

**WHAT IS THE MIA?**  
**PROPOSAL OF A HUNGARIAN INTERNET-ARCHIVE**

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The content of the Internet is growing constantly and rapidly, but at the same time this content is perishing constantly and rapidly, too. Preserving our digital culture is a very important, however a not recognised and resolved task in Hungary. Though the Hungarian Electronic Library (abbr. MEK) began collecting book-like e-documents already in 1994, and after that we started the Electronic Periodical Archive and Database in 2003 for the regularly updated publications containing articles, but there is no public archive for the Hungarian web-sites. In the past few years several countries have launched such projects where they download periodically the whole national web-space or selected sites at least, and make these archives available and searchable for the researchers of the present and the future.

So the MEK Department of the National Library proposes the founding of a Hungarian Internet Archive (abbr. MIA). The extend and complexity of the task is so large, that we need a co-operation of various partners (companies, scientific institutions, libraries and other public archives). Among others we have to solve the following problems and challenges: defining the circle of archiving, developing the necessary technology for downloading and economical storing, writing recommendations for building easily archiveable web-sites (similar to the web-content accessibility guidelines), assigning metadata to the archived material, incorporating intelligent full-text search engines, clearing the legal status of such web-archives, etc.