Memorandum of Understanding

Taking to a new level the concepts and projects of Artificial Intelligence
to enhance functions and services in large research libraries
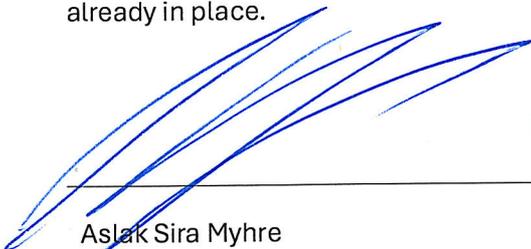*June 2024*

The National Library of Norway and the Stanford University Libraries agree to engage in further research and development in the use of AI in its various forms in support of research libraries' missions and services as well as advances of AI as a tool for democratic access to knowledge, cultural heritage and information. In addition to the experiments and projects that these two well advanced research libraries will devise, operate, and report to the research library community, this partnership will also survey the landscape, identify potential commercial models of relevance, and, in the course of these investigations, provide support in the form of training and administrative support to AI4LAM.

The National Library of Norway and Stanford University Libraries began their AI cooperation in 2017, and formalized this with an MOU in 2018. This cooperation is the foundation of the annual Fantastic Futures conference on AI as well as the global community of practice, AI4LAM. This new agreement will build on these beginnings to bring the practical benefits of innovation and collaboration in AI to both organizations and the international community of libraries, archives and museums.

In the next three years, these two research libraries will hire staff to perform the surveying and outreach activities in support of the AI4 LAM community while our permanent party staff will continue to work on projects and services utilizing AI, reporting on them as appropriate. Discussions and modeling both internally and with commercial providers as well as with other research libraries will continue. Questions of open and proprietary models, naturally involving licensing and intellectual property terms will be explored. Case studies will be commissioned of relevance to libraries, archives, and museums. Training programs will be identified and perhaps created to bring staff along as we learn from our experiences. AI4LAM, currently an all volunteer and distributed effort with no dedicated resources, will benefit from these activities both programmatically and administratively.

The first staff member will be hired by NL Norway, and shall be jointly funded and directed by Norway & Stanford. Over time, we expect to attract funding from additional organizations; the models of IIIF and DPC suggest a relatively small annual membership fee would attract dozens of research organizations in the LAM communities for employing a few staff members as per the community functions mentioned above.

The undersigned agree to these propositions and agree that the leadership roles already in place are already in place.

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date	date
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