Nasjonalbiblioteket
National Library of Norway

Stanford | LIBRARIES

Memorandum of Understanding
December 7, 2018

Libraries, archives and museums (LAMs) advance humankind through supporting knowledge, research, and cultural heritage. Artificial Intelligence (AI) will permeate information technology, and will transform everything from how we grow food to how we drive cars to how the Internet and Web operate. Libraries, archives, and museums (LAMs) will be affected fundamentally by AI, which has the power and promise to shape its application for research, support for cultural heritage and contributions to the commonwealth of knowledge. Research and memory institutions own and have access to large collections of information in digital forms, with deep domain and knowledge management expertise; they are therefore well-positioned environments for applying AI for the benefit of humankind.

However, LAMs have yet to adopt or shape AI to meet their missions and provide services in what has been called the 4th industrial revolution. Recognizing that the future does not happen, but rather is made, the National Library of Norway (NLN) and Stanford University Libraries (SUL) agree to cooperate to advance both the use and development of AI, thus emphasizing the contributions of LAM organizations to the commonwealth of knowledge.

Inspired by the success of the development of IIIF both as an enabling technological foundation as well as the community around it, NLN & SUL will, over the next year,

1. organize a series of conferences, workshops and events to advance the understanding and practice of AI in LAMs. In the next year, this includes, but is not limited to:
    a. LDCX at Stanford (March 2019)
    b. IIIF Conference at Göttingen, Germany (June 2019)
    c. Fantastic Futures USA conference at Stanford (Fall 2019)
2. identify and establish channels for concrete exchange among LAMs for practical developments and application of AI; this includes practical outcomes to build a common ground for AI in libraries, with emphasis on:
    - identifying & establishing how-to's and best practices
    - sharing use-cases demonstrating the power and potential of AI in libraries
    - facilitating capacity development in institutions for AI investigation, experimentation and production services
    - coordinating collaborative efforts across institutions and nations
    - organizing contacts with relevant R&D & commercial organizations
    - training community members through bootcamps, webinars, et al.

- understanding and advancing the application of AI to IIIF
- to build & exchange data sets & models of interest among libraries

3. establish a core group of 5-7 institutions to lead a community of practitioners among LAMs to develop our collective capacity in using AI and to guide our efforts for the next 2-10 years. SUL & NLN recognize that community organization will provide scale, resources and impact far beyond what any single institution or small partnership can achieve.
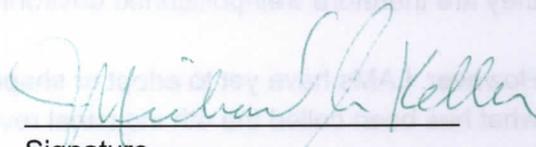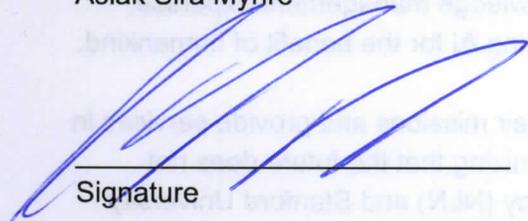
The NLN & SUL collaboration is well underway, based on the joint activities through the Fantastic Futures week in December 2018 in Oslo. The AI conference during this week as well as the AI workshop will be followed up with similar events at SUL during fall 2019, and SUL is also planning a LDCX unconference with AI as a main theme.

For the National Library of Norway   For the Stanford Libraries

Aslak Sira Myhre   Michael A. Keller

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_____7 December 2018_____   _____7 December 2018_____
Date   Date