

DLM Forum Members' Meeting
Bern, 24-25 March 2026

«Building New Strategies for Digital Archives»

Call for Contributions

The DLM Forum is seeking contributions for our upcoming members' meeting, to be hosted by the Swiss Federal Archives on 24-25 March 2026 in Bern. Bern is the capital of Switzerland, home to the federal government, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The DLM Forum Members' Meeting provides an opportunity to meet and discuss data management and digital archiving with other members coming from public archives, research institutions, IT companies and many more.

Theme: Building new Strategies for Digital Archives

The theme of the meeting is "Building New Strategies for Digital Archives". In an era characterized by rapid technological change and the increasing significance of data, the development of well-founded strategic approaches for archives is essential. The conference aims to explore how archives can develop and implement strategies that place data at the centre of their mission. It focuses on three main issues:

- Data centricity
- The transition from traditional archival practices to active participation in broader data spaces
- Interoperability and integrity

Further information on the theme can be found below.

For the members' meeting in Bern, we are calling for presentations and panels related to the development of strategies for digital archives and the three subthemes.

The event will mainly take place on-site, and contributors are expected to be present in Bern. Please note that the DLM Forum does not reimburse speakers for travel expenses or pay any fees.

Please submit your proposal for the programme by using the submission form on our website no later than **22 December 2025**.

If you would like to know more or have any questions, please contact us at:
secretariat@dmlforum.eu.

See next page for a detailed description of the theme.

Further Information on the Theme: “Building New Strategies for Digital Archives”

In times of rapid technological change and growing data relevance, the development of well-founded strategic approaches for archives is essential. Such strategies not only provide direction and set priorities for fulfilling core responsibilities but also enable archives to respond proactively to emerging challenges. The manner in which archives define their strategic focus ultimately determines how effectively they can address evolving trends and technological opportunities.

The conference therefore aims to explore how archives can develop and implement strategies that place data at the centre of their mission, responding to the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

To guide these discussions, the conference will focus on three key topics for new archive’s strategies, each of which will be explored in keynote speeches and interactive sessions:

1. Data-Centric Futures: Building Trust in the Age of AI and Algorithms

This topic highlights the increasing importance of data as the foundation of archival practice and public trust. It reflects the archive’s focus on data centricity and will explore how archives can adopt holistic data management approaches to ensure long-term accessibility and interpretability. By referencing AI and algorithms, it connects directly to the optimisation and automation field, underlining how emerging technologies can strengthen transparency and combat disinformation. The discussion will also address the societal role of archives in sustaining democratic trust, aligning with the archive’s mission and vision.

2. From Archives to Data Spaces: Cooperation for a Resilient Digital Society

This topic focuses on the transition from traditional archival practices to active participation in broader data spaces. It directly resonates with the archive’s emphasis on value creation through cooperation, both nationally and internationally, by developing joint infrastructures, open standards, and shared governance models. The notion of resilience addresses the challenges of rapid technological and geopolitical change, highlighting archives as active players in shaping a trustworthy digital society. It also points to the organisational development aspect, as cooperation requires new models of openness, adaptability, and inclusivity.

3. Interoperability and Integrity: Unlocking the Value of Public Data

This topic captures two central themes of a data-centric archival strategy: interoperability and integrity. While interoperability is essential for the sustainable use of data across different administrations and systems, integrity ensures transparency, trust, and accountability. The sessions will explore how archives can implement standards and technological innovations to guarantee that public information remains both technically usable and socially reliable. The focus will also be on how unlocking the value of public data can enhance governmental effectiveness and reinforce the role of archives as a cornerstone of democracy.