

DLM Forum subforums

Over the past few years, several subforums have been established within the DLM Forum, driven by the initiative and enthusiasm of our active members. Participation in these groups is open to everyone from our member organisations, although some of those involved come from beyond our membership.

With its broad membership across Europe, the DLM Forum provides excellent opportunities for collaboration, knowledge sharing and the exchange of experiences. The subforums meet both online and in person, with face-to-face meetings usually taking place immediately before or after the main programme of our members' meetings. Subforums may also have dedicated sessions within the conference programme, and regular updates on their activities are provided at our meetings. At the upcoming Triennial Meeting in Dublin, a substantial part of the parallel programme is dedicated to Archives by Design (AbD) topics.

The DLM Forum also welcomes proposals for new subforums, provided there is sufficient interest and someone willing to take the lead.

DLM GeoForum

The DLM GeoForum is a DLM Forum subforum for professionals who work on any aspect of preserving digital geospatial records. Its mission is to encourage the exchange of ideas and professional discussion, to bring approaches to geospatial data preservation closer together, and to support the long-term reuse of geospatial data. Members come from different stages of the geospatial data lifecycle. They include archivists responsible for digital records, producers who create and manage geospatial records, and solution providers from both the geospatial and archival domains. The subforum builds on the guidelines, tools and training developed in the E-ARK projects, in particular the [CITS Geospatial](#) specification maintained by the [DILCIS Board](#).

The GeoForum was set up after the Geospatial Preservation Conference in Ljubljana. There, several organisations said they needed a unified approach to archiving geospatial data, as well as access to tools, training and events where they could discuss shared issues and solutions. The subforum meets regularly at the DLM Forum members' meetings and on online meetings between members' meetings. The host country often presents its local solutions, best practices or challenges in preserving digital geospatial records, which gives a good overview of where the field currently stands. The GeoForum also invites outside experts to present their approaches and organises standalone events and Geo tracks. Membership is free for all DLM Forum members.

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E-ARK subform

E-ARK is a DLM Forum subforum that runs the [eArchiving Initiative](#) to provide core E-ARK specifications, software, training, a curriculum, and knowledge to help organisations



and people to preserve digital information over the short, medium and long terms. The E-ARK specifications are maintained by the **DILCIS Board**. The eArchiving Initiative was initially a procurement under the European Commission's E-ARK programme running from October 2022 until the end of September 2025, and has since been operating under the **DLM Forum**. The eArchiving Initiative was developed through a series of European Commission-funded projects: the E-ARK project (2014–2017), followed by E-ARK4ALL (2018–2019), which established the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) eArchiving Building Block Core Services Platform, and E-ARK3 (2019–2021), which finalised the eArchiving Building Block.

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AbD subforum

The Archiving by Design (AbD for short) subforum has as its mission to promote the concept of Archiving by Design and to support its application during systems design and implementation. To help achieve this mission, the subforum fosters the development and exchange of tools and experiences. It will disseminate and maintain information and tools on AbD via different channels. On **Archives Portal Europe (APE)**, you will find documents on the principles, the requirements and methodology to implement AbD. We plan to offer more tools and methodological approaches via the DLM website.

Archiving by Design is a concept that was conceived in different countries, with similar approaches to the subject. **The European Archives Group** set up a working group on AbD. This working group developed a white paper and the documents as they're now available on APE. The EAG has formally approved and endorsed those documents. The working group now continues as the AbD subforum, thereby still promoting AbD and further developing the tools to implement an AbD approach.

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