



Membership Explained

The Background

Four years ago DPN was founded with the support of sixty charter member institutions. These institutions largely represent medium to large research institutions, although the list does include some very large and some smaller institutions. Each charter member contributed \$20,000 each year which paid for the development of the DPN network infrastructure/software. This was a tremendous challenge and required various approaches before the system that is now DPN was developed. We are happy to report that the system is in place and it is working. Content has been deposited through two of our DPN Nodes (Chronopolis and APTrust) and has been replicated throughout the system.

What do Charter Members receive for their 2016 membership dues?

Charter members can now deposit up to 5TB of content into DPN for the membership fees that have already been paid. We are calling this the 2016 deposit. A Deposit Agreement should be signed and then content can be deposited either through DuraCloud Vault (Chronopolis) or via APTrust (for those institutions that are current APTrust Members). There is no additional charge to deposit content into DPN through either of these avenues. This content will be preserved in DPN for at least 20 years (until the year 2036) even if the depositing institution drops their DPN membership or if the institution fails for any reason. The long-term preservation of the 2016 5TB deposit has already been paid for.

What if an institution has more than 5TB of content to deposit?

If a member institution would like to deposit more than 5TB of content they are welcome to do so. The charge for this additional (beyond 5TB) content is \$4,900 per TB. This content would be governed by the same Deposit Agreement and DPN would make the same commitment for long-term preservation of that content.

What if we have much more than 5TB of content to deposit?

There are currently DPN committees examining solutions for institutions with high volumes of content (50TB +) to deposit. In order for DPN to meet the goals of preserving content for the next generation of scholars, the solutions must scale, must be affordable, and must have the capacity to accommodate petabytes of content. DPN staff is working with some member institutions and some industry leaders to develop those solutions in ways that will work for the community.

And for 2017?

We are asking DPN Charter members to renew their DPN membership at the same level as before – \$20,000. For that \$20,000 members can deposit another 5TB of content into the DPN network. This will be governed by another Deposit Agreement and will be called the 2017 deposit. This content will be preserved until at least the year 2037.

Are there different types of membership models other than Charter Membership?

This is another area where we are focusing attention over the next year. DPN leadership realizes that while the Charter Membership worked very well for building out the DPN network, a one size membership model does *not* fit all as the organization matures. The Membership Committee has been discussing various membership models that will serve a wider variety of institutions. Memberships that accommodate a spectrum of institutions from the very large to the very small (including consortia) must be developed and offered to the community. We will also cast the net wide and support institutions with a wide range of content types that will be important to future scholars; these content types include not just content from library special collections but also cultural heritage material, research data, published scholarly material, etc. Work in developing these various types of memberships will be complete well before the next renewal cycle (Spring 2017).