

Workshop 6: Integrating academic contents and electronic publishing tools

Introduction

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Abstract

The Internet has made it possible to provide free-of-charge online access to all the digital literature that scholars give to the world without expectation of payment, free of most copyright and licensing restrictions. This may include copies of peer-reviewed journal articles, preprints, reports, data sets and all materials useful for further research.

According to the Budapest Open Access Initiative, "by "open access" to this literature, we mean its free availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, [...] or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers"¹.

The costs of providing open access to this literature are far lower than the costs of traditional forms of dissemination², especially through self-archiving, the first recommended strategy for achieving open access.

The **Open Archives Initiative** is devoted to enhance access to self- archiving tools (e-prints open archives) as a means of increasing the availability of scholarly communication. Its main activity is to develop and promote interoperability standards that aim to facilitate the efficient dissemination of content³.

The most outstanding result by now is the OAI-PMH, the well-known protocol for metadata harvesting. Several software tools for open archives and other e-publishing initiatives have been created on its basis and are interoperable due to their OAI-PMH compliance.

The fundamental technological framework and standards are independent both from the type of content offered and from the economic mechanisms surrounding that content, and promise to have much broader relevance in opening up access to a range of digital materials⁴.

Nonetheless, most of these OAI-PMH-compliant tools are still not integrated in the provision of information that research organizations and universities make available to their users: students (under-graduated and graduated), researchers, faculties (who are both content producers and consumers). The protocol is simple enough as to encourage its use, but a better integration of open archives with the rest of information resources that are accessible within the same institution could enhance usage and visibility of these publishing tools.

This workshop aims presents significant experiences and ideas in the field of integration of information resources and creation of innovative services, using the OAI-PMH for interoperability and integration purposes.

¹ From the BOAI, <http://www.soros.org/openaccess/read.shtml>

² *ibid.*

³ From the OAI Mission Statement, <http://www.openarchives.org/organization/index.html>

⁴ *ibid.*

Short biography

Susanna Mornati holds a degree in Linguistics. At present she is Project Leader for AEPIC (Academic Electronic Publishing Infrastructures CILEA, www.aepic.it) and related services for universities, from consultancy and training to implementation of open archives for research and education, from e-publishing tools for journals and conference proceedings to portals and service providers for resource discovery and integration.

She is also coordinator of PLEIADI (www.openarchives.it/pleiadi), the portal for Italian institutional repositories, a joint CILEA-CASPUR inter-academic project. Before 2003 she was Vice Director of the Library System at the University of Insubria, Italy, for two years Associate at the CERN Scientific Information Service in Geneva, Switzerland, and for several years Director of the Physics Library at the University of Milan, Italy. Her main activities and interests concern project management, service automation, Open Access and electronic publishing.