October, 2005

Open Access in Library and Information Science: dLIST 2005 Survey, a Scholarly Communication Study

Anita S. Coleman, *University of Arizona*

repository gateway (http://srepod.sourceforge.net/). Details of work on the static approach are available from the following URLS:

<http://eprints.iisc.ernet.in/archive/00003643/>
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/00330330510610609>
<http://www.unesco.org/isis>

However, the static (repository) approach has the following limitations:

- The number of records in the static repository XML file cannot exceed 5000 records.
- There is no real-time interaction with the actual database during harvesting of metadata.

The Dynamic Approach

To overcome the limitations of the static (repository) approach, we have devised a dynamic approach to make CDS/ISIS databases OAI-compliant. In the dynamic approach there is a direct interaction with the database rather than interaction with a static file. The main challenge in accomplishing the dynamic approach is that there are no ODBC (Open Database Connectivity) or JDBC (Java Database Connectivity) drivers for CDS/ISIS to facilitate database connectivity. We overcame this problem by using a freeware gateway tool called 'wxis' for database connectivity. For more details about the gateway tool, please visit:

<http://productos.bvsalud.org/product.php?id=wwwisis&lang=en>

Our work on the dynamic approach required developing an intermediary program that can accept OAI requests and translate them into a corresponding search expression meaningful for CDS/ISIS databases. The search expression is then used by the gateway tool for database interaction. The resulting records from the database interaction are encoded in XML as required for OAI-compliance

The advantage of the dynamic approach over the static is that in the dynamic approach there is a real-time interaction with the CDS/ISIS databases.

Interoperability of OAI-compliant Systems

There are several OAI-based service providers who harvest metadata from registered OAI-compliant systems and build a central index of that metadata. This central index serves as a discovery tool for end-users, who need not be aware of the existence of distributed repositories or information systems. Arc (http://dlib.cs.odu.edu/#arc) and OAIster (http://oaister.umdl.umich.edu/o/oaister/) are two examples of such OAI-based service providers.

We have set up a demonstration harvesting service that harvests metadata from a few sample CDS/ISIS databases using the 'Arc' software. Our harvesting service can be accessed at:

<http://144.16.72.131:8080/cds/index.html>

The metadata from sample CDS/ISIS databases were harvested in real-time, using the software tool developed for that purpose.

Open Access in Library and Information Science: dLIST 2005 Survey, a Scholarly Communication Study

Contributed by:
Anita Coleman
Editor, dLIST

Asst. Professor, School of Information Resources & Library Science
University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona, USA
<asc@u.arizona.edu>

dLIST, Digital Library of Information Science and Technology, an Eprints open access archive, founded in 2002, is now three years old. It was founded with the ambitious goal of connecting research, education and practice communities in the real-world by serving as an open access archive for documents in related but disparate Information Studies disciplines, including Archival Science, Library and Information Science, Museum Informatics, and Information Systems. This summer dLIST celebrated its third birthday with the establishment of DL-Harvest, an open access aggregator and federated search engine for Library and Information Science (LIS). Another activity for the third year and one in which I invite your participation in the dLIST 2005 survey which is gathering data about self-archiving and scholarly communication behaviors in LIS. The need for such a study is urgent for two reasons, the changing environment, and questions about access as a fundamental value in LIS.

The digital repositories landscape is quite a different one today from when we started; in 2002, there was no open access archive just for LIS although many scholars who work on digital libraries, for example, were depositing in other subject archives such as ArXiV. Today there is another subject-repository, namely E-LIS (based in Italy), and several institutional ones, which either focus on LIS or include it among other disciplines (based in India, Australia, California). However, the growth of digital repositories through self-archiving, whether they are subject-based or institutional, in terms of documents and users continues to be slow. The dLIST experience is somewhat similar; as of 30 September 2005 there are slightly less than 500 documents and a little more than 700 registered users. In the three short years of existence, dLIST has also experimented with many solutions to improve scholar participation in dLIST. The solutions range from promotional, outreach to research and development work. These include: issuing word-of-mouth, direct and email invitations, presenting at conferences and workshops, offering copyright research and deposit services, encouraging repository governance through a global Advisory Board, enabling practitioner-education synergies through digital internships, pursuing strategic partnerships with professional associations, scholarly societies, and academic LIS units in the United States, examining and documenting self-archiving policies as expressed in the copyright transfer agreements of LIS journals, investigating the integration of unstructured and non-OAI-PMH compliant websites with Eprints, and establishing LIS-focused open access aggregation through DL-Harvest. RSS feeds, to get easy updates about new additions, have been enabled. Research support and Wiki software to facilitate individual and social/group scholarly behaviors including the active engagement of scholars in building the open and public domain � making the invisible college visible � have been in our plans for development since inception.

Most librarians, information professionals, library and information school faculty, researchers and others working with digital information, including computer scientists, will agree that access to information is a much touted value for libraries (and the Internet) and that the open access (OA) movement is a relatively new but highly relevant and related phenomenon. While many in the field have become active in the OA movement, the practice of open access by a majority of the field however remains open to numerous questions. Of these, the most important and overarching question is this: how does the field practice open access?

To find answers to the broad question, dLIST is currently conducting a study. The study seeks to understand the scholarly communication behaviors of educators, researchers and practitioners, especially their knowledge and practice of self-archiving, the barriers faced, along with the current use, potential use, non-use, and value of dLIST. The results of this study will be helpful not just for the future development of dLIST, but for the future development of all open access archives and aggregator services (whether open, closed, or mixed). *D-Lib Magazine* readers are invited to

contribute to the study by completing the dLIST 2005 survey, which is available online at <http://dlist.sir.arizona.edu/survey.html>. Thank you for your participation.

International Conference on Preservation of Digital Objects (iPRES)

Contributed by:
Dr. Heike Neuroth
Head Research & Development Department - DINI Secretary
Göttingen State and University Library (SUB)
Göttingen, Germany
<neuroth@sub.uni-goettingen.de>

More than 100 national and international participants joined the "International Conference on Preservation of Digital Objects (iPRES)" which took place in Göttingen from September 15-16 2005. It was part of a series of international conferences in the field of digital preservation. This series started with the "Chinese-European Workshop on Digital Preservation" in Beijing in July 2004 (http://rdd.sub.uni-goettingen.de/conferences/cn_eu_workshop04/).

iPRES aimed at enhancing the exchange of experiences and international cooperation in the field of digital preservation. The keynote speeches were given by Elisabeth Niggemann (Die Deutsche Bibliothek) and Stephen Abrams (Harvard University Library).

In addition to that, national and international experts gave presentations in the three main topics: "Preservation Policies", "Technical Workflow" and "Web Archiving". The two-day conference was concluded by special presentations on current developments within the field of long-term preservation, e.g., PREMIS (Preservation Metadata: Implementation Strategies) and METS (Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard).

Each presentation was videotaped. The video streams as well as the PDF files of the presentations can be found at: <http://rdd.sub.uni-goettingen.de/conferences/ipres/programme>.

In the News

Excerpts from Recent Press Releases and Announcements

New report looks at suitability of Creative Commons for UK public sector

October 14, 2005 - "The Common Information Environment (CIE) today published the results of a study into the applicability of the international Creative Commons licenses to a range of UK public sector resources."

"The study, undertaken for the CIE by Intrallect and the AHRC Research Centre for Studies in Intellectual Property & Technology Law at the University of Edinburgh, was commissioned to investigate the potential for Creative Commons licenses to clarify and simplify the process of making digital resources available for re-use."

"The report is licensed with a Creative Commons Attribution licence to encourage dissemination and reuse of the findings, and is available for download, along with a comprehensive set of appendices. "

For more information, please see the full JISC press release at <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=newsandevents>.