
Statement of Intent
between
The Department of Energy AND *The British Library*
of the United States of America

*Concerning Invitation to Partner
in a Global Science Gateway*

The Department of Energy of the United States of America and The British Library (hereinafter the "Participants"),

Noting that international collaboration is essential to revolutionary advances in the fields of sustainable energy, medicine, agriculture, environment, and basic sciences;

Noting that advances in science can be accelerated when the diffusion of science knowledge is accelerated;

Noting that a positive trend has emerged as nations have recognized the importance of providing their citizens with one-stop electronic access to increasing volumes of science information:

Noting that there is a growing sense of the need for reciprocity and sharing of science knowledge across national boundaries;

Noting that there are existing science information systems and collections which provide the critical foundation and content for a global, decentralized body of science knowledge; and

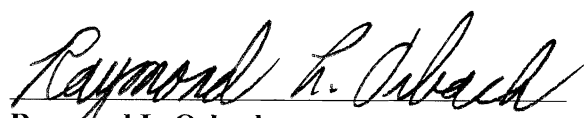
Noting that the technology exists for federating searching across vast, dispersed science information collections,

Have reached the following understanding:


1. The Participants express their intent to partner with each other and hereby invite other national and international organisations (including information sources championed by a national or international body) to partner in an international effort to establish a searchable Global Science Gateway.
2. The Participants share a strategic vision that the Global Science Gateway will:
 - search dispersed, electronic collections in general, subject-specific, and cross-cutting fields of science;
 - provide direct and free searching of open-source collections and portals and will also allow patrons with proper access credentials to simultaneously search limited-access systems (e.g., agreements based on country membership);
 - build upon existing and already successful national models for searching;
 - seek to complement existing information collections and systems; and
 - maximise the attribution to and recognition of individual sources of information to the patron for the purpose of raising the visibility and usage of individual sources.
3. The Participants would welcome the involvement of national and international institutions to facilitate communications and cooperative efforts among the Participants.
4. This Statement of Intent does not create any legally binding obligations between the Participants.

Signed at London this 21st day of January, 2007, in duplicate.

**FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**


Raymond L. Orbach
Under Secretary for Science

FOR THE BRITISH LIBRARY:


Lynne Brindley
Chief Executive