

Interoperability of Digital Repositories

Intra-Repository Issues

- Can they correctly understand the data?
 - Metadata, sufficient description
 - How to ensure the researchers provide sufficient metadata information?
 - Standardised terminology (by mutual consent), ontologies.
- Can they find the data?
 - Flexible discovery, adequate indexing etc.
- Can they access the data?
 - Proprietary tools, do they have the tools, know how to use them.
 - Tools capable of plugins to handle different formats.
- Do they have permissions to all the data?
 - What part of the data-set, when, for how long, issues of recognition.

Intra-Repository Issues

- Can they update data/metadata?
 - Approval process, validation, versioning, provenance
- Is it possible to contact a responsible of the old data?
 - For questions about old data that cannot be answered by the metadata.
 - To use data for a different purpose than was intended.

Extra-Repository Issues

- Is there a uniform way to discover data in repositories?
- Same terminology used in different repositories?
- Is there a uniform way to access data in repositories?
- Is it possible to copy data from one repository to another?
 - Because it's closer to me, or less used or has more space, etc.
- Is it possible to combine data-sets to make a new data-set?

What have we learnt?

- Repositories have some real issues:
 - Can they keep the data, do they have enough resources to keep the data for a long time?
 - Standardisation of formats for data containers important for sharing data between repositories
 - Standardisation/agreement of terminology important.

What have we learnt?

- Curation of data is important:
 - Must ensure all information to make data useful in future is present.
 - Handle third-party references/resources.
 - Ensure all features of data are maintained.
- Transfer of data important:
 - Standardisation of data 'containers' important.
 - Description of contents of container important.

Anything missed?

What next?

- Let's keep in touch!
 - We can continue to learn from each other.
 - Perhaps another workshop??
 - After we have some exchange of information to understand what is important for interoperation in the current and long term.
 - Will setup a googlegroup, would that be of interest?