

**Open Repositories Conference**  
**January 23-26, 2007**  
**Report to DISC**  
**Submitted by Beth Black**

**Key Themes of conference**

- Interoperability between repositories and other systems
  - Metadata
  - Packages with descriptions, policies and items
  - Many presentations about different ways of passing different pieces between repositories
    - Very impressive one about work in Australia passing between dspace and fedora
- Information to keep / know about items / metadata
  - DC (flat) not enough info
  - Need schemas that show relationships
    - METS used heavily for exchange between repositories and to store with items
    - Project in UK working on DC and FRBR based application profile for scholarly works
- EScience and eResearch
  - Storage and sharing of data sets connected to the published works
- Open Access is essential for public good and making most of public money put into research
  - One of the key purposes for a repository – the heart of the university
  - Now is the time to push for open access, open source and repositories because of culmination of pressures on university administrations (from Keynote by James Hilton, CIO of Virginia Tech formerly of U of Michigan)
- Collaboration is essential to do all that needs to be done and requires discipline
  - It takes hard work to find shared vision and purpose
  - Must create mechanisms, such as governance that sits outside of a specific institution, to guide the coll
- Preservation
  - MIT working with California school to create a framework, called PLEDGE, to automate the auditing process required of Trusted Digital Repository; they are also creating this tool to make preservation rules easier for archivists to decide and make fewer hard coded by the programmers
  - University of Virginia shared the principles of digital curation they followed in the building of their repository.

**Future of Dspace**

- Creating a non-profit organization to manage the product
- Governance board created to work give input to non-profit

- Vision for Dspace2
  - More modular – can use plug-ins to make changes that won't have to be redone each time there is an upgrade
  - Determine a regular upgrade cycle – current discussion was for a release every 6 months.
  - Seeking support, both financial and code development
- Manakin – new software just released by Texas A&M to plug in to dSpace that allows customization of user interfaces
  - Offers 3 levels of customization, each increasingly more technical
    - First level uses XHTML and CSS to apply different looks to different collections; second level uses XSL, XHTML and CSS; third involves changes to dSpace API.
  - Shared impressive example of use with geospatial data at Texas A&M

### **Information about our issues/ Experiences of other universities similar to ours**

- Many organizations shared challenges of getting end-users to submit their own works with quality metadata
  - Solutions tried
    - Make submission process simpler (one school had it down to one step!)
    - Offer to do it for the content owner
    - Offer a multiple step process where content owner starts process and passes it off to librarian to finish
    - Obtain publications from university faculty in bulk from publishers – U of Michigan and U of Wisconsin, Madison are taking this route
    - Research in UK exploring development of deposit tools to work on multiple repository platforms to facilitate rapid population of repositories.
- NCSU and GA Tech running dark archives with separate instance of dspace to handle preservation TIFFs from digitized books and items with copyright issues
- U of Maryland created tool to implement embargoes for electronic dissertations in dspace
- Several libraries are going into the journal publishing business – I heard a lot about Open Journal System (OJS) and very little about DpubS. I did meet one person from U of Kansas who is currently comparing the two systems.

### **Other Interesting Info**

- North Carolina State University took approach that they were not creating an institutional repository. They focused on library produced content. Faculty pubs db similar to Pro in attempt to gather faculty publishing records.
- Rice beginning to work with JPEG2000, streaming media and xml rendered into html served from dspace and its web server – will require more investigation if we are interested
- U of Ill. UC created tool to automatically convert MS Office docs to the Open Office format

- New OAI standard in development, called OAI-ORE, that deals with exchange and reuse of complex digital objects, not just the metadata as detailed in the OAI-PMH standard.
- Neat tools being developed to combine data from repositories and other sources to display info in new ways, such as timeline format or in geospatial formats, or to create combinations of information, similar to OSU:Pro.
- HP is developing pf-dspace to create federation of repositories. They are basing this work on the DM-dSpace currently being used by the China Digital Museum project

### **Recommendations for actions**

- Upgrade dSpace to 1.4 as soon as possible after VM upgrade on server
- Install Manakin
- Fill Andrew's position focused on dSpace, repositories and possibly publishing
- Explore METS

This was an exciting, exhausting conference full of information. I am happy to share details about any of the items noted above. Just let me know what you would like. Also, the conference organizers promised to put all of the presentations on the conference website at [www.openrepositories.org](http://www.openrepositories.org) within 2 weeks following the conference.

– Beth