

RAD-UNAM: Genesis and evolution of a repository administrators group

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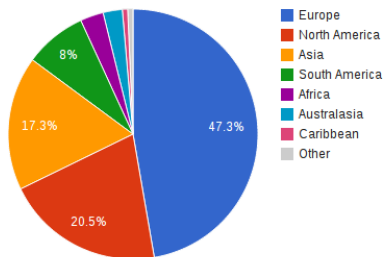
Open Repositories 2013



Repositories in Latin America

- Region *very* underrepresented in this community
- Not meaning it is a region lacking activity
 - Not *relatively* to its tech development status, at least
- But, oh, it's so lonely here in Canada. . .
 - This delegate is, to the best of his knowledge, the only Latin American in OR2013

Repositories in Latin America



Total = 2331 repositories

Figura: Proportion of repositories by continent (OpenDOAR, 2013-07-09)

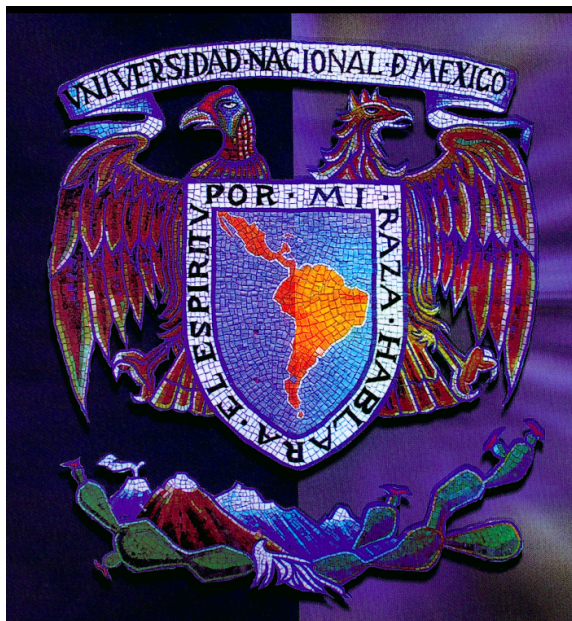
Note: Not accurately represented. Mexico is part of North America; Central America is *both* part of Other *and* of the Caribbean (?)

Repositories in Latin America

- We can suppose $\approx 10\%$ OpenDOAR repositories exist in Latin America
- *Some* important regional projects do exist — Just off the top of my head...
 - SciELO: Scientific Electronic Library Online
 - Redalyc: Red de Revistas Científicas de América Latina y el Caribe, España y Portugal
 - LA Referencia (RedClara): Red Federada de Repositorios Institucionales de Publicaciones Científicas
 - ...
- But has very low connectivity/insertion in the English-speaking repositories community
 - Why? It's not because of inactivity (i.e. BIREDIAL)
 - Ongoing work might bring us closer (i.e. PKP Scholarly Publishing Conference 2013 in UNAM, August 2013)

Goal of this talk

- We believe there are common cultural traits in our region of the world
- I will present the experience (so far) in Mexico's largest university on building a federation of institutional repositories



Red de
Acervos
Digitales

What is UNAM?

- Largest university in Mexico, among the largest in the world
 - 300,000 students, 35,000 academics
- Publicly funded/owned
 - Academics are State employees
- *Both* a strong vertical hierarchy and organic, bottom-up organization
 - *To some extent*, a federation of faculties, research institutes and academic-administrative units
 - Natural due to its size (or not? → IPN)



Specialization and lack of specialization

- Many of our institutes and faculties are #1 in the country in its area of knowledge
 - But... Are repositories part of said area?
- Lack of specialized people in technical, operative areas
 - Lack of funding → Young academics with some *computer intuition*
 - Often even interns hired on short terms to keep things *just working*

Cultural ossification

- It's often hard *anywhere* to get people to accept Open Access licensing for their work
 - We believe several factors make it harsher in the UNAM context
- Average professor age is 46 years old (several >90 year old active),
 - Not normally balanced (“lumping” up)
 - Partly due to very liberal hiring in the 1970s-1980s
 - And difficulty of opening new hiring processes since the 1990s

Cultural ossification

- Anachronic evaluation mechanisms \rightsquigarrow opposition to OA repositories
 - Until recently, formal recognition denied to non-print publishing
 - Academics oppose(d?) OA because they believe their ratings will be *lowered* by higher exposure
- This is all changing. . . But some concepts have got ossified and are hard to challenge
 - UNAM finally has a (weak) institutional mandate for Open Access!



Regarding repositories. . .

- Faculty members in different areas *do request* repositories to be set up
 - Often only *publication dumps* are requested (but sometimes *proper repositories*)
- Many ad-hoc, home-brewn systems
 - Sometimes require logging in (even if for free)
 - Very seldom exposing metadata in a standard format
 - Often leads to *hiding* the information rather than making it available

What is RAD-UNAM

- *Red de Acervos Digitales* — Network of Digital Collections
- Born back in 2005
 - Research project with *some* institutional backing
 - Inescapable *Organizational change*
 - Became a project pushed by four independent researchers in different areas
- Many of the current members joined \approx 2010



What is RAD-UNAM — Formal group objectives

- 1 Increasing visibility of UNAM's digital collections, aiming to promote its discovery through external search engines
- 2 Offering a digital infrastructure to the University's areas, helping storage, administration and dissemination of their digital resources
- 3 Helping digital collections' creators to improve the utility, functionality and applicability of their collections through the creation of tools (such as data mining, visualization and others)
- 4 Proposing metrics to assist the evaluation authorities on the relevance for UNAM of acknowledging the academic work invested in creating high quality digital collections

<http://eprints.rclis.org/15474/> (Galina, Giménez, Chávez 2011)

What is RAD-UNAM — Boiling down to...

- 9 active repositories
 - 8 DSpace, 1 EPrints instances
- Encompassing research institutes, schools/faculties, administrative areas
- Providing *group-wide* support for repositories
 - For the *various disciplines* involved
 - For the *different phases* of a repository
- Technologically, RAD is a harvester that collects metadata from the nine repositories
 - SOLR-based



Repository specialization

- Compared to what I have seen during OR2013, we have *very simple* repositories
- All have the “standard” academic publications
 - Books, reports, articles, theses, etc.
- But some have more specialized content
- Each has very different policies, target population, main deposit mechanism. . .

Some examples follow



Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the DSpace repository page for the 'Mexico Indigena' collection. The browser's address bar shows the URL: `ru.iis.sociales.unam.mx/dspace/handle/IIS/43`. The page header includes the UNAM logo and the text 'Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México' and 'INSTITUTO DE INVESTIGACIONES SOCIALES Repositorio Universitario Digital'.

The main content area features a search bar with the text 'Inc 2. Archivo fotográfico "Mexico Indigena"'. Below the search bar is a 'Search for' field with a 'Go' button, and options to 'or browse' by Subject, Title, Author, or Issue Date. A central image shows a stylized profile of a person's face, with the text 'MEXICO INDIGENA' and 'INSTITUTO DE INVESTIGACIONES SOCIALES' below it.

On the right side, there is a 'Recent Submissions' section listing several items with links: 'Nina tepehuana de frente, 3821', 'Mujer tepehuana cargando niño, 3768 bis', 'Mujer tepehuana de perfil, 3750', 'Niño tepehuana de tres cuartos, 3750', and 'Muchacha tepehuana de perfil, 3817'. Below this is an 'RSS Feeds' section with a red 'RSS' button and a small RSS icon.

At the bottom, there is a section titled 'Collections in this community' and a paragraph of text: 'El Archivo Fotográfico "México Indígena" es resultado del trabajo de investigadores del Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales de la UNAM y fotógrafos profesionales, principalmente Raúl Estrada Discua y Enrique Hernández Morones, como parte del levantamiento de la primera Carta Etnográfica de la República Mexicana, 1939 a 1946. Una segunda etapa de las tomas corresponde a la década de 1960. Las imágenes muestran estilos de vida y perfiles físicos y étnicos de individuos cuyas etnias fueron ya expulsadas de sus regiones o arrasadas por la modernidad, o bien persisten, pero bajo esas amenazas. De allí la importancia de ese testimonio gráfico e histórico, que ha sido objeto de diversas exhibiciones nacionales y extranjeras.'

The footer of the page includes the UNAM logo and the text 'de Nervos Digitales'.

Instituto de Investigaciones Económicas

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the homepage of the Instituto de Investigaciones Económicas (RU-Económicas) at UNAM. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://ru.iiiec.unam.mx>. The page features the UNAM logo on the left and the RU-Económicas logo in the center. Below the logo, the text reads "Instituto de Investigaciones Económicas" and "Bienvenido a RU-Económicas". A search bar is located on the right side of the header. The main content area includes a navigation menu on the left with links such as "Página Inicial", "Acervo de Política de uno", "Manual de depósito", "Consultas", "Per Autor", "Per ADS", "Per Clasificación JEL", "Per Colección", "Per División", "Búsqueda Avanzada", "Iniciar sesión", and "Registrarse". The main content area contains several sections: "Últimas Adiciones" with a sub-link "Últimas Adiciones" and the text "Ver documentos añadidos al repositorio."; "Búsqueda Avanzada" with a sub-link "Búsqueda Avanzada" and the text "Buscar en el depósito con multiples campos. Utilizar el campo de la búsqueda en el tope de la página para una búsqueda más rápida."; "Consultar el Repositorio" with a sub-link "Consultar el Repositorio" and the text "Consultar los documentos del repositorio por clasificación JEL."; and "Sobre este Repositorio" with a sub-link "Sobre este Repositorio" and the text "Más información sobre este sitio.". At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the text "RU-Económicas está basado en [Punto 3](#) el cual es desarrollado por la [Escuela de Economía y Ciencia de la Computación](#) en la Universidad de Southampton. [Más información y créditos del software](#). Hecho en México. 2011-2013 © D.R. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM).".



Instituto de Biología — Irekani

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the Irekani website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://unibio.unam.mx/irekani/>. The website header includes the text "Colecciones Biológicas" and the UNAM logo. The main content area is titled "Irekani, Instituto de Biología - UNAM" and features a navigation menu with "español" and "English".

Introducción

[Irekani](#) es una galería virtual de imágenes que representan una muestra de la enorme diversidad biológica de México. Todos los materiales de este sitio son parte de las colecciones fotográficas que el personal académico del [Instituto de Biología](#) ha recopilado a lo largo del tiempo como parte de sus investigaciones, exploraciones, colectas y estudios de campo.

El propósito de Irekani es aprovechar y poner a disposición de las personas interesadas, desde estudiantes hasta especialistas, parte del enorme acervo del Instituto de Biología de la [UNAM](#), institución que, desde hace 80 años, ha contribuido al conocimiento y conservación de la biodiversidad de México. Esperamos que estas imágenes puedan servir de apoyo para la investigación, la docencia y la difusión.

Te invitamos a explorar esta galería donde puedes realizar búsquedas sencillas a partir de una palabra o utilizando criterios combinados. También puedes acceder directamente a las colecciones disponibles y explorar su contenido.

Bienvenidos.

Irekani es una palabra purépecha que significa "tener vida".

Colecciones de imágenes

Total de registros [27201]

[1a Exposición Fotográfica Estudiantil 2010 \[4\]](#)
Fotografías presentadas en la Primera Exposición Fotográfica Estudiantil de 2010 del Instituto de Biología, UNAM. Responsable: Dra. Ma. de los Angeles Herrera Campos. Instituto de Biología, UNAM.

[Archivo Fotográfico de MEXU \[1587\]](#)
Fotografías de plantas vasculares, principalmente del estado de Morelos, tomadas por el Dr. José Vázquez y donadas con el Herbario L'Amagatall. Responsable: Herbario Nacional de México (MEXU). Instituto de Biología, UNAM



Instituto de Biología — Minero

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL unibo.unam.mx/minero. The page header includes the text "Consulta de ejemplares en Colecciones Biológicas" and the UNAM logo. A search bar contains the text "Inicio". Below the search bar, there are radio buttons for "Todas las palabras", "Cualquier palabra", and "Como está escrito".

On the left side, there is a navigation menu with two sections: "Colecciones biológicas del Instituto de Biología" and "Grupos".

The "Colecciones biológicas del Instituto de Biología" section contains the following table:

MEXI	288,347
CNIH	147,390
CNMA	39,014
CNAV	27,137
CNCR	21,600
CNPE	13,419
CNAN	6,394
CNIH	5,480
CNIAC	4,614
CFB	3,000

The "Grupos" section contains the following table:

Plantas	247,921
Mamíferos	69,690
Moníferos	42,319
Muestras	37,875
Escarabajos	31,585
Insectos	27,954
Aves	27,786
Crustáceos	21,601
Pezes de aguas	13,486
Peces	13,419
Anfibios	3,715
Ácaros	3,560
Platelmintos	3,394

The main content area displays the search results:

556,395 ejemplares encontrados. Descargar [máx. 250 mil] Mapa [beta]

Tiempo de respuesta: 0.873 segundos.

11 [Echinochasmus zubedakhaname Nasir y Diaz, 1968](#) [IBUNAM.CNIE.HEI.298](#)
 Platelmintos: animales, gusanos planos
 Animalia - Platyhelminthes - Trematoda - Echinostomida - Echinostomatidae - Echinochasmus
 México - Yucatán - Celestín - Celestun
 Joaquín Vargas Vázquez • 1989 / 9 /

12 [Echinochasmus zubedakhaname Nasir y Diaz, 1968](#) [IBUNAM.CNIE.HEI.299](#)
 Platelmintos: animales, gusanos planos
 Animalia - Platyhelminthes - Trematoda - Echinostomida - Echinostomatidae - Echinochasmus
 México - Yucatán - Mérida - Mérida
 Joaquín Vargas Vázquez • 1987 / 6 /

13 [Echinochasmus zubedakhaname Nasir y Diaz, 1968](#) [IBUNAM.CNIE.HEI.300](#)
 Platelmintos: animales, gusanos planos
 Animalia - Platyhelminthes - Trematoda - Echinostomida - Echinostomatidae - Echinochasmus
 México - Yucatán - Celestín - Celestun
 Guillermo Salgado Maldonado • 1987 / 12 /

In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for "UNAM de Nervos Digitales" with the text "UNAM" below it.

RAD as a working group

- Self-governing, shared knowledge administration group
 - Two semi-formal roles — Technical and academic coordinators
- Each repository's team (often one or two person strong) lacks formation in many key areas
 - System administrators and programmers vs. archivists and librarians
 - Interested researchers not into technical stuff
 - How to “sell” our efforts as worthy to the specialized search engines?



Current main tasks for RAD

- Welcome and steer new repositories, avoiding past mistakes
 - Importance on the proper use of metadata
 - Stable, updatable technological base
 - Aiding in installation, schema creation, base customization
 - Insist on the *requirement* to have a formal responsible person/team!
- Give visibility to our work (mainly inside our own institution!)
 - Participation promoting Open Access in varied academic forums
 - Much of the last year's work: Talk to high-level directives to try and get formal incorporation

Formal incorporation — Yay!

- Currently incorporating as a *node* of newly formed CCUD — Coordinación de Colecciones Universitarias Digitales
- Will help ensure repository survival beyond individuals' interest
 - ... Or political changes
- Presents a more easily identifiable contact point for outside queries



CCUD breadth beyond RAD-UNAM



Figura: Expected breadth of the CCUD platform

Already ongoing cooperation

- Individuals in RAD-UNAM have been very active and outgoing for almost a decade
- Naturally, we *have already* become an advisory contact point
- Besides intra-UNAM, we have worked together with other entities, including:
 - UCR
 - UDUAL
 - INAH
 - ...?



Wrapping up...

- 1 Why are our regions of the world so separated? How can they be brought closer together?
- 2 Not a unique work — Illustrating the needs of a specific academic community
 - Of unusual scale and –somewhat– complexity
 - Example of knowledge distribution and repository federation
- 3 Minimal showcase of work being done in our region



Thanks!

Thanks!

- Gunnar Wolf <gwolf@gwolf.org>, Instituto de Investigaciones Económicas, UNAM
- Pablo Miranda <pablomirandaquevedo@gmail.com>, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, UNAM
- <http://rad.unam.mx/>

