

## General conditions for collaboration on the electronic archive "Organic Eprints" – revised 5. May 2003

Organic Eprints is an electronic open access archive for papers related to research in organic agriculture.

The archive was established by DARCOF during the summer of 2002 as a tool to further develop research in organic agriculture. The main objectives were to document the research effort, to facilitate the communication of research papers and proposals, and to improve the dissemination and impact of research findings. In accordance with these objectives the archive was designed to facilitate international use and cooperation.

More information about the background and policy of the archive is available at <http://orgprints.org/about.html>.

### **Short description of the archive**

The Organic Eprints archive offers web-based depositing. Authors can deposit their own papers from any available internet connection. The papers are archived as full text papers with abstracts and bibliographic information. All document languages are supported. Papers can be browsed by affiliation (country/organization/project) as well as by subject area and year. A powerful search facility allows combined searches of all database fields.

The archive is based on Eprints archive-creating software, Linux, Apache, and other Open Source software. Open Source allows the software users to change and develop the software to their own particular purposes. The Eprints software and the present and future modifications thereof that are used in the Organic Eprints archive, are placed under the GNU General Public Licence (see <http://www.opensource.org/licenses/gpl-license.php>).

The Eprints software is under continuous development and it is being used in a growing number of academic archives. This seems promising with respect to the further development of the organic archive. Among the planned developments of the Eprints software are full text search and support for mirror sites and journal overlays.

The Organic Eprints archive is located on a dedicated web server in a secure environment. The server has hard disc mirroring (SCSI RAID) plus additional backup disc. The high security standard is due to the decentralised nature of the archive, which makes it more difficult to restore data losses by redoing the work. Software for analysing archive access and document downloads (based on data in the web server log files) will soon be installed.

### **Possibilities for cooperation**

As indicated above, Organic Eprints is offered as a free community service by DARCOF – it is an open archive that everyone can use. However, DARCOF invites other organic research institutes and organizations to join us in using, managing and developing this service by entering into a more formal partnership. If the archive develops into a comprehensive international archive, we believe that it can serve as a vehicle for more and better international collaboration.

There are different possibilities for collaborating as a partner in the Organic Eprints archive.

- As a first step, potential partners will presumably make some kind of commitment towards making their research production available in the archive. This can be facilitated by including a list of relevant projects in the country:organization:project hierarchy and by selecting one or more "editors" to control the deposits.

Archive editors are ordinary users that are given additional rights within the archive. They check the quality of the metadata (bibliographic data, abstract, etc.) before entering the eprints into the archive, and communicate with the depositors in case of problems. Editors supervise a selection of countries, organizations or subject areas, and they are notified by email when there are deposits within their selected area.

- Secondly, the dedicated use of the archive can be facilitated by tailoring another interface for the archive. The present archive language is English, but the software supports more archive interfaces in different languages.
- Thirdly, partners may run their own mirror of the Organic Eprints website. This will add a new level of security to the archive.
- Finally, partners can, and should, be involved in the future development of the archive.

Future developments can, for instance, include improvements of the basic archive design and functions (such as searching, browsing, registering, depositing, getting email alerts, etc.); development of new functions; lobbying for more agreeable publisher policies on submission and copyrights; and development of editorial additions such as journals overlays and new means of peer review and knowledge synthesis.

### **Conditions for collaboration**

As the manager of the root web server of Organic Eprints, DARCOF maintains the web server hardware and software in terms of technical maintenance, security measures, necessary software upgrades, backup routines, etc. The archive administrator (presently Hugo Alrøe from DARCOF) performs the basic archive administration routines and implements Eprint archive software upgrades.

Each partner in the archive is responsible for the quality control of deposits within their area and for support and communication to the depositors. Each partner is responsible for the development and maintenance of any special adaptations or customizations of the archive to meet their own needs and covers the costs involved. DARCOF will, on a per cost basis, act as a consultant and implement the changes (as far as resources permit) and supply the required hardware capacity.

Improvements of the general features of the archive (such as browse and search facilities, deposit forms, help phrases, citations) and new developments are to be undertaken by the partners in collaboration. The spirit of open source is that all stakeholders contribute to the development of a common, useful product that is free to use.

**Partnership rights**

When formal agreements on the collaborative development of the archive have been made, the supporting partners will be shown on the frontpage(s) of the archive by way of their logo and/or name.

Each partner has the right to sustain the online access to the Organic Eprints archive. This includes the right to obtain back up copies of the archive and the right to maintain online copies or automated mirror sites. If the partner responsible for the root site (presently DARCOF) cannot maintain online access to the archive, this responsibility can be taken over by one of the other partners. Each partner has the right to use the archive data for other purposes provided that this usage does not infringe the deposit agreements made with the depositing users on the basis of the existing archive policy. Any additional costs involved in the utilization of these rights by an individual partner in the archive are to be paid by the partner in question.