

OR2015 | 10th International Conference on Open Repositories

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Open research repository for organic agriculture

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Session Type (select one)

- Panel
- Presentation

Abstract

The Open Access archive Organic Eprints (www.orgprints.org) has developed since the start in 2002 so that it now includes more than 16,000 items and gets more than 240,000 visits per month. The archive is open for all to use and registered users can deposit their research publications from refereed journals as well as non-refereed sources. Organic Eprints is the largest database in the world with publications about Organic Agriculture & Food Systems research. Organic Eprints has 26 national editors checking the deposits for bibliographical correctness and subject relevance. Organic Eprints has adapted the use of keywords from an external thesaurus, AGROVOC.

Conference Themes

Select the conference theme(s) your proposal best addresses:

- Supporting Open Scholarship, Open Science, and Cultural Heritage
- Managing Research (and Open) Data
- Integrating with External Systems
- Re-using Repository Content
- Exploring Metrics and Assessment
- Managing Rights
- Developing and Training Staff
- Building the Perfect Repository

Keywords

National editors, thesaurus, organic agriculture, copyright

Audience

The likely audience for the presentation is repository managers, the EPrints-community, librarians, funding agencies and researchers.

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Background

Organic Eprints, being founded in 2002, is among the 25 oldest cross-institutional research repositories and of these one of the 10 oldest using the EPrints software. This submission about Organic Eprints addresses the theme "Supporting Open Scholarship, Open Science ..." because Organic Eprints has a very wide usefulness, exposing research results regarding organic agriculture from many institutions to the whole world. In addition, it addresses the theme "Developing and Training Staff", describing how national editors from countries all around the world are trained and involved. We also describe a plugin, making it possible to use keywords from a thesaurus which addresses the theme "Integrating with external systems" as well as being an innovative way we are using EPrints. The submission even touches upon the theme "Managing Rights".

Presentation content

Organic Eprints [1], with publications about research in organic agriculture and food systems, being founded in 2002, is among the 25 oldest cross-institutional research repositories and of these one of the 10 oldest using the EPrints software [2]. The publications are entered by the authors, who have carried out the research or participated in dissemination and information about it. The authors aspire for a larger audience – other researchers, stakeholders, end-users, politicians etc. – to get easier access to their publications in order to disseminate the knowledge created from the research. In turn, this can help the farmers knowing more about their farming systems, advisers to be able to give better advice to farmers, teachers to supply better and more updated teaching, politicians to make better and more informed decisions – and other researchers to be informed about current research that might supplement theirs. Funding bodies can also easily monitor the output from the projects they fund.

National editors from 26 countries check the bibliographic information of the documents that users enter into Organic Eprints, before they allow the documents to enter into the live archive. In that way, it is ensured that there are only entries related to organic agriculture and food systems – including agro-ecological systems – and that the information is correct. The national editors do not review the entries – the quality of the eprints is the responsibility of the user depositing it. In addition, national editors promote the use of Organic Eprints and act as the helpdesk for the users in their country. The national editors are trained either at meetings or online and the administrator aids them in the beginning, updates manuals for the editors and creates email and online discussions about relevant topics.

Open Access repositories, like Organic Eprints, receive digital copies of published articles through depositing by the authors (self-archiving). The repository makes the articles publicly available. In order to address the copyright issues, Organic Eprints allows the author to restrict access to the paper either to the registered users or to only the author and archive administrators.

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In this way, users interested in the paper can still see the abstract and bibliographic data and send an email to the authors to receive a reprint. This is done very easily, since the system has a "Request-a-copy"-button, so that the interested user can send a request for a copy without even knowing the email address of the author. If the author agrees to let the user get a copy, it is automatically sent to the user.

Organic Eprints contains more than 16,000 items as of February 2015, the main part of these originate from European countries, but there are also entries from all other continents, with Brazil, Turkey and Australia being especially well represented countries, and throughout 2014 it had an average of more than 240,000 monthly visits. It is the largest – and maybe only – archive with publications specifically about organic agriculture and food systems research. According to OpenDOAR [3], there are 122 repositories about agriculture, food and veterinary issues, however, many of those only has agriculture as one of many subjects. When looking only at those archives that focus on agriculture, food and veterinary subjects, and maybe one or two further subjects which are related, *e.g.* ecology and environment, there are only 5 that have more items than Organic Eprints: FAOBIB [4] from FAO, UN; WaY [5] from Wageningen University, the Netherlands; NALDC [6] from USDA, USA; Infoteca-e [7] from EMBRAPA, Brazil and ProdINRA [8] from INRA, France. So Organic Eprints is the 6th largest agricultural archive in the World, however ProdInra only has 10% full-text documents, so Organic Eprints even is 5th largest in this regard. In a world-wide ranking of 2154 repositories about all subjects based on size of the archive and number of documents attached [9], Organic Eprints was ranked number 102 [10].

Organic Eprints is based on the open-source software EPrints [2], which is continually updated. In addition to these updates, Organic Eprints is developed according to user input and ideas from the Organic Eprints team of national editors. Recent changes are:

AGROVOC [11] keywords – a controlled vocabulary covering all areas of interest to FAO, including food, nutrition, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, environment *etc.* Each word may have a translation into up to 22 languages. This means that although Organic Eprints has a user interface in English and German, users that are not so familiar with these languages can find keywords in their own language in AGROVOC, *e.g.* the term 'organic agriculture' can be found in many languages at http://aims.fao.org/aos/agrovoc/c_15911. Users can then find the English term and use that to search in Organic Eprints. It is at present possible to enter AGROVOC keywords in English, German and Spanish, but we plan to expand this to more languages gradually as users show an interest for this.

In order to expand the number of non-English speaking users, we have, in collaboration with our national editors, IFOAM Latin America and others, developed screenshot user manuals in Spanish, Portuguese, Czech and Turkish [12].

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Conclusion

A cross-institutional Open Access research repository about organic agriculture and food systems founded in 2002 has found world-wide use. A network of national editors share the workload and new developments have increased the value of the deposited metadata.

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