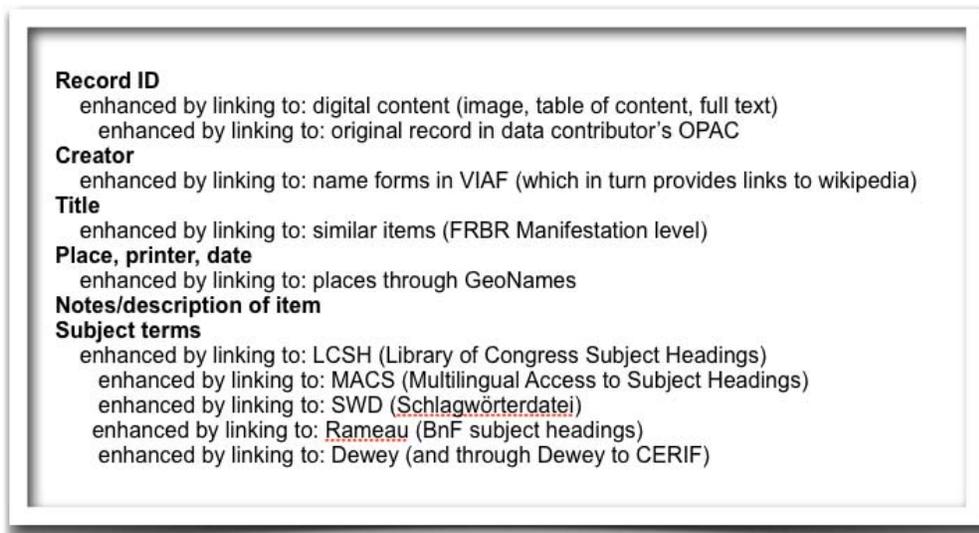
3. Widened access to resources
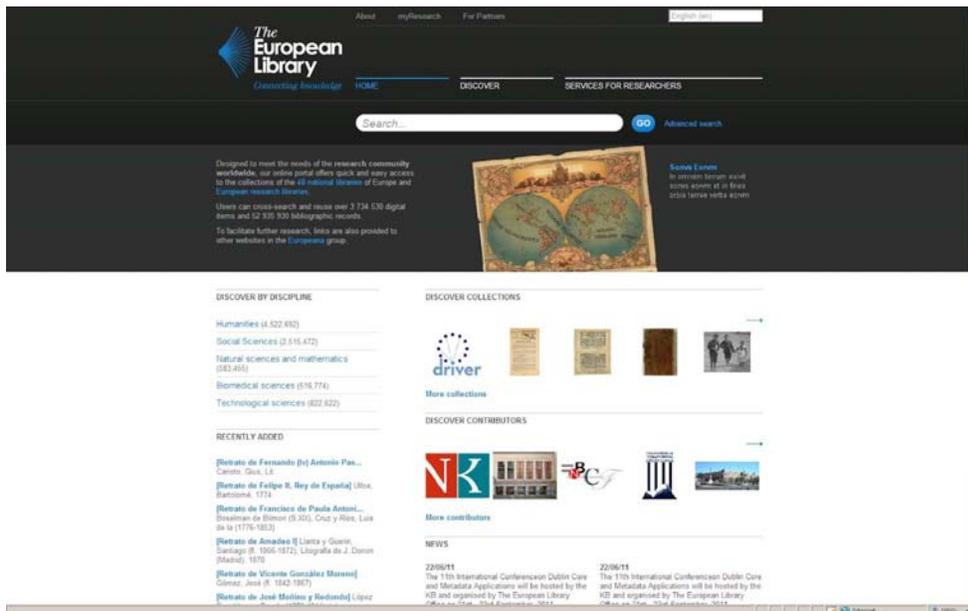
The new European Library portal (alpha version) and new logo

This year, we are launching an exciting new service, created by and completely owned and managed by the libraries of Europe. Our service has been designed specifically for the academic communities, with content and functionality to support their research work. Providing a single gateway to both digital collections <u>and</u> bibliographic data, we are unique in offering the *union catalogue of Europe*. At launch, the service will have over 10 million digital objects, up to 200 million bibliographic records and 25 million pages of full text. The service will be promoted by marketing professionals, guaranteeing a worldwide audience for libraries and their collections.

4. Data enrichment

We enrich the data harvested from the member libraries, by creating a significant number of internal links within the records. The resulting meshed-up data leads to search engine optimisation and improved visibility of collections. All data is made available to libraries for re-use, including for copy cataloguing.

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Record ID
    enhanced by linking to: digital content (image, table of content, full text)
        enhanced by linking to: original record in data contributor's OPAC
Creator
    enhanced by linking to: name forms in VIAF (which in turn provides links to wikipedia)
Title
    enhanced by linking to: similar items (FRBR Manifestation level)
Place, printer, date
    enhanced by linking to: places through GeoNames
Notes/description of item
Subject terms
    enhanced by linking to: LCSH (Library of Congress Subject Headings)
        enhanced by linking to: MACS (Multilingual Access to Subject Headings)
        enhanced by linking to: SWD (Schlagwörterdatei)
    enhanced by linking to: Rameau (BnF subject headings)
        enhanced by linking to: Dewey (and through Dewey to CERIF)
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Example of a metadata record

We are at the cutting edge of research and development in digital libraries. Our core competences include clustering techniques, full-text indexing and linked open data. Data is enriched according to a variety of vocabularies and authority files, thereby connecting individual names, places and research subjects.

Together with staff from our member libraries, we collaborate in working groups to further our knowledge of technology, interoperability and marketing. Current innovations include exploiting our current implementation of FRBR (and extending it to edition level), enhancing metadata interoperability (with particular attention paid to new library formats) and making use of VIAF to increase entity disambiguation of library data.

5. Research & Development opportunities

The European Library provides an ideal forum for members to share expertise, construct partnerships and carry out ideas at an international level.

New innovations can be tested and adopted. The European Library is playing a major role in the Newspapers Online project, which will exploit the potential of aggregated full text harvested from many partners. The framework of the European Library allows for the exploration of the interlibrary loan with a European reach and support for digitisation on demand.

The European Library not only forms relationships between libraries but is also at the centre of strategic partnerships with leading research projects like DARIAH and CLARIN. Together, such partnerships will help forge the European research infrastructure for the 21st century.

4. Subscription model

Libraries have told us that they want a subscription model that is simple and comprehensive, i.e. a single fee for a defined set of services. We therefore propose to adopt a membership model (see section 4), covering core services for a fixed fee. The fee will cover:

- A small central office to manage and run the service
- A comprehensive data aggregation service
- Hosting of a single central index for metadata and full text
- A portal with library content and services for researchers in the humanities, social sciences and cultural heritage
- Basic-level membership of the ARROW system

To date, the service has been funded by the national libraries of Europe. The aim is to gradually reduce the costs for these national libraries, by enlarging the total group of libraries that funds the service. Ultimately we wish to reduce the average cost per library for all libraries: from the current €15k per library per annum, to an average of just over €7k in 2013 (through doubling the number of participating libraries), and ultimately to just under €4k per library per annum in 2016.

190
libraries

48
libraries

Eur 15.000

Eur 3.780

2012   2013   2014   2015   2016
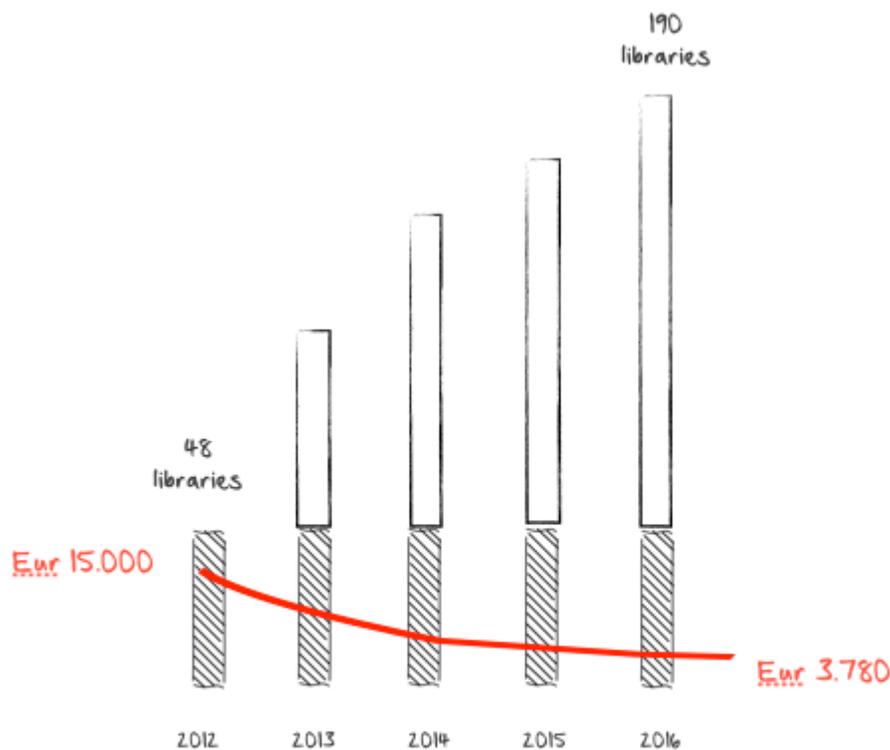
Average subscription price over the years

The economic situation for libraries across Europe varies tremendously. As is the case now, the fee model will be based on the principle of ability to pay, and use a set of economic indicators combined with the size of a library's resources.

During the first years, income will cover expenditure. The service will be maintained and improved on the strength of streamlined and therefore more cost-efficient data processing, and economies of scale through collaboration (e.g. with Europeana). After year 2014, when the number of participating libraries will have more than tripled, income will exceed expenditure. The surplus will be deployed as "matching funding" for EU projects that will help to prepare further additions to the aggregation service and increase visibility/usability of our collections.

5. Governance

In the course of the Europeana Libraries project, CENL (the organisation which to date governs The European Library), together with LIBER and CERL will formulate a new governance structure for the management of the service, including its future strategy.

The collaboration of such long-standing and stable organisations as CENL, CERL and LIBER builds on the good working relationship achieved during the Europeana Libraries project, and

will ensure proper representation of national and research libraries when setting the budget, the priorities for development and the future strategy of the European library aggregation service.

Until now, the contracts for staff at The European Library were held by the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, the National Library of the Netherlands. This arrangement has come to an end, and staff contracts have been taken over by the Europeana Foundation. This will further enhance the existing collaboration between Europeana and The European Library, resulting in a more efficient shared infrastructure and cost savings to libraries.

6. Recommendations

The Executive Board of *Europeana Libraries* asks the Boards of LIBER, CERL, CENL and Europeana Foundation to back our prospectus for a strong libraries partnership for the new European Library and Europeana.

Beyond this, we ask for the Boards' support in commending this partnership to the libraries in your networks, and to work with us to promote the service to ensure its success. We ask for the Boards to work together to establish a new governance structure that gives both national and research libraries fair representation in shaping the future direction of The European Library. We ask the Boards to help us determine a strategic path for the three years, 2013 to 2015, together with a detailed plan of operational activities for the first year of the strategic plan.

Only by working together will we ensure the success of *Europeana Libraries*. We ask for your commitment to these outcomes.

Timeline for Europeana Libraries

March 2012	The Boards (CENL, LIBER, CERL and Europeana Foundation) must define their governance requirements.
May 2012	Deadline for the submission of a funding bid to create Europeana Research
June 2012	Formal launch of the new European Library portal, including a launch event at the LIBER Conference and a week-long, European-wide special launch campaign
June 2012 onwards	Focusing on the LIBER Conference, research libraries are asked to sign up for membership of The European Library. The target is around 50 libraries by the start of 2013.

June 2012	Final agreement must be reached between the Boards on the future governance of The European Library.
June 2012	A business and network development plan, including the business model, must be submitted to the European Commission. In practice, this means a three-year strategy for 2013-2015 and an annual plan and budget for 2013.
September to November 2012	The strategy 2013-2015, annual plan and budget 2013 to be approved by the Boards of CENL, LIBER, CERL and Europeana Foundation
December 2012	Final version of the fully-scaled libraries aggregation infrastructure must be in place.
December 2012	END OF THE EUROPEANA LIBRARIES PROJECT
January 2013	Europeana Foundation takes over the operational running of The European Library
January 2013	New governing body takes over the strategic management and monitoring of The European Library
January 2013	A new agreement for membership of The European Library is issued to libraries.