

Think about sustainability

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The views expressed are mine and do not necessarily reflect official positions of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, the Federal Reserve System, or the Board of Governors, or anybody else I feign to represent.

- Economics: efficient allocation of scarce resources
- Very few librarians are economists
- It shows

Nereus

- Consortium of libraries
- Big bucks from EU
- 1/2 FTE from each participant
- Membership fee

NEREUS Goals

- “Since April 2003, Nereus has been developing innovative information services to connect existing essential research resources and to unlock new content from top economics faculties across Europe.”

<http://www.nereus4economics.info/about-us/>

Concretely

- Scan works of top faculty (local)
- Create and assemble metadata (central)
- Website portal (central)
- Meet twice a year (rotation)
- Start in 2003, completed in 2010

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Why?

- Economists already have a pre-print culture
- Website barely used
- Too costly

Could this have been prevented?

- What about asking users?
- What about asking those already doing this?
- Group thinking excluding “outsiders” who were really “insiders”
- Designed to be costly

RePEc

- In operation since 1997, with precursor starting in 1992.
- Run by economists (mostly)
- No budget
- All volunteer help

Goal

- Democratization of access to research and of access to dissemination of research in Economics
- Do it for free for all parties

Modus operandi

- 1700 publishers provide metadata
- “Services” serve metadata to end-users
- Institutions sponsor server space
- Volunteers run services, never meet
- Services include: EconPapers, IDEAS, NEP, Socionet, INOMICS, Google Scholar, Oaister (Worldcat), Microsoft Academic Search, ResearchGate, ~~EconomistsOnline~~, etc.

Why it works

- Designed by users
- No central costs: cannot die from lack of funding
- Clear purpose and value added: volunteers
- Incentives are right for all participants

Lessons?

- Are users willing to participate?
- Can the service go on if funding dries up?
- Ask economists about incentives
- No need to be perfect

More about RePEc and St. Louis Fed

Ask me for propaganda before 15:00 today