

RCAAP: Building and maintaining a national repository network

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Abstract

In our presentation we will describe RCAAP project and the network of Open Access repositories, based on DSpace software, from Portugal. We will present an overview of the services provided by the RCAAP open access national initiative, constituting the foundations of a sustainable national open access infrastructure.

The communication describes the value-added services provided by the project, built with a focus on the technical interoperability, and the consolidation of a strong community that shares common objectives. Both strategically directions have resulted in the significant increase in the number of repositories and institutional open access policies, placing Portugal in the forefront of repositories networks in Europe.

Keywords: repository, services, network, interoperability; DSpace

Audience

DSpace Interest Group; Repository Managers and decision-makers.

Background

This work addresses the “Infrastructure to accommodate national and international mandates for data management and open access” theme.

Presentation content

RCAAP (Repositório Científico de Acesso Aberto de Portugal = Open Access Scientific Repository from Portugal) is a project initially funded by UMIC – Knowledge Society

Agency, ran by FCT/FCCN, with support of the University of Minho, that acts as scientific and technical coordinator.

The RCAAP Project began in 2008 and aims to promote visibility and accessibility to the Portuguese scientific output, improve access to information about national scientific output, and integrate Portugal into international context.

RCAAP Services

The early stages of the RCAAP Project were focused on two directions. In the first place, promoting the creation and development of repositories, by offering a repository hosting service (based on DSpace instances), training sessions to repository managers and by advocacy efforts directed to librarians, repository managers and HEI top managers. On the other hand, and simultaneously, on the creation and consolidation of the RCAAP portal, build to collect, aggregate and index Open Access scientific contents from Portuguese Institutional repositories.

Over the last few years, the RCAAP Project extended its scope building new value-added services provided for Portuguese scientific community. Actually, the services provided by the project are:

- SARI – Institutional Repository Hosting Service (26 repositories)
- SARC – Scientific Journal Hosting Service (19 journals)
- Common Repository – Shared repository to small institutions (31 institutions)
- Scientific Data Repository – Allows the share of data (pilot project)
- RCAAP Validator – Validation of metadata requirements based on Driver Guidelines.
- SCEUR - Centralized Service on Repository Usage Statistics
- RCAAP Search Portal – Aggregator of compliant repositories, journals and data repositories (70 aggregated resources).

Since 2009, RCAAP has also actively promoted and supported the development of DSpace features and add-ons, in order to support value-added services and functionalities, and also fostering interoperability of DSpace repositories. The following add-ons were developed and maintained: OAIextended addon; Request Copy; Minho Stats; OpenAIRE Authority Control; Sharing Bar; Degóis and OAI-stats.

The Community

Besides the technological development, the focus on the people was a success factor for the project. For each provided service, the project always offers a training program and a helpdesk service by email and phone.

The training program is based on local training, distance learning with synchronous sessions (video conferencing) and autonomous learning (online learning objects) and depends on the type of service. Recently, the project provides a learning platform to allow autonomous learning with a community moderation based on the principle that the more experienced users help newcomers.

To enlighten the community, the project also provides studies, state of the art reports and tutorials related to the main trends for repository managers.

Two general project meetings are held annually, to assess the progress made and discuss future directions.

Five year after the beginning of the project, the conclusions are that the technical interoperability and the involvement of the community are success factors to be considered on a repository network.