

# The Phaidra Experience II

A project for the permanent storing of digital objects at the University of Vienna [www.phaidra.org](http://www.phaidra.org)



– an acronym for Permanent Hosting, Archiving and Indexing of Digital Resources and Assets, is an all-university digital asset management system with permanent storing functions.

The service can be accessed at this address: <https://phaidra.univie.ac.at>

Phaidra provides a technological basis for the realization of the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities, which was signed on January 26, 2010, by the Rector of the University of Vienna at that time. In the development of Phaidra, the challenge of alternative Nobel Prize-winner Harold Varmus was observed, which stipulates that a majority of research is financed by taxes – and the impending results are then to be made public.

Phaidra stands for reliable long-term archiving and gives educational, research- and management staff, the possibility to publish, to store digital data and resources and to archive them indefinitely.

*“Open Access is not only defined as offering unfettered access to scientific literature, but also – and above all – free access to the very instrument of publication itself. The content provider in research (the owner of the digital objects) should always have the ability to publish digital objects and assign usage licenses to them and without bureaucratic restrictions.”*

Phaidra Policy Paper

## The Ten Commandments for Policy

### I Policy of Open and Free Access

Phaidra is an “open” system. Not only in that it was developed based on open source software, but access to the system is available without restrictions to all members of the University of Vienna – teachers and students. The active use of Phaidra, that is, the storing and linking of objects – without bureaucratic obstacles (red tape) – is open to users with a mailbox account, typically employees of the University of Vienna, as well as externals who obtain permission, and students with a unet account. Searching and viewing the contents – if desired – is possible worldwide without logging in. All members are permitted to invite guests (guest accounts).

### II Policy to Support University-wide Open Access

During the construction of Phaidra, attention was given to the requirement of the alternative Nobel Prize-winner Harold Varmus – where most of the research is financed by taxes – that defines that results should be accessible to the public. In addition, Phaidra uses three postulates in accordance with the Budapest Open Access Initiative, to define Open Access:

- ◆ By “open access” to this literature, we mean its free availability on the public internet,
- ◆ permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose,
- ◆ without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself.

The realization of these challenges has been a mantra for Phaidra from the very beginning. However, in addition, two important aspects were taken into account: In the context of the Open Access Policy, not only full texts in .pdf format should be made accessible, but also „multi-resource content type“ objects should be created. Therefore, it is not enough to only create .pdfs, since research also requires models for multimedia objects, primary data, mathematical formulas, and so on).

The second addition to the Open Access requirement of the Budapest Declaration is as follows: Open Access is not only defined as unfettered access to scientific literature, but also – and above all – free access to the publication tool itself. The content provider in research (owner of the digital objects) should be able to publish digital objects and assign usage licenses to them always and without bureaucratic restrictions.

### III Policy of Persistent Citation of Data: Once in Phaidra - always in Phaidra

All objects stored in Phaidra receive a permanent ID (permanent link). This functions like a signature of a publication in a library: This permanent link is always accessible worldwide and can be cited or forwarded. When selecting the link, the most important data of the published object will immediately appear, and can then be viewed in the browser and downloaded as needed.

### IV Policy for a Sophisticated Access Concept

In addition to the permanent management of digitized objects, Phaidra provides a stable pool of data for administration, research and teaching, enabling the possibility of the further flexible use of resources. Members of the University of Vienna can create digital objects that are accessible worldwide and can lock these objects at any time without much effort (i.e., independently and without assistance of other persons or administrators), and they can make these available to a limited circle of users. The content provider should be able to control access (e.g.: only the 16th version of the published object can be shown to the public).

### V Policy on the Clarification of Legal Issues

Clarification of legal issues and the availability of licensing models and conditions of use provide security and foster trust. Phaidra makes it possible to secure the legal status of the stored objects. In addition, copyright issues and licensing models have been developed and made easier to comprehend (in „German“) and published (see: <http://phaidraservice.univie.ac.at/das-system-phaidra/juristisches-in-phaidra/>). As of winter semester 2008/09, additional licensing models for digital assets such as software were made available. Furthermore, lucid Terms of Use clarify the legal relationship of Phaidra as a service provider on the one hand and the owners of the objects on the other. There are also regular involvement workshops for all members of the University of Vienna (note: the last one took place on 27 May 2011).

### VI Policy for the extendable and contemporary content model

Austrian repositories should be prepared for a „multi-resource content type“ (it is not enough to store .pdfs, research also needs models for multimedia objects, primary data, mathematical formulas, and so on.). According to this principle, objects can be

stored in Phaidra with different content types and then be put into a relation with each other.

### VII Policy for the Permanent and Reliable Storing of Data

The guiding principle in building the system was “to create an easy method for the permanent and reliable storing of valuable data at the University of Vienna.” Today, valuable data in Phaidra not only can be systematically entered, but it can also be stored permanently. The support of the formats recommended in Phaidra is carried out at the Central Informatics Service at the University of Vienna, where the flexible open source software, Fedora is supported. All metadata is converted into XML format, which supports the permanent storing functions of Phaidra, and promotes interoperability with other systems. As mentioned earlier, each object receives an unchangeable, permanent link. Objects include text, video, audio files, images as well as links.

### VIII. Structured Metadata

The structure of metadata is controlled by the application of the following tabs: General data on the digital object, the object life cycle, technical information about the object, didactic information about the object, rights and licenses, classification systems, mapping systems, contextual information, information on provenance, information on a digital work (book). The basis of the metadata sets include Dublin Core and Learning Object Metadata (LOM). The system automatically generates an xml-based metadata record and can be viewed by each user. EXIF Viewer entries are generated automatically.

### IX Languages - Multilingual User Interfaces

Phaidra uses UTF-8 throughout the entire system. This assures its use in all languages. The user interface is currently multilingual, including: English, German, Italian and Serbian.

### X Help, Support, Service Site, Training Workshops

Online help is integrated throughout the system and can be specifically accessed whenever needed. For technical problems, you can contact the all-university help desk of the University of Vienna. A dedicated support address has been established. The most important information appears regularly on the service site <http://www.univie.ac.at/phaidra> (including use cases for legal issues).



makes it possible to:

- ◆ archive objects at the university and to permanently secure them, to create them systematically and to supplement them with metadata
- ◆ archive objects for an unlimited period of time - and to have world-wide access to them

### Open and free Access

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