**Functional Entity:** a set ofservices and functions that servers a specific need.

**Functional Entity Area:** a set of Functional Entities.

#### **6.1.5 Virtual Archives with Distributed Functional Areas or Functional Entities**

In an association involving Archives with a distributed Functional Entity Area or Functional Entity, Management has entered into agreements with other Archives to link or integrate their distributed Functional Areas or Functional Entities with each other in a complementary way. The motive for this may be to distribute resources in a complementary way in order to achieve the complete set of functional entities to establish a Virtual Archive in a complementary collaborative way.  This association is fundamentally different from the previous examples, in that it does not only federate, share or cooperate w.r.t. Functional Areas but really distributes them in accordance with Competences and Capacities of contributing Archives.

Figure 6-5 (xxx to be established XXX) illustrates the distribution of a Functional XXX, consisting of an XXX entity and a YYY entity, between several Archives, OAIS 1 until OAIS n.  The XXX and YYY facilities can be at any of the previously described levels of interoperability.  In fact, each Archive can serve very independent communities as implied in this figure.  However, for the common XXX element to succeed, standards are needed at the internal XXX-YYY and YYY-XXX interfaces.

Additional potential distributed Functional Entities include, e.g., registries of Representation Information and name resolvers such as the DNS. In the former case, a registry of Representation Information should also be an OAIS and the Representation Information it holds should be part of the Content Information it holds. The Representation Information it holds might, for example, be part of the Representation Network for the Content Information within an AIP in another OAIS. In such a case the OAIS holding that AIP may cache copies of the Representation Network held in the registry. Whether it does so or instead relies on the registry to maintain the Representation Network, the ultimate responsibility for the understandability of the Content Information remains with the OAIS which holds the AIP.