

Digital Information in the HSS Research Infrastructure

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Humanities and Social Sciences in 21st Century Ireland

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Outline

- Digital **Information** as part of an Irish HSS research infrastructure
- Main elements
- Progress and strategies
- Support services and collaboration
- The future

Information as infrastructure

IReL “is a further step towards creating an internationally competitive research infrastructure in our universities”

D. Thornhill, Chairman HEA, August 2004

Digital Information Infrastructure Elements

Acquired born digital
texts/related objects

Digitised texts/related
objects

Generated digital
texts/related objects

Services

Acquired digitised information

IReL

Irish Research electronic Library

- Initiated by joint HEA/SFI action in 2004
- First phase Biosciences and I&CT digitised information
- HSS proposal accepted by HEA December 2005
- Project duration 2006-2009
- Project funding €15m
- Titles selected from consultation with academic community

IReL HSS major services added

- Academic Search Premier
- Business Source premier
- Factfinder
- Historical Abstracts
- International Medieval Bibliography
- JSTOR
- Justis
- Making of Modern law
- Oxford Reference Online
- PsyArticles
- PsycInfo
- Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy
- Wilson OmniFile

IReL HSS Statistics

- 15,000 + HSS full-text journals now available through IReL, and will grow to 25,000+
- 20,000 full-text monographs
- IReL phase 1 gave Ireland an equal or better coverage of digital titles in its disciplines as/than FinELIB, the universities of Manchester and Columbia, QUB, Imperial College London, MIT. IReL HSS should have a similar effect
- CONUL 2005 research survey
 - 78.5% satisfied with on-line databases
 - 70.7% satisfied with online journals

Digitisation

Digitisation Initiatives

- Universities and the National Library have been involved in digitisation initiatives
- ISOS Irish Script on Screen. NUIG, NUIM, DIAS, RIA, DCU partners
- TCD
 - projects with various partners involving maps, early printed material, and medieval mss.
 - Setting up own Digital Resources Unit 2007
- NLI – A historical photographs digitisation project is underway
- NUIG, NUIM have also initiated individual projects

Digitisation Initiatives (2)

- CONUL survey (2005):
 - Digitisation activity has been mostly individual projects
 - Digitisation is expensive, resource driven
 - Institutions have identified material for digitisation
 - IUA is looking at digitisation as a high priority area for national collaboration

Generated Digital Texts/Objects

Open Access Repositories

OA Repositories

- Purpose is to make scholarly information freely available to anyone in global scholarly community who wants to use it

- Open Access - Definition:

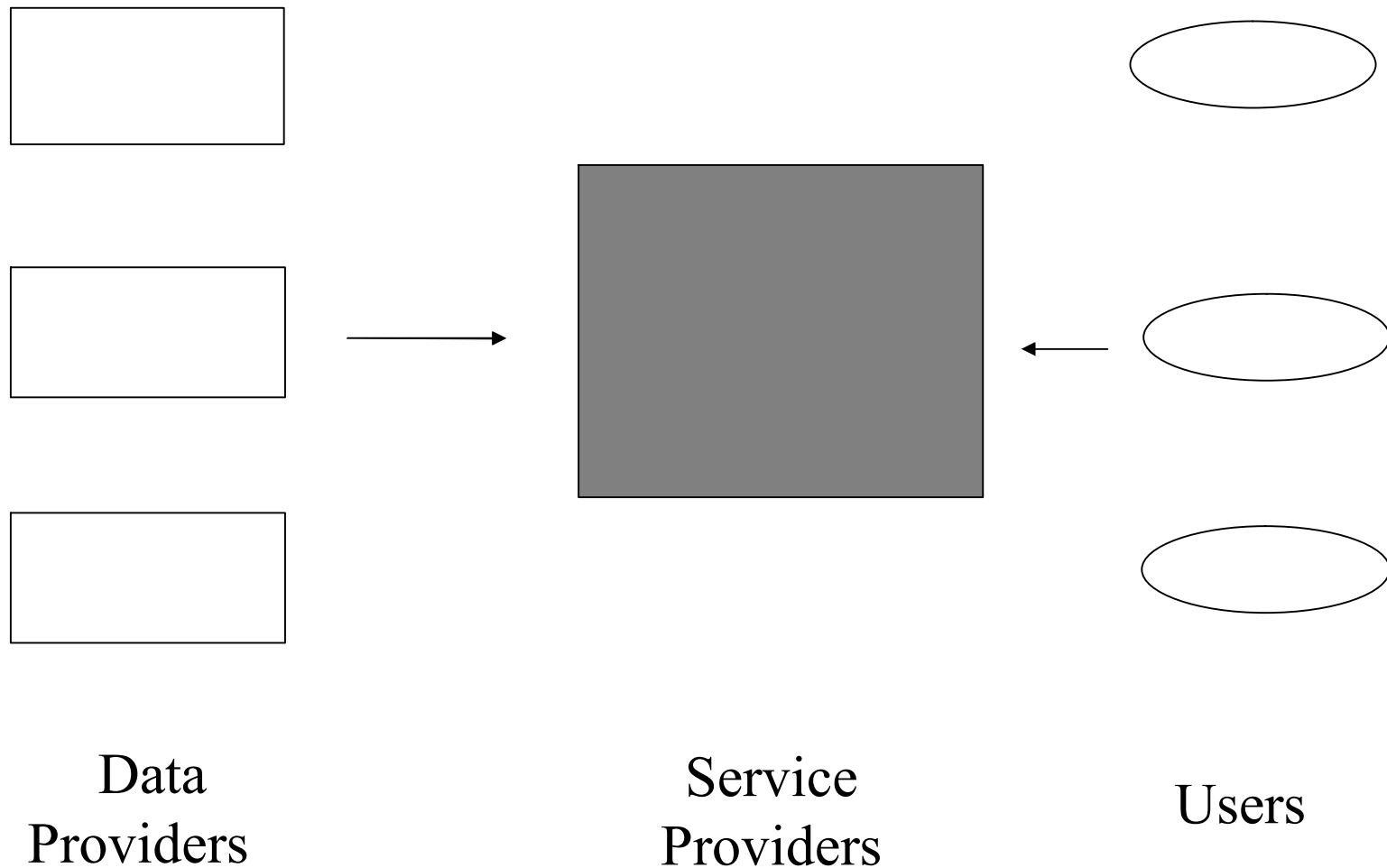
OA is the free availability on the public Internet, permitting all users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search or link to the full text of these articles...without financial legal or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the Internet itself.

Source: SCURL declaration on Open Access. <http://scurl.ac.uk/WG/OATS/declaration.htm>

OA Repositories - protocols

- OAR is a server conforming to the OAI-PMH protocol
 - OAI-PMH Open Access initiative protocol for metadata harvesting
- Protocol is a low barrier, platform independent *harvesting* standard
- The standard renders all compliant and registered servers interoperable, so that their information can be shared.
- Server content may be metadata or metadata and related objects
- Creation of OAR server requires implementation of free software and registration with OAI registry at Cornell University

Open Access Repositories





Search for Digital
Resources

Browse Institutions / Data
Providers

Future Search
Improvements

Background / Project
Description

Information for Potential
Data Providers

Staff

OAister is a project of the [University of Michigan Digital Library Production Service](#). Our goal is to create a collection of freely available, previously difficult-to-access, academically-oriented digital resources ([what are digital resources?](#)) that are easily searchable by anyone.

**We recognize retrieval times are frustratingly slow at times.
Bear with us as we upgrade our servers.**

Go to search now...

5,272,686 records from 458 institutions
(updated 1 April 2005)

New institutions harvested this month:

- ◆ D-Drive Document Server
- ◆ IMAGES (Image Metadata Aggregation for Enhanced Searching), University of Minnesota
- ◆ National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) Community Data Portal (CDP)
- ◆ Persée: Périodiques Scientifiques en Édition Électronique
- ◆ RIT (Rochester Institute of Technology) Digital Media Library
- ◆ Vizier
- ◆ among (many) others...

For more on how to search, see our [search help](#) page.

Get an [OpenURL hack](#) for your link resolver.

Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Window Help

http://skate.dcu.ie/ Search

Mail AIM Home Radio My Netscape Search Bookmarks Business

DCU Eprints Archive - Welcome to the DCU...

DCU Eprints Archive

[Home](#) || [About](#) || [Browse](#) || [Search](#) || [Register](#) || [User Area](#) || [Help](#)

Welcome to the DCU Eprints Archive

Welcome to the DCU eprints server. This service will be a repository and a publishing medium for university teaching and learning and research materials. At present, it is in a pilot phase and will have restricted content. Ultimately, it will make scholarly information produced in DCU available to the wider academic community.

Search the Titles, Abstracts and Keywords

Search

[Browse](#)

Browse the archive by [Subject](#), [Year](#) or [Dept.](#)

[Latest Additions](#)

View items added to the archive in the past week.

[Registered Users Area](#)

Registered users may submit items to the archive.

[Simple Search](#)

Search the archive using the most common fields.

[Advanced Search](#)

Search the archive using a more complex range of fields.

DCU Eprints Archive is running on the freely available *GNU Eprints 2* archive-creating software which generates eprints archives that are compliant with the

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Content of OA Repositories

- Peer reviewed articles
- Theses
- Grey literature

OA Repositories - benefits

- Institutional
 - Aggregates university publications in one place
 - Index/record of quality of university publications and research
 - Archive of intellectual output
 - Potential to be linked to institutionally generated CVs
 - Potential to produce research support statistics
- National
 - raises research profile
 - a vehicle for collaboration (e.g. Theses)
- Authors - increases citation rates

Which journals?

- A recent survey (Sherpa) found that:
 - 75% of journals surveyed allow self archiving
 - 65+⁰% of journals permitted lodging of a peer reviewed form of paper (but not pdf) in a repository.

<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo.php?stats=yes>

Global distribution of OARs

USA – 250

UK – 82

Germany – 68

Brazil – 25

Canada – 28

France - 28

Ireland – 2

Total - 802

Source: openDoar – <http://www.opendoar.org/>

IUA Initiatives

- IUA Library's Group Institutional Repositories Working Group 2005
- DCU 2002/5 3 year project-based IR. From October 2005 IR a mainstream activity
- NUI Maynooth
- TCD, UCD, establishing IRs
- SIF proposal

Services

Services

- Acquisition
 - negotiation/licencing
 - Monitoring of products
- Digitisation
 - Co-operative technical infrastructure
 - Co-ordination of projects
- OA repositories
 - Co-ordination of projects
 - Shared national infrastructure

Services (Contd)

- Joint information skills programmes
- National/International collaborations

The Future

- Strategic linking of initiatives – progress made
- Increasing co-operation with academic community