DRIVER – Supporting Institutional Repositories in Europe

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Abstract

This workshop will provide an analysis of the current state of development of institutional repositories across Europe, how this compares to initiatives in the rest of the world and will explain how the DRIVER [1] project will promote and support the development of an integrated European repository network. The workshop will provide information on DRIVER technological developments and services and on the DRIVER test bed of repositories being used to test DRIVER software and services. The success of the DRIVER project depends, not just on the technical integration and enhancement of a European repository network, but also on the involvement and participation of all those actively involved in European research or in its publication, dissemination or access. Hence DRIVER has an active advocacy and community building programme to address and support key stakeholder groups in Europe. DRIVER draws on existing services within the DRIVER partnership such as OpenDOAR [2] and SHERPA/RoMEO [3] as well as developing new services such as the Mentor service [4]. This workshop will be of value to all involved in European research and for those keen to play a role in its future development. It will be of particular interest to those involved in the development of individual repositories, those co-ordinating national repository networks and those interested in the implications of a European repository network for European research. The workshop will provide a unique opportunity to learn about the DRIVER project, to meet DRIVER representatives, share best practice and discuss the current trends in the development and future of institutional repository networks.

Keywords: open access; repositories; European research

1   Introduction

The current system of academic publication developed as a means to disseminate the findings of research. However, this system can impede the very process it was set up to serve, with access to articles being limited by publishers to only those who can afford to subscribe.

Open access digital repositories provide a means whereby the traditional publishing model can co-exist with the needs of authors and their readers, as well as with the demands of research funders for research impact and hence, value for money. Subject to copyright, authors can deposit copies of their finished articles in open access repositories, in addition to publishing them in research journals.

The recent study of scientific publication markets in Europe funded by the European Commission [5] strongly recommends the development of a European policy mandating open access to EC-funded research. In addition, it recommends an exploration of interoperability issues and how open access repositories can be implemented Europe-wide.

DRIVER (Digital Repository Infrastructure Vision for European Research) is an EU-funded project with 10 international partners and reflects the growing awareness in Europe surrounding Open Access. DRIVER sets out to build a testbed for a future knowledge infrastructure of the European Research Area. It aims to deliver any form of scientific output, including scientific/technical reports, working papers, pre-prints, articles and original research data to the various user groups. The testbed is based on existing nationally organized digital repository infrastructures. Other work includes the support of new European repositories.

2   Objectives

The five objectives of DRIVER are:

1. To organise and build a virtual, European scale network of existing institutional repositories;

2. To assess and implement state-of-the-art technology, which manages the physically distributed repositories as one large scale virtual content resource;

3. To assess and implement a number of fundamental user services;

4. To identify, implement and promote a relevant set of standards;

5. To prepare the future expansion and upgrade of the DR infrastructure across Europe and to ensure widest possible involvement and exploitation by users.

3   Discussion

Thus far DRIVER has conducted focused research studies including an inventory of the type and level of OAI compliant digital repository activities in the EU [6], to facilitate the iterative development of DRIVER and is developing the necessary infrastructure middleware and user guidelines to meet the DRIVER objectives. The project is now actively advocating repository development - creating an informed and active environment for repository infrastructure development in EU countries with focused activities, information and contextualized support.

Acknowledgements

References

[1]   DRIVER (Digital Repository Infrastructure Vision for European Research),

           http://www.driver-support.eu

[2]   http://www.opendoar.org

[3]   http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo.php

[4]   http://www.driver-support.eu/en/community/mentor.html

[5]   European Commission. Study on the economic and technical evolution of the scientific publication markets in Europe, Jan. 2006.

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