



Sustaining Repositories

newsletter of the APSR Project

December 2005

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Open Repositories 2006

Registrations are now coming in for **Open Repositories 2006** from all over the world. Program details are available for the major events on the calendar. On February 2 the Forum on *The Well-Integrated Repository* will include overseas speakers Mackenzie Smith and Sandy Payette in addition to Neil McLean, Andrew Treloar, James Dalziel, John Townsend, Kerry Blinco, Kevin Bradley and Chris Blackall. Les Carr from EPrints will join other speakers for a discussion forum in the afternoon.

On the following day, the Symposium *Managing Openness in Digital Repositories* will investigate the new levels of openness encouraged by the possibilities of internet-based collaboration. Mackenzie Smith, Sandy Payette will Les Carr will speak respectively about DSpace, Fedora and EPrints in the open environment. Other speakers will include Brian Fitzgerald, Roger Clarke, Katie Blake, Jane Hunter, Eric Vullings, Renato Iannella and James Dalziel.

The funding of nineteen digital repositories in Japanese universities has led to an opportunity for eight delegates from Japan to attend Open Repositories 2006. The Japanese delegation will visit the Australian National University the following week to discuss local applications and developments.

All delegates are invited to attend dinner at the Waterfront Restaurant on Sydney Harbour on Tuesday, January 31st. Diners will enjoy good food and wine while looking out on the landmark Sydney Opera House, the famous bridge and imposing harbour and listening to music for didgeridoo and flute.

More details, including costs and registration forms, can be found at the [APSR website](#).

Hewlett Packard Scholarships for Open Repositories 2006 Awarded

APSR is delighted to congratulate the recipients of the two Hewlett Packard awards, Dr. M.G. Sreekumar and Ms Edna Nyika. Hewlett Packard generously offered to sponsor scholarships for two delegates from developing nations to attend Open Repositories 2006 and to give presentations on their activities. APSR has supplemented the scholarships to enable the winners to meet living and accommodation expenses while visiting Australia.

Dr. Sreekumar is presently the Librarian and Head of the Center for Development of Digital Libraries at the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIMK) (<http://www.iimk.ac.in>). He has successfully conducted nationwide training programs in the area of digital libraries and e-publishing and leads several national research projects in the area of science and technology. Dr. Sreekumar will be presenting current plans and progress in enabling more than forty top-level Indian research and academic institutions to install and manage interoperable institutional repositories using DSpace.

Ms Edna Nyika is the National Coordinator for Marine Information Management in Tanzania and Head of Information Services at the Institute of Marine Sciences of Dar es Salaam. She is currently involved in ODINPubAfrica, a repository for electronic documents produced by members of African institutes in the field of oceanography and marine science. Ms Nyika will be presenting the experiences of the Institute of Marine Sciences in establishing ODINPubAfrica repository (based on DSpace) which acts as an archive for 25 African countries.

Over thirty applications were received within the tight one-and-a-half week timeframe for applications from a wide geographic area, proving that repositories and open-access are alive and well on a global scale.

■ User Groups Meetings at Open Repositories 2006

Fedora and EPrints User Group Meetings have been added to the list of events associated with Open Repositories 2006. Both meetings will be held on Wednesday afternoon, February 1 at the University of Sydney.

The EPrints User Group Meeting will include presentations of local instances and adaptations of the EPrints platform from institutions around the region, presentations from Les Carr and Tim Miles Board on future plans and directions for the platform and the EPrints response to local needs, such as RQF and ADT.

The Fedora Meeting will share experiences, report progress and discuss possibilities for the Fedora platform and community of adopters. Groups from around the region will report on the progress of significant Fedora development projects, such as Fez, DART, and ARROW. Sandy Payette, of Cornell Computing and Information Science, will provide an update on the latest release of Fedora and talk about the development road map.

The program for the DSpace User Group meeting will occupy two days and includes keynote addresses from Mackenzie Smith and Rob Tansley. More details on the [APSR website](#).

■ The University of Melbourne joins APSR

The University of Melbourne has joined APSR and will be collaborating with other APSR partners on events and projects throughout 2006. They have already shown their commitment to APSR by hosting the Establishing a Digital Repository Service workshop in 2005. Throughout 2006 they will be part of a joint APSR/ APAC coordinated audit of the data management needs of Australian research groups. The University is a leader in many fields of data-intensive research and APSR is happy to formalise this collaborative relationship to enhance infrastructure support for these new and innovative research communities.

The University of Melbourne has appointed Anna Shadbolt as Project Manager to begin full time in January. Her first task will be to scope the project and to attend Open Repositories 2006.

■ Don your FEZ!



The University of Queensland is very pleased with the apparent success of their new open source, Fedora-based digital repository management and workflow system, Fez. Fez was released in November in beta mode. Since then, there has been considerable interest in the software from all over the world, with 79 downloads recorded in the first two weeks from the project page on sourceforge (<http://sourceforge.net/projects/fez/>). In addition, around 75 copies of the software were distributed on CD to people attending the New Zealand Institutional

Repositories Workshop in Wellington on 23 November.

Fez can be used to build and manage any kind of digital repository - from publications archives to image repositories. It can also be used to manage mixed-use business or institutional repositories which contain a variety of digital objects such as datasets, documents, spreadsheets, institutional records, archives and multimedia.

Fez can also be used for the management of learning objects, or simply as a metadata gateway to distributed content. The software can handle multiple metadata schema.

■ APAC – APSR Research Data Collections Workshop



One of the salient features of the contemporary research world is the amount of data being created by researchers—so much data in fact that new methods of mastering the ‘data deluge’ are urgently required. The current state-of-the-art in managing research data collections was on display at the Shine Dome in Canberra on October 18 and 19 (2005) when about forty researchers from across Australia gathered for a Research Data Collections Workshop sponsored by APSR and the Australian Partnership for Advanced Computing (APAC). The Workshop was designed for academic and research organisations involved with the development and use of large-scale research-oriented datasets. As part of the Workshop,

twenty leading e-research practitioners and infrastructure experts from across Australia gave formal presentations in which they shared their knowledge and experiences with the audience. Questions from the floor, and discussions during breaks, indicated that participants shared a number of common problems related to managing research data collections. These ranged from building and maintaining the networks and computational infrastructures for processing research data collections, through to less tangible issues, such as organising and describing datasets so that they can be easily discovered, annotated and archived for long term access. Given the diversity of research projects presented at the Workshop, and the unique nature of their data needs, it became obvious to participants that more discussion and information sharing was required on the topic. Responding to this need, APAC and APSR will organise national workshops and conferences on research data collections in 2006.

The APAC website contains the Powerpoint presentations for the Workshop:
http://www.apac.edu.au/communication_media/RDC_workshop/index.html.



Paul Martin, of the Security Industries Research Centre of Asia Pacific (SIRCA) and Marianne Hibert, Australian Cancer Grid, were photographed by Chris Blackall who also wrote the article above.

■ APSR Plans for 2006



All the APSR partners met at the Fisher Library, University of Sydney on November 16 to exchange information about projects both underway and completed and to make plans for the year ahead. For the first time, the University of Melbourne was represented, by Angela Bridgland. Others attending the morning session and joining the APSR team for lunch included Dr Peter Sefton from RUBRIC, Dr Andrew Treloar from ARROW and Ann Flynn and Richard Buggy from the University of Technology, Sydney.

The morning sessions included demonstrations of the new Fez software recently released by the University of Queensland, a report of the Preservation Metadata and Testbed Risk Analysis Survey of the National Library of Australia, a progress report on the

Sustainability of Word Processed Documents Project at the Australian National University and a report on ISpheres and DSpace at the University of Sydney.

APSR developments and projects for 2006 include a significant program of events and training, the continuation of existing test bed projects and a number of new projects. These include Sustainable Models for Data Sets, Cost Models and Business Models for Digital Repositories, Good Practice for Byte Stream Storage and Risk Assessment Models for Digital Repositories.

News from the partners

Demetrius at the Australian National University

The ANU DSpace Testbed Project has undertaken various activities in the past few months. In particular, Scott Yeadon has worked very hard in preparation for the open repositories conference early next year, while carrying out his usual duties as a DSpace committer.

Scott and Peter Raftos also presented at the New Zealand Institutional Repositories Workshop in late November and were guests at the University of Auckland to talk about all aspects of running a DSpace-based repository.

Dr Ian Barnes has been on secondment from the College of Engineering and Computer Science of The Australian National University, to develop techniques for conversion of word-processing formats (particularly Word and LaTeX) to XML-based archival forms. Work here is progressing well and Dr Barnes will have achieved his milestones by February. *Contact Peter Raftos: Peter.Raftos@anu.edu.au*

University of Queensland

Andrew Bennett and Christiaan Kortekaas attended the New Zealand Institutional Repositories Workshop in late November on behalf of the University of Queensland and APSR and their sessions were well-attended. All the

presentations from the Workshop can be found at <http://wiki.tertiary.govt.nz/~InstitutionalRepositories/Main/IRWorkshopDelegatePack>

Andrew Bennett attended Australian Repositories Online in Melbourne on 28 November, and presented a well-received talk on *How to Fill a Repository*, as well as talking to people there about APSR and Fez.

The Fez users group has seen several queries posted by people installing it, all of which have been quickly resolved. New releases (to add features or fix bugs) have been made since the launch, with Fez 1.1 now the version online. Development and release news is constantly updated on sourceforge. The software was recently featured in Internet Resources Newsletter, (published monthly by Heriot-Watt University in Scotland), which goes out to thousands of people in academia worldwide. This listing should have sparked some interest among repository users and developers in the UK.

Fez is being locally tested for the launch in 2006 of UQ eSpace, the new institutional repository for The University of Queensland. eSpace will contain primary research data such as research datasets, video, sound, and image collections, and software as well as secondary materials such as published articles and conference papers. The repository will also store some documents and archival materials from UQ organisational units. Existing collections such as ePrintsUQ (running on Southampton University's eprints.org software) are being migrated to UQ eSpace. APSR project staff plan to document the migration process and make this available for anyone wanting to migrate eprints.org records to a Fez repository.

Preliminary talks have been held with UQ academics participating in the APSR data project. UQ's projects comprise an Australian theatre performance dataset, and aerial survey data of Australian kangaroo populations. Both datasets will be migrated from proprietary formats into open formats suitable for searching online.

UQ APSR project staff welcomed Peter Sefton and Cameron Lowden from USQ and Ian Barnes from ANU on December 6 to discuss sustainable formats for documents archiving. Peter and Cameron are part of the RUBRIC (Regional Universities Building Research Infrastructure Collaboratively) project and Ian is working with APSR. Peter and Ian presented their work to APSR staff as well as to a representative from UQ's records administration and to Liz Jordan, Manager, Library Quality Services.

Contact: [Belinda Weaver, b.weaver@library.uq.edu.au](mailto:Belinda.Weaver@library.uq.edu.au)

■ Meet Peter Raftos



Peter Raftos is the Program Leader for the group responsible for initiating and developing an Institutional Repository (IR) at The Australian National University. The institutional repository, known as Demetrius, is based on the DSpace open source repository software. The repository group is also responsible for tinkering with DSpace, being the APSR ANU testbed.

As Program Leader, Peter's main role is to ensure that the objectives of the group are met (these are a bit wider than just Demetrius), while also spending time liaising with other groups on campus: depositors, potential depositors, other repositories and the administrative machine. He also manages the budget.

Peter's path to power and prestige was one of many twists and turns: as a starving PhD student in anthropology at the ANU, he was employed by the head of department to design a web site (this was back in the dark ages of the web, about 1996). Something clicked and, unable to get enough of this newfangled thing, he continued to design web sites in his spare time. Eventually he grew up and learned XML, became skilled in XSLT and was hired to work on repositories by the ANU. In his spare time, Peter rides his motor bike and writes novels. His first novel, *The Stone Ship*, was published by Pandanus Press in 2005.

■ Around the traps ... *Send your suggestions to* Margaret.Henty@apsr.edu.au

Conferences and events

Forthcoming

2006 January 31 – February 3 Open Repositories 2006. Including the DSpace User Group Meeting for 2006 and User Group Meetings for Fedora and EPrints. University of Sydney.

http://www.apsr.edu.au/Open_Repositories_2006/

2006 January 22–25 HarvestRoad eLearning 2006 Conference Digital Object Repositories in Learning and Training Emergence to Deployment Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre.
<http://www.harvestroad.com/conference06/index.cfm>

2006 February 8-10 Connecting with Users, VALA's 13th Biennial Conference and Exhibition. Melbourne.
<http://www.vala.org.au/conf2006.htm>

2006 June 7-10 ETD 2006: Unlocking Scholarly Access: ETDs, Institutional Repositories and Creators. 9th International Symposium on Electronic Theses and Dissertations. Université Laval, Quebec City, Canada <http://www.bibl.ulaval.ca/etd2006>

Publications

Kevin Bradley and Margaret Henty. *Survey of Data Collections: a research project undertaken for the Australian Partnership for Sustainable Repositories*. APSR. December 2005. [Forthcoming at <http://www.apsr.edu.au/publications/WPapers.htm>]

We recommend

Research Libraries Group. *An Audit Checklist for the Certification of Trusted Digital Repositories*. Mountain View, CA, August 2005. Draft for comment. http://www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page_ID=20769

Next issue?

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http://mailman.anu.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/apsr_announcements

Contributors to this newsletter were Adrian Burton, Chris Blackall, Margaret Henty, Peter Raftos and Belinda Weaver.

The APSR partners



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