

# DRIVER - Digital Repository Infrastructure Vision for European Research

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## Abstract

The current system of academic publication developed as a means to disseminate the findings of research. However, this system can impede the very process it was set up to serve, with access to articles being limited by publishers to only those who can afford to subscribe. This poster will explain the vision behind DRIVER and will describe how the various aspects of the project tie in together to form the knowledge infrastructure of the European Research Area. The poster will focus on the key aspects of the DRIVER project and the questions and needs that each addresses. The key aspects which will be addressed include: DRIVER technical developments and advice, the DRIVER Support website [1], community development, up-to-date news, and the benefits for various stakeholders. DRIVER is an ambitious and important project that will yield valuable results for individual researchers, the publishing community, funding agencies and the European Research Community as a whole.

**Keywords:** open access; repositories; European Research

## 1 Introduction

Open access digital repositories provide a means whereby the traditional publishing model can co-exist with the needs of authors and their readers, as well as with the demands of research funders for research impact and hence, value for money. Subject to copyright, authors can deposit copies of their finished articles in open access repositories, in addition to publishing them in research journals.

The recent study of scientific publication markets in Europe funded by the European Commission [2] strongly recommends the development of a European policy mandating open access to EC-funded research. In addition, it recommends an exploration of interoperability issues and how open access repositories can be implemented Europe-wide.

DRIVER- Digital Repository Infrastructure Vision for European Research- is an EU-funded project with 10 international partners and reflects the growing awareness in Europe surrounding Open Access. DRIVER sets out to build a testbed for a future knowledge infrastructure of the European Research Area. It aims to deliver any form of scientific output, including scientific/technical reports, working papers, pre-prints, articles and original research data to the various user groups. The testbed is based on existing nationally organized digital repository infrastructures. Other work includes the support of new European repositories and an active advocacy and community building programme to address and support key stakeholder groups in Europe.

## 2 Objectives

The five objectives of DRIVER are:

1. To organise and build a virtual, European scale network of existing institutional repositories;
2. To assess and implement state-of-the-art technology, which manages the physically distributed repositories as one large scale virtual content resource;
3. To assess and implement a number of fundamental user services;
4. To identify, implement and promote a relevant set of standards;

5. To prepare the future expansion and upgrade of the DR infrastructure across Europe and to ensure widest possible involvement and exploitation by users.

### 3 Discussion

This poster will provide key information on the DRIVER project including the ten project partners and the DRIVER Support website and logo. The poster will identify the various aspects of the DRIVER project and the questions and needs that each addresses. The poster will address the following: DRIVER technical developments and advice, the DRIVER Support website, community development, Up-to-date news, and the benefits for various stakeholders.

DRIVER has conducted focused research studies including an inventory of the type and level of OAI compliant digital repository activities in the EU [3], to facilitate the iterative development of DRIVER and is developing the necessary infrastructure middleware and user guidelines to meet the DRIVER objectives. The project is now actively advocating repository development - creating an informed and active environment for repository infrastructure development in EU countries with focused activities, information and contextualized support.

### References

- [1] DRIVER (Digital Repository Infrastructure Vision for European Research), <http://www.driver-support.eu>
- [2] European Commission. Study on the economic and technical evolution of the scientific publication markets in Europe, Jan. 2006, [http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/pdf/scientific-publication-study\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/pdf/scientific-publication-study_en.pdf)
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