

Institutional Repositories

A Proposal for a national policy based upon a Greek case

Institutional Repositories and their relation with the Open Access movement constitute internationally the new scientific trend as far as scholarly communication is concerned. The need for even wider access to the scientific data with the objective of democratizing the dissemination of research results and the cost, especially, of scientific journals as well as the reduced library budgets have contributed towards the creation of a strong movement that aims at the free online access to digital material.

A Greek Educational Institution Library, understanding the needs of its community for the upgrade of the scholarly communication services and aiming not only at following but also at actively participating into the new scholarly communication paradigm, developed, after studying the national and international relevant initiatives, an Open Access Institutional Repository. The Institutional Repository was created in order to contribute to the support of e-science, the protection and interchange of scientific content, as well as the preservation and reinforcement of the cultural production of the Institution. The Institutional Repository presented here uses Dspace software of MIT, which capitalizes on the Application servers and the Java programming language advantages. It is hosted on a Linux platform that ensures efficiency, stability and security both on transaction and data preservation level. An analysis is also made of changes and additions having been implemented into the repository system. The above alterations make the repository system more functional and flexible, while at the same time improve the interaction with users, adding value to its services.

The study of the international bibliography, the participation in international conferences and other related meetings as well as the experience having been acquired by this Repository development process lead to the need of enacting standards and policies, at national level, related to:

- Services offered.
- Policies necessary to be developed.
- Legal information related to copyright matters.
- Issues of system security.
- Interoperability framework
- Metadata and long-term document availability.

The ultimate goal of the above is the enactment of a certificate at the national level for Institutional Repositories which will determine the minimum desirable characteristics of their total quality.