Institutional Repository at the University

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Abstract: The role of the university library, threats, opportunities and the most important preconditions to set up a repository are mentioned in the introduction. The second part includes a case study at the University of Pardubice.

Keywords: Institutional repositories, scholarly communication, university libraries, DSpace.

Introduction

Not only one definition can be found in the materials published about institutional repositories (IR). The SPARC[1] organization defines IR as follows: institutionally defined, scholarly, cumulative and perpetual, open and inter-operable. In accordance with the definition created by C. Lynch[2] "a university-based institutional repository is **a set of services** that a university offers to the members of its community for the management and dissemination of digital materials created by the institution and its members." This set of services must be adapted to specific needs of the university. At universities in the Czech Republic these needs can differ from the needs at universities in western European countries and USA.

Who should provide these services? There are fairly good reasons that the university libraries do that. It is a great challenge to enhance their importance for the university especially in our country where university libraries used to be mere lending offices for a long time. There is the possibility to use our knowledge not only for providing the academic audience with the external information but also vice versa: to provide the world with scholar materials created by academic staff and students. Librarians have the best preconditions for these activities. They are familiar with standardized documents processing. They quickly accept new information technologies and, last but not least**,** they are used to training users in information skills. They are constantly in touch with scholars when providing them with books, articles and other information resources. Therefore**,** they can easily help them also in presenting their research outputs.

Of course there are some threats as well. A sort of librarians´ conservatism could be the first one. Librarians often adhere to the established processes and try to apply new technologies without any serious analysis which could bring a creative change of these processes. The second one can be a lack of good arguments when explaining the

advantages that the functional repository will definitely have for the university. To convince the university management of supporting the setting up a repository requires high level and up-to-date knowledge in such a complex environment that could be called (in a simplified way) the information industry. This knowledge and the motivation are the most important preconditions to a successful departure. Other indispensable conditions are the support of the IT department and some financial resources.

The case of the IR at the University of Pardubice

The main impulse to consider the IR was the amendment 624/2006 of the Higher Education Act 11/1998[3]. According to this amendment, the university is obliged to make accessible the submitted and accepted theses and dissertations (TD) to public. The current situation in TD processing and presenting was analysed and the project proposal was prepared. The aim of the project was to set up the IR intended for presentation and archiving the electronic theses and dissertations (ETD) and to integrate it into the university information system (UIS). The project was launched in 2007 with help of a financial support from the Funding Agency for Universities Development. When deciding about the software we took into consideration the experience of the university library at VSB-Technical university of Ostrava where the first Czech installation of the open source software DSpace was put through in 2006 and we have chosen this one as well. This software fulfills our main requests e.g. interoperability, facile installation, large uses and cost-effectiveness. As the first step, we specified the structure of communities, sub-communities and collection in accordance with the needs and structure of our university. Afterwards**,** the successful installation and Czech localization was carried out. With regard to the Czech metadata standard EVSKP-MS, the templates for metadata entry were prepared. The workflow was created with using the current practice when a student

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[1] SPARC <http://www.arl.org/sparc/>.

[2] LYNCH C. Institutional repositories.

[3] Zákon č. 111/1998 Sb. o vysokých školách a o změně a doplnění dalších zákonů.

(or staff entrusted by a faculty or department) inserts the basic data about the thesis into the UIS for managing all procedures connected with students´ studies (STAG). The insertion of ETD in fulltext and the selection of access policy became an integral part of this process. The metadata and fulltexts of defended ETDs are regularly exported from STAG to DSpace.

The second part of the project involved the import of the bibliographic records from the library automated system where the TDs had been processed until then. It needed the preparation of a mapping table between UNIMARC and Dublin Core fields. After this import, the collection of TDs submitted at the University of Pardubice from1992 is accessible through the IR.

Even though the project was primarily focused to ETDs, the basic conditions for implementing other types of documents into the IR have been created. Since 2009 scientific papers of all faculties are presented there. At the beginning of 2009 the version 1.5.1 of DSpace was installed, the look of the IR has been adapted to the official web presentation of our university and the name Digital Library of the University Pardubice has been chosen as an official name of our IR. The use of the IR is monitored by Google Analytics. The statistical data concerning the way of access show that the indexing of the IR by searching servers is an essential condition. Only the minority of users access the IR directly from the university webpage. By setting up the OAI-PMH in May 2009, the IR became an open archive and could be registered in the world registers such as OpenDoar or project DRIVER.

The future development is intended towards the presentation of university research outputs. The pilot project will be carried out in 2009. The workflow of the self-archiving will be tested with attendance of two researchers from each faculty with using the current UIS for managing bibliographic data of research outputs (OBD).

References and Website resources

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