Background to the research method used for the Stimulating the Population of Repositories research project

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Stimulating the Population of Repositories was a research project which was carried out as part of the European DRIVER project.[1] It was conducted in 2006 and 2007. There are two core outputs to this research:

1) A publication entitled:

> Proudman, V. (2007) The population of repositories In Eds. K. Weenink, L. Waaijers and K. van Godtsenhoven, *A DRIVER's Guide to European Repositories* (pp.49 - 101) Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press.
> For the more details and full text open access to this chapter, see http://dare.uva.nl/aup/nl/record/260224.

2) Six case study write-ups.

Analytical framework

The population of repositories, V. Proudman (2008)[2] publication aims to investigate the stimuli for populating repositories. Based on the analysis of the case studies interviewed, six areas can be identified which influence the form and life of a populated repository: 1) policy issues, 2) organisation, 3) mechanisms and influential factors for populating repositories, 4) services, 5) advocacy and communication and 6) legal issues. These areas are also recurring themes of international and national discourse on the issue of open access and scholarly communication. They manifest themselves in various communication channels from appearing in influential documents such as SPARC's Position Paper or monographs, as subject matter at open access and related scholarly communication conferences and workshops or as threads from related discussion lists or blogs.[3] However, what makes this study unique is that it goes into more depth into operational issues for the Institutional Repository Manager; i.e. the whys and hows, the critical success factors, the choices made and detailed contexts to be able to make informed decisions for other experiences to be of real use

Selection of case studies

The research project profiled six European good practices which demonstrate where the population of digital repositories in Europe is gaining ground. The first milestone in the research was to determine the case studies for study. Desk research was carried out using the directories OpenDOAR and ROARMAP to analyse the size of repositories as according to metadata and full text numbers as well as to observe growth patterns and rates.[4][5] As a result, a preliminary short-list of European

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[1] DRIVER - Digital Repository Infrastructure Vision for European Research: http://www.driver-community.eu/

[2] Proudman, V. (2008) The population of repositories. In Eds. K. Weenink, L. Waaijers and K. van Godtsenhoven, *A DRIVER's Guide to European Repositories.* (pp. -) Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press

[3] R. Crow, (2002) The Case for Institutional Repositories: A SPARC Position Paper. ARL Bi-monthly Report 223

[4] The Directory of Open Access Repositories – *Open*DOAR: http://www.opendoar.org/

[5] ROARMAP (Registry of Open Access Repository Material Archiving Policies): http://www.eprints.org/openaccess/policysignup/

repositories and services was created. Initial telephone interviews were then carried out with those on the preliminary short-list to verify the ROAR and OpenDOAR data. Further questions were posed on growth and take-up by the research community. This resulted in the final selection of six case studies.

Success indicators which were used to determine case study selection were full texts numbers, percentage of academic output, striking and/or steady growth data, and take-up by the research community. Central to the selection of the case studies was differentiation along population policies, organisational profiles, repository types and services, language content, and geographical distribution.

All cases are OAI-PMH repositories for inclusion in the DRIVER portal and address scholarly output. Cases are neither data archives, nor learning object ones. The examples identified have been chosen to represent different models of repositories and services which have shown to stimulate IR population. Cases are neither typical nor completely unique.

The following repository and service models were identified:

1. A university institutional repository (**University of Minho**).
   Minho has been chosen due to the broad take-up from its research community, its interesting advocacy and support infrastructure and above all to highlight the implementation of mandates and incentives and their effects on repository content.

2. A university school repository, run by a research department (**ECS Southampton**) and a campus-wide institutional repository run by a Library which closely liaises with its School IR (**University of Southampton**). Southampton is known for its innovation in the area of scholarly communication. The relationship between a faculty-run repository and a newer campus one is of interest. The ECS archive belongs to the first OAI repositories.

3. A central archive repository which brings together national research results (**HAL**).
   HAL is profiled to analyse this different organisational model's approach and its results. It has no specific disciplinary focus as do many other known central repositories.

4. An international research organisation institutional repository (**CERN**) with authors from a tradition in self-archiving.

5. A subject-specific service model built on institutional repository content (**Connecting Africa**).
   This is a disciplinary service which is fed by a number of repositories. It serves a specific international community of researchers by providing a new portal pulling information together to enhance networking and research.

6. A service which increases quality IR content based on institutional repository content (**Cream of Science**).
   This is an example of a service which is built on a number of institutional repositories. It pulls together leading researchers and their output in a decentralised manner showcasing national research results.

Due to the scope of the Driver Project the study is limited to six cases in the European domain. Good practices and lessons learnt in the repository field should know no

geographical boundaries; it is clear that there are numerous other interesting developments world-wide.

1.2.3 Interviews

Once cases were selected, interviews were held face-to-face with Library Directors, IR managers and initiators as well as with staff on more operational levels in some cases. Interviews were held in late 2006/early 2007. Data is based on 2005 and 2006 figures therefore. In-depth case studies were then written based on a number of topics of relevance to the key target groups of the study: IR managers and their policy makers. These case studies are listed at