Contribution ID: **66** Type: **not specified**

Open-Access-Statistics

Open Access publishers and authors - once a minor phenomenon - play a more significant role in scholarly communications nowadays. Having matured the discussion
focuses on new topics: Sustainability, Acceptance, Coverage, Cost-Benefit-Relations, Adoption Speed and many more.

The absence of valid usage reports is a fundamental flaw that
complicates the interaction with economically oriented entities like
universities and commercial publishers which have a strong tradition of
using quantitative data for quality assurance.

As requests to repositories can be measured easily because of web
servers storing most of the necessary pieces of information for internal
purposes the Open Access Community should adapt as fast as possible.

Scientific Publications cover a wide variety of publishers, hosts,
business models, usage models, publication stages, logical, judicial and
technical concepts. Therefore it is important to learn which portions of
the publication space can be and which agents want to be included in the
sampling. For those willing to participate only three aspects are relevant:

  What data needs to be gathered? How can it be transferred to the statistics provider? Which metrics should be employed?

Open-Access-Statistics (OA-S) is a joint project addressing these
questions. Since July 2008 an infrastructure for the standardised
accumulation of heterogeneous web log data with an emphasis on
institutional repositories has been planned and built.

Project Partners of OA-S are Georg-August Universitaet Goettingen
(State- and University Library), Humboldt-Universitaet zu Berlin
(Computer- and Mediaservice), Saarland University (Saarland University
and State Library), and the University Stuttgart (University Library).

The actions undertaken are linked with national and international
cooperations among others Digital Repository Infrastructure Vision for
European Research (DRIVER), Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de
Recherche (LIBER), and the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC).

From the perspective of the central service/statistics provider,
various data providers are sources for access data. During
implementation these will be the participating repositories (Berlin,
Goettingen, Saarbruecken and Stuttgart), and in the next stage of
expansion all DINI-certified repositories
(http://www.dini.de/no_cache/service/dini-zertifikat/zertifizierte-server/).

The infrastructure will be open for national and international

repository providers to join in and benefit from the data aggregating and processing services provided by the central service provider. The aggregates derived by the statistics provider from the access data generated locally will be hosted on a central server. Local repositories will be able to create their own services or can use external added value services, e.g. the ones provided by OA-N (Open Access Network), by integrating statistics into the documents' index pages. Another example (described by Bollen and Van de Sompel) would be a recommender system based on click stream analysis. An empirical study will be carried out in 2009 to investigate additional services for repositories.

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