

# EPrints Foundation - Proposal

## Aims

The Foundation would have the following aims:

- To explore financial infrastructures and options for the maintenance and development of EPrints and its community of users.
- To develop processes for committing to and reviewing core software
- To develop structures and processes for planning and delivering future development of EPrints Software
- To provide forums to pool resources to make best use of funds and expertise when developing new features and keeping EPrints in line with current expectations
- To coordinate community initiatives and events for the benefit of all EPrints users

## Structure

The Foundation will be run by a Steering Committee including at least the following roles:

- Chair
- Secretary
- Technical Coordinator (to take a lead on technical processes and plans)
- Community Coordinator (to coordinate community events and user requirements)
  - Resources Coordinator (to develop and maintain community information resources)
- Funding Coordinator (to explore and develop a sustainable business model for the Foundation)

plus sufficient Committee Members to enable the work to be completed.

## Governance

EPrints Foundation will be an Unincorporated Association in the first instance. This will enable membership and collaboration processes to be established. It will also provide a structure in which requirements can be gathered systematically. This will be reviewed after a year with a view to creating a paid membership organisation.

The Steering Committee coordinate the work needed to create a more formal organisation, to establish a funding model and a revenue stream, and to provide a hub for activity.

# Membership

Initially, the Foundation will be free to join. This is to encourage participation in developing future funding models, and will be revised after a year to create paid memberships.

# Stakeholders

- Libraries - including those who self-host and those who use hosting services
- Open Educational Repositories, Digital Collections and other non-library repository owners
- Hosting and Development Services
- Consortium repositories
- Funders and other bodies with an interest

Initially, all will be welcome to join and get involved. This may change as funding models are developed and implemented.

# Initial Work Plan

## General

Constitution

Business plan

Develop an identity separate from the commercial stakeholders

## Technical

- Develop a roadmap for core software
- Establish a technical committee to advise on proposals for development
- Develop a specification for a Lead Developer role:  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ndwRkvQNHUifD1XMd2mO2bXiqiAtkjt-vf9gqkMY9JM/edit?usp=sharing>
- Develop processes and standards for contributing to core software

## Community

- Coordinate identification of priorities without introducing unnecessary bureaucracy. This should enable members to identify common interests and pool resources where appropriate. Wishlist example:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1s5zByvmJT6iVbEn6ZWhixH0Autlb4gJulD4LYj3Y2fl/edit?usp=sharing>

- Establish a community committee to advise on user requirements
- Coordinate community events such as user groups and hack days
- Develop basic web site for resources and information about the Foundation
- Identify options for improving documentation and training resources

## Funding

- Identify funding options, risks and opportunities.
- Establish a working group or committee if necessary to take advantage of any funding options. This will depend on the nature and scale of any opportunities.
- Research, propose and implement a sustainable funding model for the future of the Foundation.