Open Repositories 2016 Conference Report

11th International Open Repositories Conference, 13-16 June 2016, Trinity College Dublin

Bringing together those involved in the design, development, and use of open digital repositories, this conference offers several parallel sessions, panels, developer tracks and repository software interest group meetings. Many sessions were live streamed and are available on the OR2016 YouTube channel.

Laura Czerniewicz (University of Cape Town)set the tone with her thought provoking opening keynote "Knowledge Inequalities: A Marginal View of the Digital Landscape". She noted that open access publishing platforms disproportionately favour research produced in the 'Global North', while at the same time high-quality, locally relevant research from Asia, Africa and Latin America is seldom cited in high-ranking journals and becomes ever more invisible. She notes "a knowledge production and dissemination system that sidelines three quarters of the world is bad for everyone." (Czerniewicz, 2016, slide 27). She questioned the assumption that "digital" equals "open", and proposed that digital does not guarantee open access, instead adding further layers of complexity to the production and dissemination of knowledge.

Themes of particular relevance to the library community include:

- **Cultural heritage repositories:** Presentations considered new repositories for cultural heritage material of all types. A selection included Leiden Digital Special Collections Repository, the International Image Interoperability Framework, the Biodiversity Heritage Library and the Latin American Digital Initiatives project. All five projects deployed technology to enhance data reuse and scholarly collaborations.

- **Integration of persistent identifiers:** Persistent identifiers to disambiguate researchers' names and provide permanent links to publications and data are the building blocks of the new scholarly publications landscape. Several talks covered the topic including ,'Using ORCID records and DOI metadata to build reference lists'. Case studies from Germany, Italy, the U.K. and the U.S. were described proving that persistent identifiers ensure vocabulary consistence, support interoperability and facilitate compliance with open access funder mandates.

- **Research data management:** Currently a much discussed topic, particularly since the European Commission published their Guidelines on open access to scientific publications and research data in Horizon 2020, (European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, 2016) which mandates that all publications and data produced by Horizon 2020 projects be deposited in open access repositories. Various case studies were considered including topics such as collaboration in data management; workflows to facilitate easy deposit and data analysis; and preservation of research data. These included the Texas Research Data Repository, the Structural Biology Data Grid and the newly redeveloped Durham High Energy Physics Database (HEPData). Research data is part of what universities measure for research impact, and its long-term deposit and preservation is an essential component of research support, in which librarians should be involved.

Services to support open scholarly communications workflows: With a changing scholarly publishing environment, several papers focused on services to help researchers. Workflows that help integrate Current Research Information Systems (CRIS) with Institutional Repositories (IRs) and other scholarly communication activities such as managing Article Processing Charges (APCs) and tracking open access funder mandates featured in several sessions.

Adam Field (SHERPA), introduced Sherpa Services 2.0, a plan to redesign the SHERPA platforms to respond to the technological changes and new policy requirements that are emerging in the open access environment. Case studies from the University of St. Andrews, Dartmouth College (US), the University of Minho and the National Foundation for Science and Technology (both Portugal), King Abdullah University (Saudi Arabia) and Imperial College London among others provided inspiring examples of best practice for scholarly communications workflows. These highlighted the important role of librarians in facilitating collaboration between libraries, individual researchers and academic departments, and research offices.

- **Metrics and other tools to evaluate research:** In the era of university rankings, measuring the quality and quantity of research outputs by individuals and institutions has become a central tool for academic advancement and promoting institutional prestige. Three sessions considered metrics and analytics, examining free tools to collect metrics

for research evaluation and practical techniques to make repository statistics more accurate. Petr Knoth and Dragomira Herrmannova (CORE: Connecting Repositories), introduced Semantometrics, a full-text based research evaluation method which uses textual analysis metrics for research evaluation. This is a welcome improvement on measurements such as the Journal Impact Factor or simple citation counts,

- **Rights:** Two sessions discussed issues related to rights in digital repositories. The paper 'Implementing orphan works legislation at the Digital Repository of Ireland', by Rebecca Grant (DRI), Kathryn Cassidy (DRI) and myself, discussed implementing workflows for ingesting orphan works into the Digital Repository of Ireland, reviewing the European Union Intellectual Property Office's Orphan Works Database and making suggestions for better interoperability with other systems. The 'Rights' panel, introduced Rightsstatements.org, a joint project between Europeana and the Digital Public Library of America that has created a set of standardised statements to summarise the copyright status of items in digital collections. Both contributions underlined the complexity of the current copyright landscape for cultural heritage materials, and the need for simplification at an international level to encourage open access.

Irish librarians featured prominently. Joseph Greene (UCD Library) spoke both at Developer Track 1 and at Panel 5 on excluding robots from repository download counts, and found the UCD Research Repository's statistics on percentage of downloads by robots mirrored those of other European IRs.

Padraic Stack (Dublin City Libraries) and Audrey Drohan (UCD Library) were members of one of the runner-up teams in the ideas challenge, 'Team Half Octopus', which proposed a system that would allow easy discovery of open access scholarly literature with an attractive browsing interface. The winner of the challenge was "The Magic Plan", which would allow researchers to deposit publications effortlessly and was proposed by Graham Triggs and Mike Conlon (Duraspace), Tom Cramer (Stanford), Jiri Kuncar (CERN) and Justin Simpson (Artefactual).

Rufus Pollock's closing keynote, "Making an Open Information Age" brought us back to the challenges of open access. Following an introduction to the history of copyright that mentioned St. Columba and charmed the Irish in the audience, Pollock reinforced the openness message by arguing that control and access to information is the biggest social and political issue of the 21st century.

The open access movement is reaching a tipping point. Major research funders[1] are now making open access to research outputs a condition of grant funding. At the same time, the open access citation advantage is increasingly clear (Piwowar and Vision, 2013).

Technological means exist to make open access standard, and librarians have the information management and relationship building skills that are essential to communicate the open access narrative; the question is, do we as a community have the will and determination to help open access succeed?

Marta Bustillo is Assistant Librarian, The Library of Trinity College Dublin

References

- Czerniewicz, L., 2016. Knowledge inequalities: a marginal view of the digital landscape. Presented at the 11th Open Repositories Conference, 13-16 June 2016, Dublin, Ireland.
- European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, 2016. Guidelines on open access to scientific publications and research data in Horizon 2020.
- Piwowar, H.A., Vision, T.J., 2013. Data reuse and the open data citation advantage. PeerJ 1, e175. doi:10.7717/peerj.175

---

1   such as the European Commission, the Welcome Trust and several national funders including the Irish Research Council and Science Foundation Ireland