

CENL Panel discussion on digitisation of European cultural and scientific heritage: recommendations for action

1 The CENL Executive Committee to consider how best to use the organisational model of The European Library to take forward, as a common effort, the development and co-ordination of our strategies for digitisation and digital libraries, including technical, content selection and funding issues. There is a particularly important need to focus on content selection

2 The CENL Executive Committee to consider all ways to encourage and hasten the integration of CENL member libraries into full membership of The European Library to ensure a comprehensive engagement across Europe

3 Given the increasing importance attached to public/private sector partnerships in digital libraries and digitisation, CENL, as a matter of some urgency, should identify a common set of negotiating conditions to support national libraries and ensure their continuing protection of the public good embodied in their collections as they enter into any such partnerships

4 CENL should consider the facilitation of a group of interested parties to identify opportunities for knowledge sharing and the development of a European critical mass of digitised content. Identification of existing digital collections (newspapers, celebrities etc.) could be a starting point of such co-operation and might serve as a model to create a framework for co-ordination in the future.

Adopted by the CENL Board, December 2005

Approved by the CENL Executive Committee, December 5th 2005