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Open Repositories 2006

"It was a very useful forum, especially in bringing key initiatives together in one place. The quality of speakers was excellent and the structure of the conference - specific user group meetings followed up by the wider view of repositories - worked out well."

"Excellent gathering of minds and laying out the state of the repository space."

"The DSpace user group meeting highlighted some longer term needs and issues for archiving in an Australian Academic Context. We need to engage in a dialogue across the sector to address the sustainability of the movement towards a viable and complete eresearch framework."

These are just some of the very positive comments received about Open Repositories 2006 held at the Veterinary Science Conference Centre at the University of Sydney between January 31 and February 3. Over 150 people registered to hear a wide range of speakers including overseas guests MacKenzie Smith from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Libraries, Sandy Payette of Cornell University, Rob Tansley from the Hewlett-Packard Laboratories and Les Carr from the University of Southampton.



Days 1 and 2 of *Open Repositories* were taken up with three user group meetings, for DSpace, Fedora and EPrints, which generated some lively discussion about the virtues of each on subsequent days. Day 3, the Well-Integrated Repository, allowed examination of the integration of the repository with e-research, scholarly communication, grid functionality and data preservation as well as looking at service models, service oriented architecture, the limits of the repository and data exchange. Day 4, devoted to issues of Openness, examined open source, open access, copyright and the creative commons, access

management and licence management.

The DSpace dinner at the WaterFront Restaurant proved a delightful way for everyone to get to know each other better while enjoying excellent food and a stunning outlook. Overseas visitors in particular were pleased to experience Sydney Harbour and to listen to the talents of Nature Nature, a small combo of flute, didge and percussion.



Presentations and photographs from Open Repositories 2006 are available from www.apsr.edu.au.

Photographs: (right) Alex Byrne, Acting Pro-Vice Chancellor (Teaching and Learning), University of Technology Sydney and MacKenzie Smith, MIT Libraries; (left) Ross Coleman, University of Sydney with Sandy Payette, Cornell University.

Whither DSpace?

Where are we going, and how so we propose to get there? The future of DSpace was a strong theme throughout the DSpace user group sessions and later at Open Repositories 2006. A strong user community has built up

around the software, and that community is made up of many different types of organisations, with different needs, expectations and resources.

Whether DSpace can - or should - develop to meet some, none or all of these different needs and expectations, given the available resources, is not an easy question to answer, and it implies the need for governance. A governing body would be able to set strategic directions and priorities.

What is an appropriate model for the DSpace community? Should every DSpace user be eligible to participate? Or would it be more appropriate to charge an annual subscription, perhaps on a sliding scale? This would enable the hiring of staff, either programmers or ambassadors.

To this end, the DSpace Federation Governance Advisory Board was formed in December, 2005, to develop a governance structure. The Board includes leading experts in the field, such as Clifford Lynch from CNI, and Chris Rusbridge from the Digital Curation Centre. It is comprised of a dozen representatives, not only from higher-education but also from the corporate sector. Adrian Burton, the APSR Project Leader, has been invited to be on the Board, as Australia's sole representative, and will be attending the first meeting at MIT at the end of March. (Peter Raftos)

■ APSR joins the Blogosphere

This month will see APSR introducing a new feature to its website in the form of a blog. The blog is designed to facilitate communication between the APSR partners about developments in their test bed sites, to encourage the dissemination of news about repositories and related developments in general and to announce APSR news and events. You can read it at www.apsr.edu.au/blog and register there to be able to take part in the discussions. All your contributions will be very welcome.

■ Sustainable Paths for Data Intensive Research

This is the title of a newly-begun study to be undertaken by APSR over the next six months. APSR will coordinate a broad survey of sustainability in research communities whose work is data-intensive and who have an identified need to store and share that data.

Paul McNamara has been appointed to coordinate the project for APSR. Paul has long experience in working with the science community through his substantive position, that of Manager of the Hancock Precinct of the Australian National University Library which includes all of the science libraries.

The project will run in tandem with a related APAC initiative to document infrastructure needs for eResearch in Australia. Markus Buchhorn (APAC EResearch pundit) will therefore be providing the overall vision for the project.

Paul met with Anna Shadbolt (more on Anna's role later) from the University of Melbourne and Markus from APAC on Thursday, February 23, to discuss a project strategy (see photograph below). Adrian Burton and Margaret Henty from APSR also attended the meeting.



This is a project to identify resources relevant to the day-to-day work of these data-intensive research communities. There will be a particular focus on APAC resources (though not exclusively). Paul will work with specialists from APAC and the National Library of Australia to document (and improve if necessary) eResearch capabilities and research infrastructure. The project will centre on a broad survey and analysis of eResearch capacity and needs, but the project will also aim to be a part of the solution by offering specific consultancy advice, identifying various sources of support and beginning working relationships that will extend well beyond the scope of this project.

This project should develop a base framework for analysing a research community's systems and procedures for data management and archiving. The analysis framework will be informed by international benchmarks, such as the OAIS Reference Model, the NISO Framework for Building Good Digital Collections and the National Science Foundation report on long-lived data collections.

■ Establishing a Digital Repository Service Workshops

APSR will be continuing its successful series of workshops and technical tutorials on the subject of Establishing a Digital Repository Service in early 2006. Nearly 50 people attended a recent workshop in Perth, held at the University of Western Australia. The speakers were Toby Burrows who provided the local context, Kevin Bradley from the National Library of Australia and Peter Raftos from the Australian National University.

Two further workshops are planned: in Darwin on April 11 at Charles Darwin University and in Hobart on May 4 at the University of Tasmania. For further information see <http://www.apsr.edu.au/news/index.html>

News from the partners

Demetrius at the Australian National University

A presentation by Scott Phillips (Texas A&M University Libraries) at the DSpace User Group Meeting in Sydney introduced Manakin, a Cocoon-based XML User Interface (UI) Framework which operates at a functional layer above the DSpace repository. Using Manakin, DSpace community and collection owners (and/or repository managers) can apply their own look and feel to their materials far beyond the superficial changes allowed by the current DSpace distribution. Scott Yeadon has joined the Manakin Working Group to assist in completing review and testing work. It is envisaged that Manakin will form part of the DSpace core distribution in a later version. Further information on Manakin (including a demonstration site) can be found on the DSpace Wiki at <http://wiki.dspace.org/Manakin>. Contact Scott Yeadon: Scott.Yeadon@anu.edu.au

The University of Queensland

In 2006, eScholarship UQ staff have been further testing our Fez software, released last year. The software has been revised in minor ways (mainly to fix bugs) since its initial release, and a major new release (Fez 1.2) is due. Details of this release can be found at the software download site at <http://sourceforge.net/projects/fez/>. An international users' group has formed around the software and there has been quite a lot of activity and feedback within the group.

Christiaan Kortekaas and Andrew Bennett attended the Open Repositories forum in Sydney, at which there was a Fedora users' group to discuss ARROW, Fez and what is happening with Fedora. Christiaan also recently attended a 2-day workshop on Shibboleth integration at Macquarie University.

We are now using the Fez-based UQ eSpace repository (<http://espace.library.uq.edu.au/>) to manage a local research quality assessment exercise. While the RQF will not start until 2007, UQ is having a trial run to troubleshoot the delivery mechanism and submission and dissemination procedures. Materials included in the assessment comprise journal articles, book chapters, books, conference papers and patents. Much of the material to be assessed is already online, so much of the metadata to be entered includes a DOI pointing directly to the object. Where DOIs are not available, material is being locally added to the UQ eSpace repository for assessors to download and read. The material is restricted to assessors for viewing purposes, so will not appear in the public UQ eSpace view. As yet, the repository software does not allow the addition of assessors' comments to repository objects, but the comment/annotation feature will be added to Fez before the end of 2006, making Fez a useful tool for delivery of RQF materials to international panels of assessors. We aim to document the process fully for other institutions that might want to make use of Fez to manage the RQF. Further information can be gained from eScholarshipUQ staff.

We are also beginning to plan and document the migration of ePrintsUQ and ADT data into UQ eSpace. We are also planning to ingest three separate image collections sourced from the Library's Fryer collection. Part of the Fez development includes the creation of service providers to search engines and to Picture Australia, and the ingest of the aforementioned collections will allow us to test how those providers are working. Material may also be locally added to the UQ eSpace repository.

APSR will also participate in the UK JISC project on Interoperable Repository Statistics (IRS) (<http://irs.eprints.org/>) with UQ's Andrew Bennett as the APSR representative. This project will investigate and develop a joint approach to OAI statistics gathering and sharing. ePrintsUQ programmers developed a statistics package to count downloads of ePrintsUQ files and this has proved very popular. Contact: [Belinda Weaver, b.weaver@library.uq.edu.au](mailto:Belinda.Weaver@library.uq.edu.au)

The University of Melbourne

University of Melbourne activity is under way.

The University of Melbourne component of the joint APSR/APAC audit associated with Sustainable Paths for Data Intensive Research has commenced. A number of research projects have been identified and the discovery phase has begun in earnest. A meeting in Canberra with the project team will assist with the refinement of project timelines and deliverables.

Five University of Melbourne staff attended Open Repositories 2006 in Sydney in January. This provided an excellent opportunity to again meet with APSR partners and consolidate our collaboration.

Contact Anna Shadbolt: annams@umelb.edu.au.

Meet Anna Shadbolt

Anna Shadbolt is managing the University of Melbourne component of the "Sustainable Paths for Data-Intensive Research Communities" project. As project manager, Anna's role is to coordinate an audit of data management issues across a diverse selection of data-intensive research communities at the University of Melbourne.

Anna's path to sustainable digital repositories reflects the multidisciplinary nature of this area of information and data management. As a community psychologist her career has been varied. She has managed a number of programs across diverse sectors including the evaluation of a National online learning management system for GPs and the implementation of plagiarism detection software at the University of Melbourne. Anna has worked as a researcher and an academic in Australia and abroad.



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

Conferences and events

2006 April 11 (Darwin) and May 4 (Hobart) Establishing a Digital Repository Service Workshop. Contact Ruth Quinn (ruth.quinn@cdu.edu.au) in Darwin or Di Worth (Di.Worth@utas.edu.au) in Hobart. <http://www.apsr.edu.au/news/index.html>

2006 September (to be confirmed) PREMIS Workshop. National Library of Australia, Canberra.

2006 April 20 - 21 Innovate and Motivate: Next Generation Libraries: The ACRL/CNI/EDUCAUSE Virtual Conference: first Virtual Conference offered jointly by ACRL, the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI) and EDUCAUSE. <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrl/events/virtualconference.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>

2006 June 28-30, Second International Conference on eSocial Science Manchester, UK <http://www.ncess.ac.uk/events/conference/>

2006 July 12-14 ARL/ACRL Institute on Scholarly Communication, hosted by UCLA, sponsored by The Association for Research Libraries and Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). **Los Angeles, CA** <http://www.arl.org/training/institutes/arl-acrl06.html>

Publications

Kevin Bradley and Margaret Henty. *Survey of Data Collections: a research project undertaken for the Australian Partnership for Sustainable Repositories.* APSR. December 2005.

<http://www.apsr.edu.au/publications/WPapers.htm>

Next issue?

Be the first to know ... join the APSR Announcements email service at:

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

Contributors to this newsletter were Adrian Burton, Margaret Henty, Peter Raftos, Anna Shadbolt, Belinda Weaver and Scott Yeadon.

The APSR partners



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