Repositories of past, present and future

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The purpose of repositories

- Wikipedia: “An **institutional repository** is an online locus for collecting, preserving, and disseminating - in digital form - the intellectual output of an institution, particularly a research institution”
- The repositories are often seen as synonymous with Green OA
  - ”They **are** primarily about Green OA”
  - ”Even if they are not, they **should** be about Green OA”
- However, it’s not quite as simple as that
  - Kennison, R, Shreeves, SL, Harnad, S. (2013). Point & Counterpoint: The Purpose of Institutional Repositories: Green OA or Beyond?. *Journal of Librarianship and Scholarly Communication* 1(4):eP1105. http://dx.doi.org/10.7710/2162-3309.1105

Is there more to repositories than Green OA?

- Kennison and Shreeves point out that there are thriving institutional repositories built on other kinds of content
  - Having a successful institutional repository makes it easier to work towards a mandate for scholarly articles as well
- Harnad: Green OA to refereed articles is urgent; everything else is secondary
  - Instead of going after ”low-hanging fruit”, energies should be concentrated on achieving the right kind of mandate for refereed articles (and its enforcement)

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Title: Ranking lists and European Framework Programmes: Does university status matter for performance in Framework Programmes?

Author: Nokkala, Terhi; Heller-Schuh, Barbara; Paier, Manfred

Abstract: The operational context for higher education institutions has become increasingly competitive: universities have to compete on national and international markets for students, staff, funding and prestige. In this context, universities have increasingly become to think of themselves as actors who are in direct competition with others, and adapt their strategies to increase their status and survive in the new environment. The possibly best-known approach to measuring the status of universities is ...

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Subjects: yliopisto ranking-lista puiteohjelma suoriutuminen university ranking Framework Programme performance

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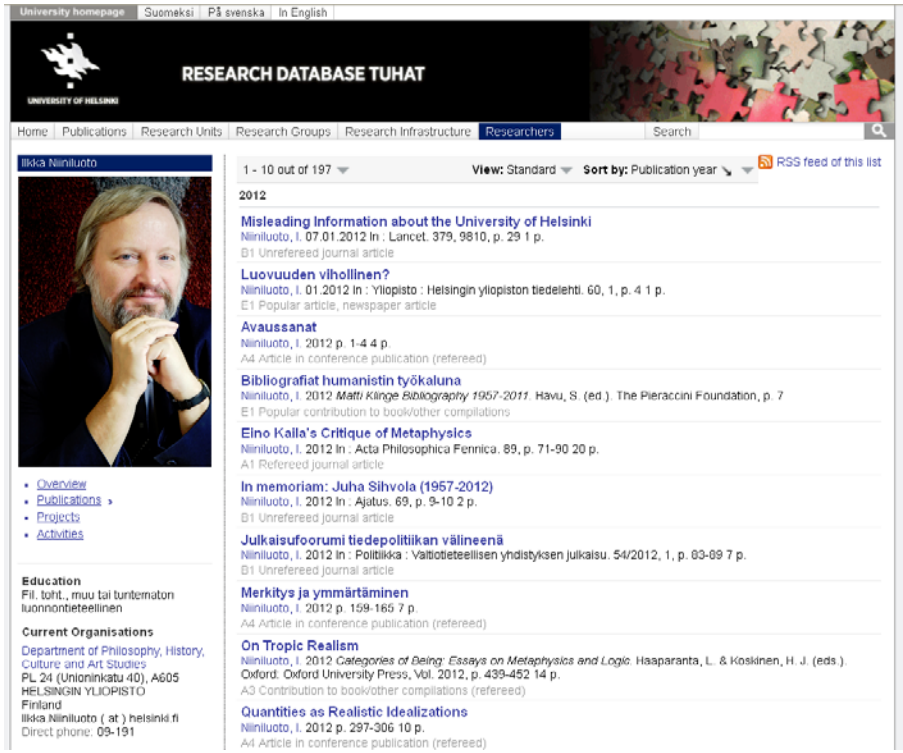
Looking back: Where did it all come from?

- Although ”institutional repository” as a distinct concept may have its origins in the Green OA movement, the real-world repositories have a much more complicated background
- The repository as we know it now is a hybrid born over time out of - or in contact with - different motivations:
  - CRIS – current research information systems
  - DOMS – management of digital objects
  - ETDs – electronic theses and dissertations
  - OA books and serial publications
  - Green OA – self-archiving of scientific articles/publications
  - Open research data

CRIS – Current research information system

- A system designed to serve the needs of research administration and research evalution
  - Publications key criteria in evaluation
- Basic difference: CRIS contains information on all research publications, IR contains only Open Access full-text publications
- Although the mission of CRIS differs from that of IR, there has been a lot of effort spent on integrating these two types of systems and their workflows

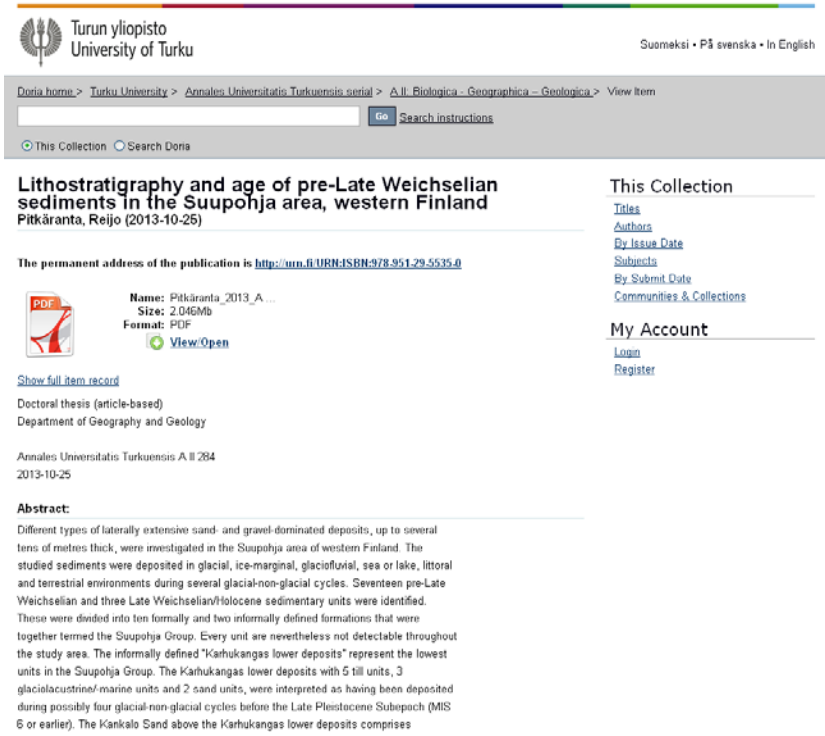


DOMS – the management of digital objects

- In the late 1990s and early 2000s research libraries were looking for a way to manage their digital collections
  - Digital Object Management System (DOMS): a technical platform to handle the growing number of digital materials generated and/or maintained by the libraries
- Connected to a larger library infrastructure, including discovery systems and library catalogs
  - Possibly connected to a digital preservation system and its workflows

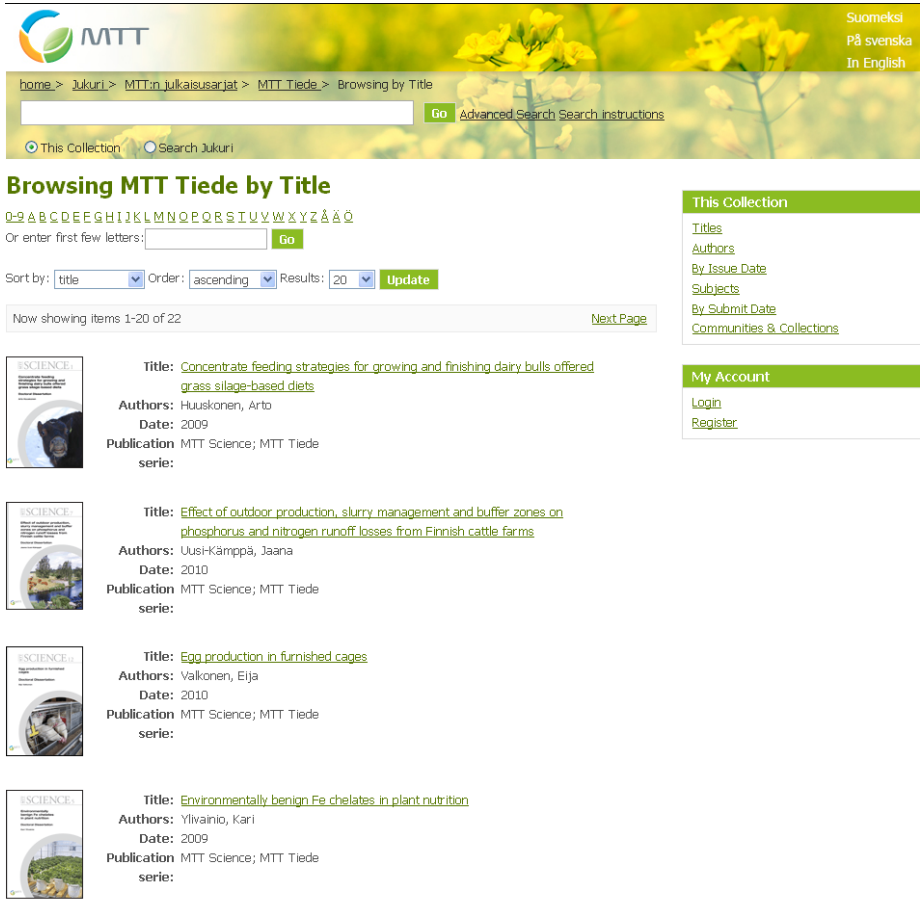
ETDs – Electronic theses and dissertations

- The first ETD projects in the 1990s
  - An international movement, but the Nordic tradition of publishing printed dissertations ensured that we were among the pioneers
- Providing access to collections of student theses also a primary concern in many university libraries
- The starting points generally practical, not ideological
  - Open access sometimes chosen mainly because there seemed to be no way to build viable commercial services for ETDs
  - Contrast: the role of UMI/ProQuest in the US



OA books and serial publications

- Open access books and serial publications published by the organization itself
  - Important category for research institutes as well
- As with ETDs, open access started to replace the traditional system of exchanging printed publications internationally with other research organizations



Green OA: Self-archiving and repositories

- Solving several problems at once
  - The traditional distribution model restricts access to scientific information
  - The publishing process slows down the spread of information
  - The Big Deal: rising cost of licensing for libraries
- Subject-based repositories (incl. ArXiv) and pre-prints
  - Did not (and do not) cover all of the scientific fields
- The concept of institutional repository
  - Early belief: ”Build it and they will come”
  - After a few years it was noted that it isn’t quite that easy: OA generally not first priority for scholars
  - Organizational and funder mandates needed to encourage them

Repository platforms: open source

- One of the surprising achievements of the OA movement was the introduction of Open Source software in many libraries
  - The traditional library software vendors were not able to deliver credible Digital Object Management Systems
  - The new generation of proprietary CRIS platforms (with IR-like functions) was still several years away
- The leading repository platforms (DSpace, Fedora, Eprints) were adopted for repository use and often for other purposes as well
  - Based on work done by international developer communities
  - Gradually replaced most of the older self-built systems

Aggregation and discovery

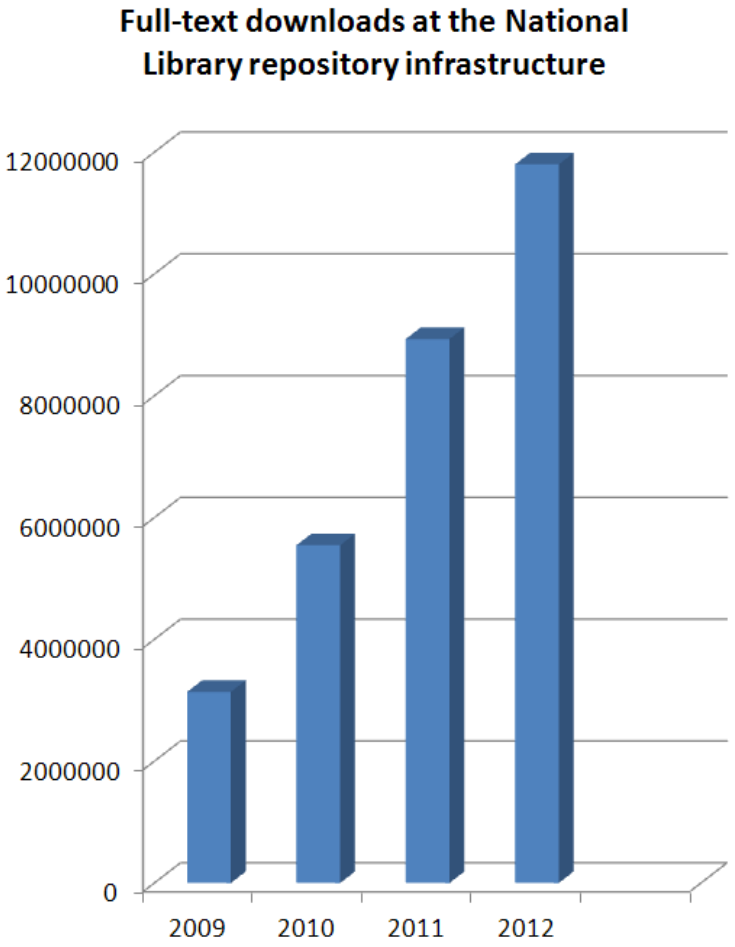
- The user interface of the institutional repository has mainly local importance (for the users from the own organization)
- Discovery on global level was planned to be based on metadata harversting
  - Harvesting protocols: OAI-PMH, later OAI-ORE & ResourceSync
- OAI-PMH-based search engines specializing on scholarly content (Oaister, BASE) have not really taken over the world
  - Google and Google Scholar dominate in the discovery of repository content
  - Repository content has had very good visibility in search results especially after Google started indexing PDFs in 2001

Shared repository services?

- The original vision: institutional repositories built on a local level and their metadata harvested to portals and search engines
  - As a result we have a large global network of mostly separately-hosted repository software instances
- Nordic countries one of the partial exceptions
  - Finland: nearly 40 customer organizations use the centralized repository infrastructure provided by the National Library
  - Norway: Bibsys provides repository services for many organizations
  - Sweden: University of Uppsala (DiVA) with a consortium of 30+ organizations
  - In each of the countries there are also organizations (often big universities) that are using locally-hosted repositories

Current situation

- Just about all of the Nordic universities already have a repository, but there is still room for expansion on other sectors
- The number of items in repositories is growing steadily
  - Repositories have a strong position in providing open access to some content types, including ETDs and serial publications
  - In some other types (including refereed articles) there is still a lot of work to do
- Much of the repository content is heavily used, largely thanks to search engine visibility

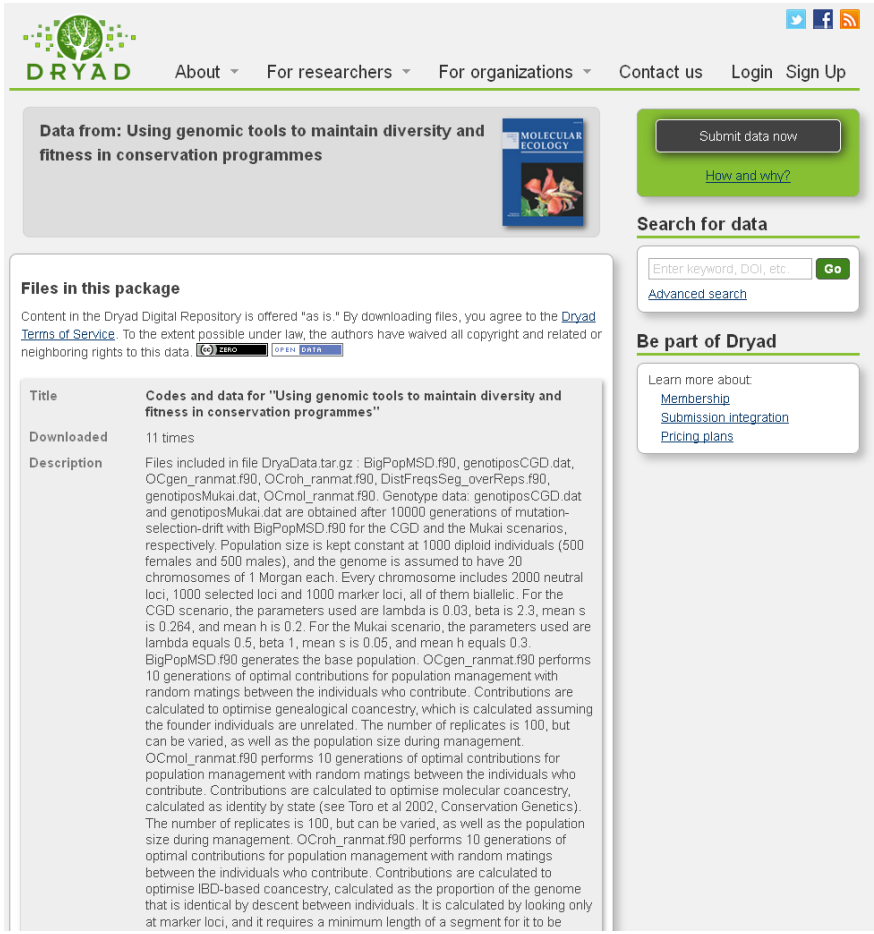


Repository and CRIS – more on integration

- Repository is not an island: integration with other systems and workflows essential for its success
- Integration of IRs with CRIS is growing ever more important
  - Denmark: many of the universities are using the same platform (Pure) for both purposes
  - Sweden: DiVA is used both as an IR and as a CRIS for publications; information from IRs harvested to Swepub portal
  - Norway: Integration on a national level in CRIStin
  - Finland: Repositories and CRIS are for the most part built separately on different platforms, the universities are currently investing on the renewal of the local CRIS infrastructure

New content types: open research data

- Focus seems to be shifting from publications to open research data
  - Funding available and new services being developed specifically for research data
- To what extent can this be integrated with or connected to the existing repository infrastructures?
  - Possibilities for co-operation in advocacy and linking publications and data into each other



Repositories as a library service?

- Discussion on the merits of Green and Gold OA has intensified
  - New policies and recommendations on the EU level
  - UK: Finch report, RCUK policy
  - US: Share vs. Chorus – two competing initiatives
- Will the future of Open Access be based on the repository services provided by the libraries, or on an infrastructure developed and run by the publishers? Or both?
- The role of the repository as part of future library services?
  - Providing open access to documents produced within the organization (instead of providing local users access to content produced elsewhere)
- Relationship with cloud-based social networking services (e.g. Academia.edu, Mendeley) aimed at scholars?

Open repositories 2014

- The next Open Repositories conference will be in Helsinki, June 9-13, 2014
  - A five-day conference hosted by the National Library of Finland and Helsinki University Library
  - http://or2014.helsinki.fi
- The leading international conference on repositories, for the first time in the Nordic countries
  - Excellent opportunity to learn what is going on and what is being discussed in the global repository community!