

Project Governance

What is Project Governance?

The DSpace project governance establishes the

- Principles and goals for the project
- [Strategic direction](#) and [Product Roadmap](#)
- Accountability
- Sustainability plan
- Management decision framework
- Means of conducting operations

Governance is based on a [representative, community-based membership model](#) incrementally rewarding members who have made the greatest commitments to the project.

For more information, please see the main [Governance page](#) on dspace.org.

Project Governance Groups

- [Steering Group](#)
- [Leadership Group](#)
- [Committers Group](#)
- [DSpace Community Advisory Team \(DCAT\)](#)
- [DSpace Marketing Interest Group \(DMIG\)](#)

Steering Group

The Steering Group is nominated and elected by the Leadership Group and members are chosen among the Leaders. The Steering Group is composed of 9 Members elected for a 3-year term and it provides project oversight and ensures that the priorities of the Leadership Group and members are met, by:

- Providing strategic direction to the Project
- Recommending annual budget allocations
- Presenting key decisions to the Leadership Group for discussion and approval
- Raising funds and securing other resources on behalf of the Project
- Overseeing project operations

The Steering Group is in the process of being nominated by the Leadership Group.

Leadership Group

The Leadership Group is made up of members that contribute annually to the project, along with representatives from the DSpace Community at large who are particularly committed to the Project, including Service Providers.

Eligibility to serve in the Leadership Group is determined based on the membership levels as follows:

- Platinum - 1 seat per member
- Gold - 1 seat per member
- Silver - 1 seats for every 4 members
- Bronze - 1 seat for every 8 members

The Leadership group will also benefit from the participation of:

- 2 Members nominated by the community at large and voted by the Members
- Representatives from Registered Service Providers
- Ex-officio and/or emeritus members

The Leadership Group approves the overall priorities and strategic direction of the project by:

- Approving the annual budget allocation and any modifications
- Approving the product roadmap
- Approving the strategic direction
- Nominating and electing Steering Group members
- Voting on key decisions presented by Steering Group

- Helping to raise funds and secure other resources on behalf of the project

Current members of the Leadership Group may be found at <https://duraspace.org/dspace/leadership-group>

The Leaders are elected for a 1-year term and there are no term limits.

Committers Group

DSpace Committers have autonomous control over the code and are also the primary support team for DSpace. The primary responsibilities of Committers are:

- Maintain the codebase; Committers are the only individuals who can actively change/commit to the codebase
- Review all code contributions/changes to ensure stability, etc
- Merge/accept community code contributions
- Help to resolve bugs or security issues within codebase
- Help to provide ongoing support to community developers and users (via IRC, mailing lists, etc.)
- Perform and manage new [releases](#) based on the [roadmap](#).

Anyone may be [nominated as a Committer](#) by anyone else. Typically, nominations are made by existing Committers on the basis of sustained contribution to DSpace that indicates an ability to fulfill Committer responsibilities. Examples of such contribution are participation in discussions on the DSpace [mailing lists](#), [IRC](#) etc, participation in [developer meetings](#), reporting bugs, help with testing, and [contribution of code](#) via pull requests. Only existing Committers may vote to add a nominated person to the Committers group.

DSpace Community Advisory Team (DCAT)

The **DSpace Community Advisory Team (DCAT)** represents the interests of repository managers and administrators across the globe and, indirectly, DSpace end users. DCAT is a permanent Working Group that advises other DSpace project governance and leadership groups. The Team solicits feedback through community-wide discussions, surveys, etc. to help ensure future software releases address the needs of the community. DCAT submits an annual report to the DSpace Steering group that makes the report public after review.

A specific area of focus for DCAT is defined annually by DCAT and the Steering Group.

DSpace Marketing Interest Group (DMIG)

The **DSpace Marketing Interest Group (DMIG)** began activities in April of 2015. The main purpose of the Group is to define the right strategies to highlight the benefits of the open source solution for the Community and effectively communicate those to the users and potential users. The reason for doing so is that the more people are aware of such benefits the more people might be interested in financially supporting the project and in becoming Member/Sponsors of DuraSpace. This will allow the organization to keep investing in the project and advancing the software, making it more and more compliant with the ever-changing needs related to the repository world.

Currently the main scope of DMIG is to create a Marketing and Communication Strategy document: a complete analysis of the current DSpace landscape and, more importantly, a set of guidelines to define the future strategies and rationalise them.

The DSpace Marketing Interest Group is also working on a secondary scope: identifying specific actions that requires a shorter time to be made concrete. To make it possible, Working Groups are being created with individual work group charges and related documentation for action.

Sub-Groups of DMIG:

- **Telling DSpace Stories (TDS) Work Group** - The Telling DSpace Stories Working Group of the DSpace Marketing Interest Group aims to increase interactions and build deeper connections between community members and institutions by creating and publishing stories about their DSpace repositories.