



Sustaining Repositories

newsletter of the APSR Project

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■ **APSR lends a hand**

APSR has expanded its outreach to offer technical assistance for people developing repositories based on DSpace or Fedora/Fez. There are communities in Australia developing around both of these open source repository softwares, offering mutual support on both technical and management issues.

Support for DSpace and Fez users

APSR has already sponsored two workshops as part of its extended outreach service. Representatives from six institutions attended the one day training seminar held at Adelaide University on 21 September. The day was organised by Amanda Nixon from Flinders University and technical advice was provided by Scott Yeadon, a code committer for DSpace – one of only seven people internationally.

Attendees, including people from Flinders University, the University of Adelaide, Education AU, the South Australian Partnership for Advanced Computing (SAPAC) and the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO), began the day looking at 'authorisation issues', including embargo periods on items and creating password protected areas. The program went on to 'user interface issues', such as custom submission forms and dealing with metadata field labels. The morning finished with a look at 'general issues', like import/export, bulk editing facilities, installing a statistics module and installing a thesis module.

The afternoon session ran an overview of installation and rebuilding, before discussing Ejournal plugins, ICE, the Digital Scholar's Workbench and what's new in the updated versions of DSpace.

Fez was developed at the University of Queensland and is a user interface software to accompany the Fedora platform. Later in October, Christiaan Kortekaas and Andrew Bennett are configuring a local Fez installation at Deakin University in Victoria. Deakin wants a tool to manage a repository of research papers and are testing Fez as a possible solution. Christiaan and Andrew will be setting up communities, collection and system security and will be working with Deakin staff to train them on the system. The State Library of Victoria is also sending representatives to watch and learn. The first day primarily has a technical focus on installation, configuration and bug-reporting of the software. The second day focuses on work flow, usability and getting content back out of the repository.

In short, if you wish to explore the DSpace or Fez further, APSR will offer your institution technical help through the installation, to familiarising staff with the programs. Please contact contact@apsr.edu.au for further information.

Choosing your software

The problem of choosing the best software for your institution's needs has been at least partly ameliorated by a new report entitled *Technical Evaluation of Selected Open Source Repository Solutions*, commissioned as part of

the Open Access Repositories in New Zealand (OARINZ) project. OARINZ is being undertaken by a collaboration of Tertiary Institutions lead by the Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology.

The report undertook a comprehensive analysis of three open source repositories; DSpace, Fedora and EPrints, after first looking at a field of six including ARNO, CDSware and i-TOR.

The report is positive about both DSpace and Fedora. As Fedora is foundation architecture that repositories can be built upon, the report used Fez (developed by UQ) as the User Interface for the evaluation. The Fez/Fedora repository software combination received a very positive write-up.

The report can be downloaded as a pdf file from: https://eduforge.org/docman/?group_id=131

■ Fez goes global

The University of Queensland is happy to report that another Fez installation has gone live in Norway. <http://utdanning.no/laering/> is a portal under the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research. You can see a screen capture of the site to the right.

Fez has been used to manage a repository of learning resources. The Norwegians have also contributed quite a lot of code to the Fez development project, including RSS, Learning Object Management export, Google-style spellchecker ('Did you mean ...?') and word search suggest.

Programmer Stian Berger called Fez an 'excellent product' and has recommended Fez/Fedora to a newspaper called Svalbardposten (<http://www.svalbardposten.no>), the world's northernmost newspaper, which is about to digitise its back issues.

There has been considerable international interest in Fez with other production installations, including eSpacio, (<http://e-spacio.uned.es/fez/index.php>) based at the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia in Spain. The University of Hull in the UK are also looking seriously at Fez.

Christiaan Kortekaas has completed the switchover from Dublin Core to MODS in Fez. This change will be reflected in the next release of Fez, 1.3, which is due in November. Now that MODS integration is done, the content of ePrintsUQ and the UQ ADT can be batch imported into the Fez-based UQ eSpace repository. Version 1.3 of Fez will also deliver faster performance and better integration of Shibboleth authorisation and authentication.

■ Podcasting service

The APSR Podcasting service is up and running! Designed to provide access to the wide range of APSR events, the service is for those who want to keep abreast with developments in repository and digital data management and who may not be able to attend workshops and events in person.

You can subscribe to a weekly podcasting service by going to <http://www.apsr.edu.au/pod/index.html> and following the instructions. APSR events will be podcast whenever possible, with individual presentations becoming available on a weekly basis.

Alternatively you can browse individual events and choose to manually download files as MP3s.

Presentations from the Successful Repository, held in Brisbane on June 29 are being made progressively available for download at <http://www.apsr.edu.au/pod/thesuccessfulrepository.html>. Subscriptions began on 2 October and will be released every Monday until 20 November 2006.



utdanning.no

Du er her: > [Utdanning.no](#) > [Læring](#) > Finn læremiddel

Finn læremiddel Anbefalinger Tips og hjelp Om digitale læremidler

Søk i over 5000 digitale læremidler:

Velg utdanningsnivå

- Barnetrinn (2392)
- Ungdomstrinn (3431)
- Videregående opplæring (3509)
- Bachelor (437)
- Master / PhD (432)
- Etter- og videreutdanning (3)
- Barnehage (1)

Velg fagområde

- Estetikk, formgivning og musikk (386)
- Helse, sosial og medisin (88)
- Historie og arkeologi (211)
- Idrett og friluftsliv (151)
- Landbruk og fiskeri (22)

Ukens læremiddel: Korrekturavdelinge

Lurer du på om aksent og apostrof er det samme? Eller hvordan "blant annet" forkortes? På Korrekturavdelingens nettsted får du hjelp til rettskriving og tegnsetting.

■ Long term repositories

For two days in beautiful Canberra spring weather, over 90 people gathered from all over Australia and New Zealand to discuss the long term sustainability of repositories from technical and management perspectives at *Long Term Repositories: Taking the shock out of the future*. The forum was presented by APSR and the National Library of Australia.

The participants experienced a high-tech solution to a perennial problem. Our keynote speaker Rebecca Gunther from the Library of Congress Network Development, was unable to travel at the last minute, so 'attended' virtually by telephone. Her talk was delivered live over the loudspeakers, while Deb Woodyard Robinson displayed the overheads at this end. This innovative and successful solution was only possible due to the superb sound technicians at the National Library. Well done!

The remainder of day one focused on a practical exploration of the issues associated with the implementation of a preservation metadata schema based on the PREMIS work, including practical aspects of preservation life-cycle management, repository functionality and architecture, tools and technologies to support data acquisition, automation and workflows.

Attendees were treated to a demonstration of a significant step forward in repository software interoperability (and therefore long-term sustainability). Scott Yeadon, of the ANU, demonstrated the automated export of an object stored in a DSpace installation to a Fez/Fedora instance. While this wasn't demonstrated on the day, Scott and Christiaan Kortekaas from UQ have also exported from Fez/Fedora to DSpace.

This import/export procedure makes use of standard XML wrappers called Submission (or Deposit) Information Packages: A SIP and a DIP are the same thing, depending on whether you are exporting or importing. This opens up the possibility of mass-migration of objects between repositories - or almost all content management or course management systems, regardless of operating systems or software.

Robin Dale of the Research Libraries Group, fresh from a plane that morning, treated everyone to a succinct and insightful summary of the day. Participants continued down in the foyer of the National Library for drinks and nibbles. The second day focused on the RLG-NARA Audit Checklist for Certifying Digital Repositories (http://www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page_ID=20769), which helps determine the criteria required to plan for and safely store and migrate digital materials. The forum introduced participants to the RLG NARA work and examined practical ways the checklist can be implemented.

The program, abstracts, overheads (as Powerpoint files or as pdfs) and photos from the event are all available from: <http://www.apsr.edu.au/longterm/index.htm>



Robin Dale, Research Libraries Group



Chris Blackall, APSR with Scott Yeadon, ANU and Leo Monus, ANU



Standing room only!



John Shipp, Sydney University with Robin Stanton, ANU



Pam Gatenby, NLA and Pat Scott, University of Adelaide



Andrew Bennett, UQ, with Ron Jantz, Fedora Preservation Working Group and Christiaan Kortekaas, UQ

■ Are you ready for the RQF?

What does your institution need to do to be ready to manage the Research Quality Framework? If you are in Canberra, one way to find out is by attending the *RQF Readiness* public lecture presented by Belinda Weaver on Wednesday, November 8 at 4.30pm.

Belinda is the Coordinator of ePrints and UQ eSpace at the University of Queensland, which has already done two RQF trials – the first in 2005 using Web pages to deliver research to assessors, and the second in 2006 delivering research via an institutional repository. Belinda will discuss workflows, issues, time and project management, query handling and communication. Earlier in 2006, Belinda was on the sub-group of the DEST RQF IT Working Party.

This talk has been arranged by the University & Research Libraries Section of the Australian Library & Information Association, and will be held in the McDonald Room, Menzies Library at the Australian National University.

■ Sustainability Issues for Australian Research Data

The findings of the Australian e-Research Sustainability (AERES) Project are now available.

The project was undertaken by Paul McNamara and Dr Markus Buchhorn of the Australian National University who had been asked to survey the sustainability issues for data-intensive research projects, including the capabilities and demands of research groups and institutions for the storage, access and long-term management of research data.

The survey showed that researchers have a strong awareness of the e-research agenda and issues, including the enduring value of research data. At the same time, individual researchers and research groups do not include data management when planning research projects. There is a concern that emphasising the data aspects of projects may lead to a reduction in the funds provided for 'real' research, and that requesting funds for data management will potentially jeopardise a grant application.

The authors found that the immediate and critical issue for the stewardship of research data in Australia is the lack of administrative responsibility for the task. The report includes some suggestions as to how this issue might be addressed, and these will be considered by the APSR Steering Committee as part of ongoing strategic planning.

The report, entitled *Sustainability Issues for Australian Research Data: The report of the Australian e-Research Sustainability Survey Project*, can be downloaded from: <http://www.apsr.edu.au/publications/WPapers.htm>

■ Managing field data



Linda Barwick collecting data in Arnhem Land

Many academic disciplines depend on analysis of primary data captured during fieldwork.

Increasingly, researchers today are using digital methods for the whole life cycle of their primary data, from capture to organisation, submission to a repository or archive, and later access and dissemination in publications, teaching resources and conference presentations.

The *Sustainable Data from Digital Fieldwork: from creation to archive and back* conference and workshop at the University of Sydney on December 4-6 (<http://conferences.arts.usyd.edu.au/index.php?cf=11>) will showcase a number of projects that have been developing innovative and sustainable ways of managing such data.

This event is an outcome of the FIDAS – Fieldwork Data Sustainability project:

<http://www.apsr.edu.au/currentprojects/index.htm>

■ Dealing with obsolescence

Is part of your job to know about file formats and to choose the right ones for preserving data for long-term access? Given the constantly expanding number of file formats in use, this is a demanding job.

APSR has developed a solution to help. AONS (Automated Obsolescence Notification System) is a software system that works in conjunction with the leading open-source repository platforms (DSpace and Fedora) to automatically notify repository managers about the file formats of digital resources in the repository and alerting them to problems that they may cause for long-term preservation. AONS will email the notification repository manager whenever problems are encountered.

AONS will be released into the public domain for use when the second phase of development in 2007 is completed. The system was taken through to its successful first phase of development largely thanks to the hard work and skills of the lead programmer, Joseph Curtis (now employed by the National Library of Australia).

The *AONS System Documentation* report provides technical information related to the AONS Project. The report is downloadable as a pdf file from: <http://www.apsr.edu.au/publications/WPapers.htm>

For the technically minded, a full description is available from APSR: contact@apsr.edu.au

■ Meet the new team members



Chris Blackall, Danny Kingsley, David Berriman

The APSR team has recently doubled in size. We introduced Danny Kingsley, Project Officer in the last newsletter.

Another recent addition to the staff is Chris Blackall, working as the Development Portfolio Coordinator. Chris brings to APSR a broad understanding of the technical, funding and policy environment of Australian higher education. At a practical level, he has recently been working on the ARC-funded Bidwen project designed to develop processes and tools to manage digital data in remote locations in Northern Australia.

David Berriman has recently joined APSR as a Web Applications Developer. David is contributing to several APSR software projects through his long experience in web application development.

■ Around the Traps.... Send your suggestions to contact@apsr.edu.au

Conferences and events

2006 November 21-22, Digital Data Curation in Practice. 2nd International Digital Curation Conference 2006, Glasgow. <http://www.dcc.ac.uk/events/dcc-2006/>

2006 November 27-30, 9th International Conference on Asian Digital Libraries, Kyoto, Japan. <http://www.icadl2006.org/>

2006 December 4-6, Sustainable Data from Digital Fieldwork: APSR-EthnoER Conference and Workshop, University of Sydney. <http://conferences.arts.usyd.edu.au/index.php?cf=11>

2006 December 5-8, International Conference on Digital Libraries (ICDL 2006) India Habitat Center, New Delhi, India. <http://www.teriin.org/events/icdl>

2007 February, Open Repositories 2007: The 2nd International Conference on Open Repositories San Antonio, Texas. <http://openrepositories.org>

Publications

■ Joseph Curtis, **AONS System Documentation: Revision 1692006-09-29**, APSR, Canberra, September 2006, The AONS System Documentation report provides technical information related to the AONS (Automated Obsolescence Notification System) Project.

The report is downloadable as a pdf file from: <http://www.apsr.edu.au/publications/WPapers.htm>

■ Markus Buchhorn and Paul McNamara, **Australian eResearch Sustainability Survey**, APSR, Canberra, September 2006

This is a report of the findings of a survey of researchers and university administrators looking at their attitudes towards, and actions in, digital data sustainability. The report details the infrastructure currently in place, describes some of the issues and makes suggestions for improving digital data sustainability in Australia.

The report can be downloaded from: <http://www.apsr.edu.au/publications/WPapers.htm>

■ Brian Fitzgerald et al, **OAK Law Report: Volume 1, Creating a legal framework for copyright management of open access within the Australian academic and research sector**, DEST, August 2006

This report is written to be accessible to any Australian citizen with an interest in access to knowledge. It provides a concise overview of the relevant law and maps out a clear action plan. Understanding the new ICT (information and communications technology) fuelled knowledge landscape and the fundamentals of copyright law is a major step towards appreciating the critical role copyright management now plays in the innovation system. The OAK Law Project is working towards facilitating optimal access to knowledge as a way of improving social, economic and cultural outcomes and will continue to pursue this goal through the next stage of the project.

This report is available at: http://www.oaklaw.qut.edu.au/files/LawReport/OAK_Law_Report_v1.pdf

■ Richard Wyles, et al, **Technical Evaluation of Selected Open Source Repository Solutions**, Open Access Repositories in New Zealand (OARINZ) project, Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology, v1.3, September 2006

This report covers subjects such as the ease of working on code base, the ease of deployment, work flow tools and community knowledge base are included. There are links throughout the reports to further information, including mailing lists for DSpace and Fedora's documentation.

The report is downloadable as a pdf from: https://eduforge.org/docman/?group_id=131

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 Danny Kingsley, Margaret Henty, Belinda Weaver, Chris Blackall and Peter Raftos.

The APSR partners



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