

PROJECT PRESENTATION

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Author:	Donatella Castelli
Contact Details:	IEI-CNR, via G. Moruzzi 1, 56124 Pisa, Italy – Tel:+39 050 315 2902 – Fax: +39 050 315 3464 – Email: castelli@iei.pi.cnr.it

Abstract	The Open Archives Forum will build a framework where European and national initiatives that use the open archives approach can share their experiences and co-ordinate the development of software tools and infrastructures. Special attention will be dedicated to those initiatives which are implementing or using the Open Archives Initiative Metadata Harvesting Protocol (http://www.openarchives.org). Partners in the project are UKOLN at the University of Bath, the Istituto per la Scienza e la Tecnologia dell'Informazione (ISTI) - CNR - Pisa, and the University of Humboldt – Berlin.
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PART III - DELIVERABLE CONTENT

1 OBJECTIVES

The Open Archives Forum will provide a Europe-based focus for dissemination of information about European activity related to open archives and the Open Archive Initiative (OAI). The Forum will facilitate clustering of IST projects, national initiatives and other parties interested in the open archive approach. The project will stimulate European involvement in the OAI ensuring that validation of OAI specifications are coordinated within Europe, that the European perspective is fully articulated within the OAI, and that European organizations are ready to exploit the benefits of the OAI approach. The Forum will bring interested parties together to build a community of interest, enable exchange of information and establish a web-based European information source for open archives. In addition the Forum will undertake comparative reviews of technical and organizational issues.

2 DESCRIPTION OF WORK

The work of the Open Archives Forum consists of clustering activities organized into five work packages, each under the responsibility of one of the project partners: WP1 Project Management (Univ. of Bath - UKOLN); WP2 Technical Validation (Humboldt Univ.); WP3 Organizational Validation (Univ. of Bath - UKOLN); WP4 Workshops (ISTI-CNR); and WP5 Dissemination (ISTI-CNR). All of the WPs will start in Month 1 and finish in Month 24 of the project. WP1 takes into account the managerial coordination of the project by producing detailed task and exploitation planning, and by monitoring and reporting the project activities. WP2 and WP3 deals specifically with technical and organizational issues relating to open archives and the validation of the open archives approach. Particular attention is dedicated to the Open Archives Initiatives metadata harvesting protocol (OAI-PMH). WP4 is dedicated to the carrying out and reporting on a series of four workshops which will enable face-to-face sharing of open archives experience among IST and other European projects and initiatives. WP5 disseminates the aims, activities and outputs of the project by informing a number of potentially interested communities through different channels. In particular, it maintains a continuously updated project web site. It also maintains a liaison with the Open Archives Initiative. The work of the four substantive WPs is closely inter-related. For example, some outputs from the thematic WPs is fed into the workshops and, in return, be reviewed during and updated following the workshops, and it also provides material for publication via the dissemination WP.

3 MILESTONES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

- A source of information about the open archives. This comprises information about archives, service providers, projects, and tools related to the open archives approach. This information is stored in a database equipped with input mechanism for self-registration. This database permits to dynamically acquire new information and to support search, retrieval and dissemination of this information.
- Review of Technical Issues arising from metadata harvesting and interoperating services.
- Review of organisational issues.
- A series of Workshops facilitating communication and cooperation.
- A Web site that provides a dissemination platform.

4 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

- University of Bath (The UK Office for Library and Information Networking) – UKOLN, United Kingdom
- Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Computing Centre),
- Istituto per la Scienza e la Tecnologia dell'Informazione – CNR, Italy

5 PROJECT DETAILS

5.1 Total Costs

Total estimated Eligible Costs: 703.933 Euro.

5.2 Community Contribution

Maximum Community Contribution: 703.933 Euro

5.3 Project Start and Duration

Start date of the project: October the 1st, 2001. Duration of the project: 24 months.

5.4 Co-ordinator Contact Details

Dr. Rachel Heery

Research and Development Team Leader

UKOLN, University of Bath, Claverton Down, BA2 7AY, Bath, UK

Tel: +44 1225 826724 – Fax; +44 1225 826838

Email address: r.heery@ukoln.ac.uk