

Exploring overlay journals: the RIOJA project

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The presentation

- Introduce the RIOJA project
- Provide the definition and scope for an overlay journal
- Present what we will be doing
- Summary and questions

RIOJA explained!

❑ RIOJA means...

Repository Interface for Overlaid Journal Archives

❑ We aim...

- ❑ To establish a generic module that will enable interoperability between journal software and public repositories in support of the overlay of quality certification
- ❑ The **arXiv** will be the repository
- ❑ **DPubS** the software
- ❑ **Astrophysics** and **Cosmology** the subject domain

RIOJA explained!

Timescales

- 1 year – ending March 2008

Who is involved?

- Joint Information Systems Committee, UK –
Repositories and Preservation programme
- Academic and research staff & librarians
- The institutions:



RIOJA explained!

❑ Why now?

- ❑ Increased subscription costs to journals still a reality
- ❑ Changing circumstances
 - More content available in OA Repositories
 - Mature repositories (eg arXiv) provide Registration, Awareness, Archiving: only Certification is missing...
 - but formal publishing process is lengthy and restrictive
- ❑ International collaborations forged, initiatives and projects addressing issues around open access, but, most importantly...
- ❑ ***Our academics asked for it!***

Definition - Scope

- Registration:** an author wishes to be acknowledged as the person who carried out a specific piece of research and made a specific discovery
- Certification:** the author's claims are tested through independent peer review, and it is determined that they are reasonable
- Awareness:** the research is communicated to the author's peer group
- Archiving:** the research is retained for posterity

Definition– Scope

For our purposes, an overlay journal...

- Is an open access journal
- Is built on content deposited to and stored in one or more repositories
- Utilizes quality certification
- Could provide a cost effective solution to making research outcomes available to the public
- Is sustainable and
- Adheres to preservation standards

Definition – Scope

Overlay journals and Open Access

Is this a first?

Yes for astrophysics and cosmology!

No for other sciences. Some examples:

– Annals of Mathematics, Perspectives in Electronic Publishing, Geometry and topology

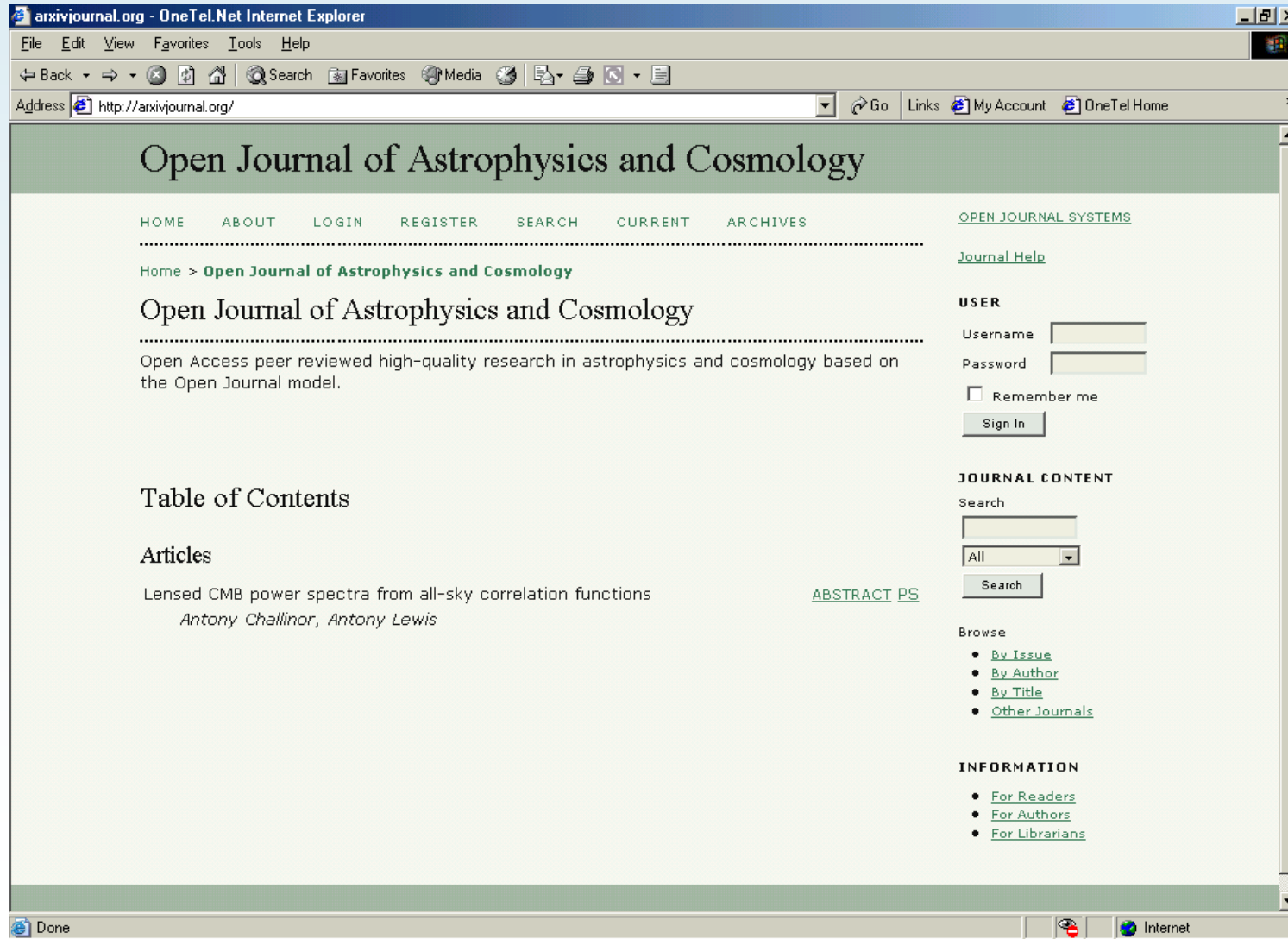
Open Access – *the next step?*

“...overlay journals complement the original BOAI dual strategy for achieving Open Access...” (HAGEMANN, 2006)

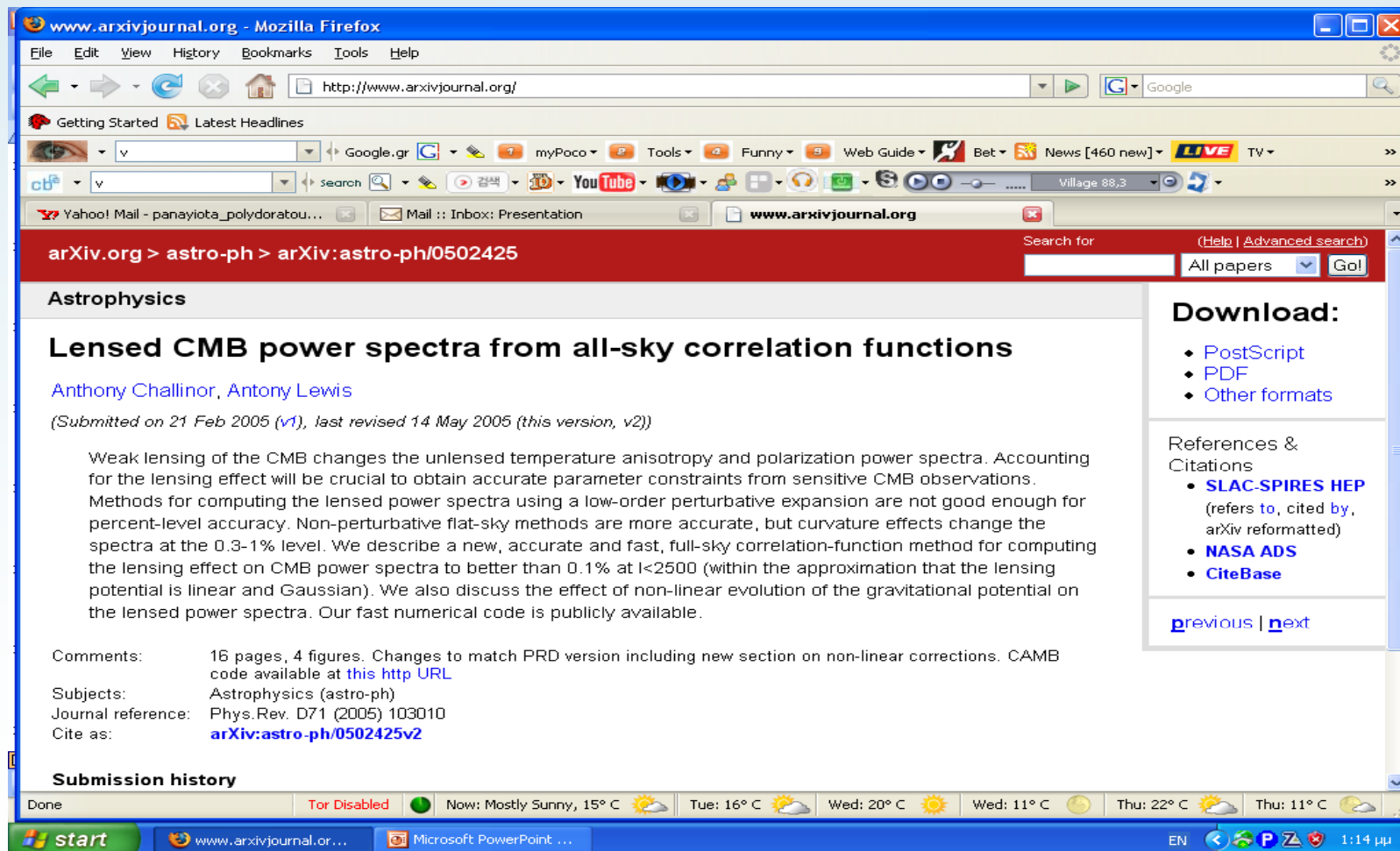
What we will be doing...

- ❑ Building the RIOJA tool
 - ❑ a set of APIs; some for implementation by a repository, some by a journal;
 - ❑ some required (eg author validation), others optional (eg trackback support)
- ❑ Constructing a demonstrator journal
 - ❑ an implementation of the RIOJA tool for arXiv repository and DPubS journal software

Illustration



Illustration



What we will be doing...

- Define some functional requirements of a community-led journal in Astrophysics and Cosmology
- Identify factors critical to the successful academic take-up of such a journal in the field of Astrophysics and Cosmology

What we will be doing...

- ❑ Questionnaire survey with scientists in the fields of astrophysics and cosmology
 - ❑ *Top 100 universities and other institutions (Times Higher Education Supplement, World Rankings 2006), arXiv and other domain specific discussion lists*

- ❑ Approach members of editorial boards - both academic editors and managing editors

What we will be doing...

- ❑ Recommend a Digital Preservation strategy for content accepted for an arXiv overlay journal, supported by life-cycle costing techniques
- ❑ Use the experience gained by UCL/BL LIFE (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ls/lifeproject/>) project, which developed a methodology to enable costs to be identified for digital material across the full life-cycle, including the preservation stage

What we will be doing...

Sustainability

- we will be establishing the costs of running the journal,
- incorporating the feedback on functionality from the surveys,
- producing a plan for the sustainability of the demonstrator journal, on a cost-recovery basis.
- Can the arXiv-overlay journal be sustained, post-project?

Summary

- Introduced the RIOJA project
- Provided the definition and scope for an overlay journal
- Presented what we will be doing
- Any questions?

Thank you!

References

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