Sustaining Repositories
newsletter of the APSR Project
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www.apsr.edu.au

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Open Repositories 2006

APSR is pleased to announce **Open Repositories 2006**, a series of linked events with a wide range of opportunities to explore further all the issues associated with digital repositories. The venue will be the Veterinary Science Conference Centre at the University of Sydney.

Open Repositories 2006 will commence with the DSpace User Group Meeting on January 31 and February 1. A dinner will be held on the first night at the Waterfront Restaurant, across the water from the Opera House and with a grand view of Sydney Harbour.

Open Repositories 2006 will continue on February 2 with a Forum: The Well Integrated Repository and conclude on February 3 with a Workshop: Managing Openness in Digital Repositories.

Guest speakers will include Sandy Payette of Cornell Computing and Information Science, Mackenzie Smith of MIT Libraries Digital Library Research Group, Robert Tansley of HP Labs, John Townsend of HarvestRoad and other international experts in digital repository architecture and broader e-research frameworks. Open Repositories 2006 is an interlinked set of events collaboratively convened by APSR with the ARROW project, MAMS, Macquarie University and the University of Technology Sydney.

More details, including costs and registration forms, can be found at the APSR website.

DSpace User Group Meeting

Expressions of interest have already been called in presenting at the 2006 DSpace User Group Meeting. These are due by October 31, 2005. For further information, visit the website or contact the program committee at dspace2006@apsr.edu.au. The theme of this user group is "Building Communities with DSpace". Particular emphasis will be placed upon the integration of the DSpace digital repository software within the dynamics of particular institutions, disciplines and research communities.

APSR in the News

APSR was delighted to see itself starring in the August 2006 issue of *RLG DigiNews*. In a new feature article for this issue, ten digital research and development projects worldwide were nominated as "promising digital preservation initiatives." Number 6 on the list was the Systemic Infrastructure Initiative of the Australian Department of Education, Science and Training, with APSR highlighted as one of its funded projects. Other projects nominated by RLG included the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP) of the Library of Congress, the Supporting Digital Preservation and Asset Management in Institutions program of the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) and the Metadata Research Center of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

▌Workshop series: Establishing a Digital Repository Service

APSR held six workshops between August and October 2005 on establishing a digital repository service, one each in Canberra, Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne and two in Adelaide. Each workshop was followed by a technical tutorial. Over 220 people attended the workshops and 35 the technical tutorials.

The agenda for each workshop was based on five basic modules which were varied from location to location incorporating local content and emphasis. The speakers also varied, while following the basic format. The morning workshops were made up of five modules: Digital Repository Agendas,   Digital Repositories - The Basics, Sustainability and Preservation, Repository Frameworks, Specifications and Standards and Planning and Managing a Repository Service. Speakers included Kevin Bradley, Adrian Burton, Ross Coleman, Margaret Henty, Peter Raftos and Belinda Weaver. Scott Yeadon conducted the technical tutorials.

Rosalind Goodwin and Jennifer Power from the Australian Federal Police attending the Establishing a Digital Repository Service Workshop at the Australian National University on August 3.

The workshops generated much discussion and feedback, indicative of the wide-ranging interest among all kinds of institutions in the development of digital repositories. Attendees came from all the universities in the cities visited, the Australian Federal Police, the National Gallery of Australia, State Libraries, ProQuest, DSTO, Education Australia, GeoSciences Australia, Australian Archives and other agencies.

In Adelaide, there was a workshop conducted in-house for the State Library of South Australia.

Vijeeth Shakespeare from the Australian Defence Force Academy and Lal Kuruppu from Parliament House attending the Establishing a Digital Repository Service Workshop at the Australian National University on August 3.

The technical workshops were based on the DSpace-in-a-box software package and were held in Canberra, Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Adelaide. The two-and-a-half hour workshop involved participants installing DSpace on their laptops, using DSpace-in-a-box and walking through the main features of DSpace.

▌ Flinders University Academic Commons

Ross Coleman from the University of Sydney Library and Margaret Henty, National Services Program Coordinator for APSR, both took part in a meeting on 7 October at Flinders University designed to publicise the proposed Flinders Academic Commons. The one-day meeting was convened by the Head of the Flinders School of the Humanities, Professor Richard Maltby and Ian McBain, Associate Librarian, Reader Services. The opening speaker was Professor Chris Marlin, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research), who spoke of the particular needs of the humanities and the extent to which they have been neglected by practitioners from fields which have traditionally dominated the use of information and communications technology. He coined a new term, ePrejudice, to describe this neglect, while encouraging those in the Humanities to grasp the opportunities offered by the digital environment and to adapt it to their own particular needs.

▌ Reagan Moore and Data Storage

Over thirty people attended a public lecture on 29 September on data intensive research given by the internationally recognised data expert, Dr Reagan Moore, Associate Director for Data Intensive Computing at the San Diego Supercomputer Center.

On the following day he entertained and challenged a smaller group at a daylong workshop designed for practitioners in the field. Those present included staff of the Australian National University, the Australian Virtual Observatory, Monash University and other government instrumentalities with large data storage needs.

At the workshop, Dr. Moore gave a detailed overview of data storage and middleware developments in the advanced computing domain. In particular, he demonstrated the Storage Resource Broker (SRB) software developed by his team at the San Diego Supercomputer Center. SRB is a client-server middleware that provides a uniform interface for connecting to heterogeneous data resources over a network and accessing replicated data sets. The highlight of the workshop was the practical demonstration of SRB to provide researchers, located at different places around the world, with seamless access to 'virtual' data sets and resources based on their attributes and/or logical names rather than their names or physical locations.

▌ News from the partners

Demetrius at the Australian National University

DSpace Statistics

The initial version of the DSpace statistics add-on and Cocoon graphical reports extension have been made available for download at http://sts.anu.edu.au/drs/downloads/index.php.

DSpace releases

Over the past two of months ANU has co-ordinated the released of DSpace 1.3 and 1.3.2 and has recently committed a number of patches for the upcoming 1.4 release.

DSpace and the Visual Understanding Environment

Work has started on developing a compound object manager based on Tufts University's VUE software. VUE provides a graphical interface for connecting to various data sources (such as DSpace, Fedora, Google search results, local desktop) and establishing relationships between objects. This is intended as a demonstrator project to show the potential of a tool allowing selection and association of repository (and other) objects and being able to subsequently pass the results onto learning management, publishing and follow-on systems.

Contact: Scott Yeadon, scott.yeadon@anu.edu.au

▌ University of Queensland

For the last few months, APSR work at UQ has been mainly concentrated on the development of the FEZ digital repository software (formerly called eSpace). This flexible digital repository and workflow management system will be released under open source license by the end of 2005. The project already has an online home on sourceforge where the software will be made available once it is ready for its first release. The digital repository software is PHP- and MySQL-based and works as a front-end and administration tool for Fedora. The software will be able to handle multiple metadata schema, i.e. Dublin Core, EAD and so on.

The digital repository set up and authentication system are completed. The workflow system is currently being written. Workflow will allow repository managers to configure all the different stages through which a person or object moves in the carrying out of common tasks. For users, this might be to register or to upload materials, or to comment on, or annotate, existing objects within the system. Objects in their turn can be ingested, viewed, updated, archived and so on. Simple and advanced search are completed, with further 'Google-isation' planned. Browse views by author, year, controlled vocabularies and recently added items are available. JHOVE is being used for automatic preservation metadata extraction. Simple statistics are available for the top 50 authors, top 50 papers and for each individual item.

The digital repository can handle different content models which can be customised through the web-based administration interface. A conference paper, for instance, could have multiple data streams - one for the actual document, e.g. the PDF of the paper, one for the Dublin Core data, one for preservation metadata, one for provenance, one with conference-specific data such as location, date and so on. New content models can be added at any stage. Each object within the repository will have layers of associated metadata - structural, rights, preservation and so on.

The system is designed to be open access, with records harvestable under OAI-PMH. Some records can be of restricted access if so desired, for example, embargoed archival material. The system is also designed to handle a number of different roles - creator, editor, viewer, approver, commenter, comment-viewer, annotator and so on. The permissions and authentication assigned to each role will be governed by rules set up in the FEZ-ACML. Authentication can be by groups such as LDAP/Active Directory, the III Innopac library system, or FEZ internal groups, as well as by any other groups defined in the system. Further information on FEZ development is at eScholarshipUQ.

Other activities

Staff from UQ have been invited to the one-day symposium on Institutional Research Repositories, hosted by the National Library of New Zealand, to be held on Wednesday 23 November 2005 in Wellington. Andrew Bennett, APSR Steering Committee member and Christiaan Kortekaas, lead programmer for the APSR project at UQ, will be attending. Andrew will speak about UQ's experiences in setting up an institutional repository and Christiaan will present the FEZ software. A laptop with a demonstration version will be available for interested attendees to play with, and Andrew and Christiaan hope to distribute copies of FEZ there.

Belinda Weaver assisted Kevin Bradley with the set up of interviews with UQ academics who have large datasets as part of Kevin's work for APSR. An astrophysicist, an archaeologist and a geoscientist all spoke to Kevin on 19 September about their datasets, and Belinda interviewed another academic the previous week who is working to digitise large marine biology and archaeology datasets using technologies such as high performance computing and Storage Resource Broker.

Belinda Weaver and Andrew Bennett attended the DEST-sponsored eResearch forum in July.

On 13 September, Belinda presented a session on ePrints and the APSR project to librarians from the visiting SCONUL group from the UK.

Contact: Belinda Weaver, b.weaver@library.uq.edu.au

▌Meet Ross Coleman

Ross is the Manager of Innovation and Development at the University of Sydney Library where he previously held the position of Collections Coordinator. He has extensive experience in the creation and management of digital library collections since initiating and managing the Australian Cooperative Digitisation Project 1840-45, the first major collaborative digitisation project funded by the Australian Research Council in 1996. Ross has led the development of, and now manages, SETIS, the Scholarly Electronic Text and Image Service, the leading electronic text service in Australia which has created and hosts many primary source collections in Australian Studies. He was instrumental in re-establishing Sydney University Press as an electronic / print publisher, and most recently established Sydney eScholarship, a service which will provide digital repository services to the University primarily through a DSpace platform. His broader involvement in things digital include being a founding committee member of the Australian e-Humanities Network, and membership of the Management Board of AustLit, and the Management Board of the recently funded (online) Dictionary of Sydney

Ross's involvement in APSR includes coordination of the University of Sydney testbed, SORRT (Sustainable Object Repositories for Research and Teaching) addressing sustainability issues around distributed discipline-based data repositories, and participation in many of the APSR outreach programs

Contact Ross Coleman, r.coleman@library.usyd.edu.au

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

Conferences and events

Forthcoming
2006 January 31 – February 3 *Open Repositories Forum.* Including the DSpace User Group Meeting for 2006. 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

2005 November 2-5 *Digits Fugit! Preserving Knowledge Into the Future.* Boston, MA MCN's 33rd Annual Conference Museum Computer Network.
http://www.mcn.edu/Mcn2005/mcn2005index.htm

2005 November 4-5 *Preserving the Digital Heritage: Principles and Policies.* The Hague. The Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO and the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, National Library of the Netherlands.
http://www.unesco.nl/main_6-3.php

Publications

See the APSR website for publications and testbed reports.

Next issue?

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