Bibliothèque numérique de l'enssib

Turning the library inside out, 4 au 7 juillet 2006
35ᵉ congrès LIBER

E-theses and the Nordic e-theses initiative – The impact of the joint work on the role of the library

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The impact of the joint work on the role of the library

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Outline

Publishing of theses and dissertation

- DiVA project and the DiVA system
- DiVA consortium

Why collaborate and how?

- Collaborative system development model
- Difficulties encountered and solutions found in the DiVA consortium
- Further development of the system and new partnerships

Conclusions

Theses and dissertation

Long tradition of printing and public dissemination of theses at Nordic universities

> (At UU 1600-1855 circa 13500)

Electronic dissemination of metadata + abstracts and in some cases even full texts since late nineties (several universities – Karolinska Institutet, Lund University, Royal Institute of technology, Uppsala University)

Question of an effective and cost saving workflow for parallel publishing and dissemination of research results

2000 founding of Electronic Publishing Centre

DiVA
Digitala Vetenskapliga Arkivet
Academic Archive Online

- DiVA project started 2000 at Uppsala University, Sweden

- Objectives of the DiVA Project:
  - Development of technical solutions and work flows supporting full text publishing, storage and dissemination of university research
  - Explore ways to ensure future access, usability and understanding of published digital objects

- 2006 – cooperation within 17 universities in Sweden(16) and Norway (1) + interest from governmental bodies

- Cooperation with the National Library from the very beginning (long term access and preservation, delivery of catalogue records to the national bibliography and to the union catalogue)

The DiVA System

Operational since January 2003

User friendly workflows

Solutions supporting longevity and access in the long term

Open standards, XML & Java technologies

Module-based

Submission

Administration

Presentation

Dissemination (metada, full text, print-on-demand-services)

Storage

Long-term preservation archive

Portal for participating universities http://www.diva-portal.org

The DiVA System (cont.)

DiVA Document Format (XML schema)

Concept of reuse of metadata created by the author

– in production of master for printed and electronic publication (title page and cover)

– dissemination (a number of different metadata formats by transformation - catalogue records, OAI-PMH, RSS and other news services)

Online publication based on XML (public available TOC and references)

Integrated workflow for printed and electronic publication

The DiVA Consortium

Initiated in 2002

June 2006 - 17 universities and university colleges

2 countries

More than 300 000 students

More than 3000 doctoral theses yearly and thousands of master theses yearly

Who cooperate and why?

Open to all universities and publicly financed research organizations

Today mostly universities and university colleges

- share products and technical solution developed within the project

- allow the exchange of experiences

- share costs

Win/Win situation

- sustainability (the system, skilled staff ..)

- critical mass

-open for more cooperation possibilities

Collaborative system development approach

How can we accomplish our goals faster and more competently and at the same time satisfy our shared needs with the limited resources we have?

Can we use the resources more efficiently?

Do we have all the resources (money, staff, equipment) we need within the organization?

Some of conditions ensuring success

Clear terms of participation

Effective management

Good communication among participants
- helpdesk, implementing workshops, training services, system developers' area, user group meetings, mailing lists, news services..

Understanding of the key role of stakeholders

Who pays and for what?

Clear terms of participation

Development costs / Operational costs

A major principle

 – all economic resources which institutions initially bring to the project are used for further development of the system and its sub-systems

 – where lack of resources, the requested new development agreed by members will be shared by all participants

Difficulties and solutions

Common interest vs. local interests

Priorities and compromises

(some examples – Digital Workflow Application)

- Working groups
- Component based development method
- Distributed development
- Flexibility

Conclusions

The community's collaborative development approach can be a practical and effective strategy

Libraries are used to collaborating wherever possible

Pooling resources, skills and equipment helps to develop high quality solutions and at the same time it helps minimize risks and guarantee sustainability