



OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

On 19th June 2017 , the General Assembly of the Arrow Association decided to dissolve the Association and terminate its activities. This decision, difficult but necessary, is an acknowledgement that the current panorama of large scale digitisation projects simply did not generate sufficient demand to justify the existence (and related costs) of an entity dedicated to managing the Arrow system.

The closure of the Arrow Association, however, by no means marks the end of Arrow as a potential tool to facilitate digitisation projects, since the principles underlying its creation remain just as valid. In developing the Arrow system, we demonstrated the possibility to carry out large scale digitisation projects efficiently, effectively and with full regard to the rights of authors and publishers.

With this in mind, we have decided to make the software developed for the Arrow system available through an open licence, for anyone who wishes to provide the services it enables. More importantly, , the expertise and know-how generated and consolidated during our experience with the Arrow project and beyond – which are even more valuable than the tools themselves – will still exist and will be ready for whenever the conditions will make them relevant.

By creating the Arrow system and carrying out several use cases, we have given proof of concept and demonstrated the value of a rights information infrastructure – and subsequent initiatives across the value chain (Linked Content Coalition, Copyright Hub, the RDI project, the ARDITO project) confirmed our belief. We therefore hope to continue the collaboration between the book trade and the library world, building upon the communication of rights information through standardised metadata and protocols, and thus to serve the parallel aims – not at all conflicting – of enhancing the digital accessibility of our literary cultural heritage and preserving the sustainability of the book value chain.

At the same time, we hope the EU and national institutions will draw inspiration from the Arrow experience to support - through adequate legislative and organisational tools - the development of digitisation projects, both public and private, that promote the circulation of XX century European works, stemming from the agreement and cooperation of all relevant stakeholders.

For further information about ARROW email info@aie.it or contact individual members of the ARROW Association listed in the table below.

ABOUT ARROW

ARROW is a tool to facilitate rights information management in any digitisation project involving text and image based works. ARROW infrastructure allows streamlining the process of identification of authors, publishers and other rightholders of a work, including whether it is orphan, in or out of copyright or if it is still commercially available.

HOW TO GET THE SOFTWARE

The ARROW software is available under license Apache 2.0. The software can be requested directly to one of the ARROW Association members



ARROW ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Associazione Italiana Editori (AIE) - Italy

www.aie.it email: info@aie.it

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Federation of European Publishers (FEP) - Belgium

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CINECA Consorzio Interuniversitario (CINECA) - Italy

www.cineca.it email: arrowstaff@cineca.it

OSDEL Greek Collecting Society for Literary Works – Greece

www.osdel.gr email: info@osdel.gr

International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations (IFRRO) Belgium

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Irish Copyright Licensing Agency (ICLA) - Ireland

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European Visual Artists (EVA) – Belgium

www.eartists.org email: info@eartists.org

Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo Unico delle Biblioteche Italiane e per le Informazioni Bibliografiche (ICCU)-IT

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Marketing- und Verlagsservice des Buchhandels (MVB) – Germany

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