



40th Anniversary Fundraising Campaign / Spending of Funds

Background

In 2014, EMBL organised a fundraising campaign to support the establishment of the EMBL Archive. The theme of this fundraising campaign was to “Build the EMBL Archive” and donors were asked for “material contributions, time and financial support will form the building blocks of this project” and it was specified that “while EMBL is covering the fundamental costs of the archive, additional funds are being raised to cover the processing costs of incoming collections.” The objective was to raise €200,000 in total in 2014, from some 2000 donors. In the end, **€46,455** were collected from 20 donors. There was no goal for “material” or “time” contributions, but some material contributions were also sent.

The EMBL Archive

As of 2019, the funds needed to establish and run the EMBL Archive have come exclusively from EMBL’s core budget, which enables it to deliver its mission to capture, preserve and share EMBL’s scientific and institutional heritage. Its catalogue is available online (archive.embl.org) and holdings are accessible to visitors of the EMBL Archive. The holdings have been accessed both internally and externally.

In addition to this, the EMBL Archive has developed complementary activities that support its vision and have helped establish it as one of Europe’s foremost scientific archives. One of these is the EMBL Archivist’s involvement in the ICA/SUV¹’s Committee on the Archives of Science and Technology and the organization of biennial workshops on scientific archives. The EMBL Archive’s role in these workshops is instrumental in positioning the EMBL Archive as an active scientific archive and a scientific resource that supports and documents European research, instrumentation and training in the field of molecular biology.

This spending of the 40th anniversary funds therefore goes towards 1) highlighting and using EMBL’s archival holding in the institute’s 50th anniversary celebrations and to 2) support students and new professionals in attending future workshops on scientific archives.

1. EMBL’s 50th anniversary

EMBL will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in five years (2024). In advance of these celebrations and to raise awareness of the EMBL Archive and its holdings around this event, funding will be provided to support an internship dedicated to writing articles based on material from the EMBL Archive for the EMBL community, EMBL member states and the wider public. This will be planned as a part of wider anniversary celebrations and projects.

Total funds committed: €21,455.

¹ This is the International Council on Archives / Section on University and Research Archives. See: <https://www.ica.org/en/about-university-archives-suv>.



2. Workshops on Scientific Archives

The workshops on scientific archives bring together archivists, scientists and historians of science in order to develop best practices and encourage collaborations at all levels. The first of these workshops (2016) was hosted by EMBL Heidelberg and fully funded from the EMBL Archive's budget. The second of these was hosted by the Niels Bohr Library and Archives, American Institute of Physics and funded by the AIP and the ICA. The third of these will be hosted by the European XFEL in 2020, and will be funded by the XFEL.

These workshops have been successful in enabling the scientific archives community and the users of scientific archives (depositors and users) to come together and exchange and develop best practices. The workshops focus on raising awareness about the specific challenges of scientific recordkeeping and provide a place for debate, training and professional development in this dynamic area. They are unique among archival conferences and have received very positive feedback from their participants. Their funding is highly dependent on the workshops' host institute. Both workshops have so far been able to provide funding for speakers and/or students and new professionals.

Some of the fundraise monies will support attendance to these workshops by young (students or new professionals) scientific archivists by providing €5,000 of funding for the next 5 workshops. The funding will be allocated to travel and sustenance bursaries. This will allow to support between 5 and 10 participants at each workshop, and help ensure international participation in these workshops.

Total funds committed: €25,000.

This is aligned with EMBL's core mission of supporting training and will undoubtedly allow new developments in the field of scientific archives. It will also strengthen EMBL's role as a leader in scientific archives.