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on Electronic Publishing

Openness in Digital Publishing: Awareness, Discovery and Access

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Keynotes

Infrastructure and Policy Framework for Maximising the Benefits from Research Output
Jeffery, Keith G. 1

Scientific Publishing in the Digital Era
Kroó, Norbert 13

Open Access and New Publishing Models

Open Access Publishing in High-Energy Physics
Mele, Salvatore 15

Importance of Access to Biomedical Information for Researchers in Molecular Medicine
Roos, Annikki; Hedlund, Turid 25

Representing and Coding the Knowledge Embedded in Texts of Health Science Web
Published Articles
*Marcondes, Carlos Henrique; Rocha Mendonça, Marília Alvarenga; Malheiros, Luciana Reis;
Cruz da Costa, Leonardo; Paredes Santos, Tatiana Christina; Guimarães Pereira, Luciana* 33

Automatic Content Syndication in Information Science: A Brazilian Experience in the
Creation of RSS Feeds to e-journals
Lopes de Almeida, Robson 43

Emerging Business Models for e-Content Delivery

Changing Content Industry Structures: The Case of Digital Newspapers on ePaper Mobile Devices
Van Audenhove, Leo; Delaere, Simon; Ballon, Pieter; Van Bossuyt, Michael 53

Introducing the e-newspaper - Audience Preferences and Demands
Ihlström Eriksson, Carina; Åkesson, Maria 65

Centralized Content Portals: iTunes and the Publishing Industry
Leendertse, Matthijs; Pennings, Leo 75

Enabling Accessibility

The Open Document Format and its Impact on Accessibility for Persons with a
Reading Impairment
Engelen, Jan; Strobbe, Christophe 85

Multimedia Modular Training Packages by EUAIN
Crombie, David; Ioannidis, George; McKenzie, Neil 91

File-Formats for Preservation: Evaluating the Long-Term Stability of File-Formats
Rauch, Carl; Krottmaier, Harald; Tochtermann, Klaus 101

Development of Repository and Publishing Tools

Beyond Publication - A Passage Through Project StORe
Pryor, Graham 107

Challenges in the Selection, Design and Implementation of an Online Submission and
Peer Review System for STM Journals
Best, Judy; Akerman, Richard 117

A Bachelor and Master Theses Portal: Specific Needs and Business Opportunities
for the DoKS Repository Tool
Baccarne, Rudi 129

The FAO Open Archive: Enhancing the Access to FAO Publications Using International
Standards and Exchange Protocols
Nicolai, Claudia; Subirats, Imma; Katz, Stephen 141

Assessment of Open Access and Enabling Frameworks	
Five Years on - The Impact of the Budapest Open Access Initiative <i>Hagemann, Melissa R.</i>	153
Openness in Higher Education: Open Source, Open Standards, Open Access <i>Kelly, Brian; Wilson, Scott; Metcalfe, Randy</i>	161
Peer-to-Peer Networks as a Distribution and Publishing Model <i>De Boever, Jorn</i>	175
A Lifeboat Doesn't Do You any Good if it's not There when You Need it: Open Access and its Place in the New Electronic Publishing Paradigm <i>Johnson, Ian M.</i>	189
Open Access Journals and Regional Perspectives	
Expectation and Reality in Digital Publishing: Some Australian Perspectives <i>Martin, Bill; Deng, Hepu; Tian, Xuemei</i>	199
Libraries as Publishers of Open Access Digital Documents: Polish Experiences <i>Nahotko, Marek</i>	209
Use of Open Access Electronic Journals by Chinese Scholars, and an Initiative to Facilitate Access to Chinese Journals <i>Li, Ruoxi; Rowland, Fytton; Xiong, Zichuan; Zhao, Junping</i>	221
Managing Expectations for Open Access in Greece: Perceptions from the Publishers and Academic Libraries <i>Banou, G. Christina; Kostagiolas, A. Petros</i>	229
Ontology and Meaning Extraction	
Towards a Semantic Turn in Rich-Media Analysis <i>Bürger, Tobias; Güntner, Georg</i>	239
Towards an Ontology of EIPub/SciX: A Proposal <i>Costa, Sely M.S.; Gottschalg-Duque, Claudio</i>	249
On the Evolution of Computer Terminology and the SPOT On-Line Dictionary Project <i>Hynek, Jiri; Brada, Premek</i>	257
Digital Heritage and Access	
Scientific Heritage in Bulgaria Makes First Digital Steps <i>Dobрева, Milena; Ikonomov, Nikola</i>	269
Digitisation and Access to Archival Collections: A Case Study of the Sofia Municipal Government (1878-1879) <i>Nisheva-Pavlova, Maria; Pavlov, Pavel; Markov, Nikolay; Nedeva, Maya</i>	277
The Digital Scholar's Workbench <i>Barnes, Ian</i>	285
Evaluating Digital Humanities Resources: The LAIRAH Project Checklist and the Internet Shakespeare Editions Project <i>Warwick, Claire; Terras, Melissa; Galina, Isabel; Huntington, Paul; Pappa, Mikoleta</i>	297

Impact Analysis and Open Access Journals

- Feasibility of Open Access Publishing for SSHRC Funded Journals
Chan, Leslie; Groen, Frances; Guédon, Jean-Claude 307
- The Research Impact of Open Access Journal Articles
Tonta, Yasar; Ünal, Yurdagül; Al, Umut 321
- Sharing the Know-how of a Latin American Open Access only e-journal: The Case of the Electronic Journal of Biotechnology
Muñoz, Graciela; Bustos-González, Atilio; Muñoz-Cornejo, Alejandra 331
- Open Access Journals: A Pathway to Scientific Information in Iran
Noruzi, Alireza 341

Web 2.0 and Social Media

- Automatic Sentiment Analysis in On-line Text
Boiy, Erik; Hens, Pieter; Deschacht, Koen; Moens, Marie-Francine 349
- A Comparison of the Blogging Practices of UK and US Bloggers
Pedersen, Sarah 361
- Enhancing Traditional Media Services Utilising Lessons Learnt from Successful Social Media Applications - Case Studies and Framework
Bäck, Asta; Vainikainen, Sari 371
- The Fight against Spam - A Machine Learning Approach
Jezek, Karel; Hynek, Jiri 381

Interoperability and Open Repositories

- The Project of the Italian Culture Portal and its Development. A Case Study: Designing a Dublin Core Application Profile for Interoperability and Open Distribution of Cultural Contents
Buonazia, Irene; Masci, M. Emilia; Merlitti, Davide 393
- Building Bridges with Blocks: Assisting Digital Library and Virtual Learning Environment Integration through Reusable Middleware
Chumbe, Santiago; MacLeod, Roddy; Kennedy, Marion 405
- Designing Metadata Surrogates for Search Result Interfaces of Learning Object Repositories: Linear versus Clustered Metadata Design
Balatsoukas, Panos; Morris, Anne; O'Brien, Ann 415
- Disclosing Freedom of Information Releases
Apps, Ann 425

Workshop 1

- EPrints 3.0: New Capabilities for Maturing Repositories
Carr, Leslie A. 435

Workshop 2

- DCMI-Tools: Ontologies for Digital Application Description
Greenberg, Jane; Severiens, Thomas 437

Workshop 3

- DRIVER - Supporting Institutional Repositories in Europe
Robinson, Mary L.; Horstmann, Wolfram 445

Demonstrations

- Cultural Content Management at a New Level: Publishing Theater and Opera Details by Means of Open Technologies from the Web 2.0
Schranz, Markus W. 447
- Ontologies At Work: Publishing Multilingual Recreational Routes Using Ontologies
Paepen, Bert 451

Posters

- The PURE Institutional Repository: Ingestion, Storage, Preservation, Exhibition and Reporting
Alroe, Bo 455
- Access to Free e-journals via Library Portals: The Experience of the Shahid Chamran Ahwaz University in Iran as a Case Study
Asnafi, Amir Reza 457
- Digital Archives at the University of Pisa
Bucchioni, Cinzia; Pistelli, Zanetta; Pistoia, Barbara 459
- A Survey on magiran.com: A Database for the Magazines of Iran
Kokabi, Mortaza 461
- Developing National Open Access Policies: Ukrainian Case Study
Kuchma, Iryna 463
- Digitization of Scientific Journals in Serbia
Mijajlovic, Marko; Ognjanovic, Zoran; Pejovic, Aleksandar 465
- DRIVER - Digital Repository Infrastructure Vision for European Research
Robinson, Mary 467
- The Inclusion of Open Access Journals in Academic Libraries: A Case Study of Bioline International
Sweezie, Jen; Caidi, Nadia; Chan, Leslie 469
- Developments in Publishing: The Potential of Digital Publishing
Tian, Xuemei 471

Index of Authors 473

Index of Keywords 475

Preface

Dear readers and delegates at ELPUB 2007,

It is a pleasure for us to present you with this volume of proceedings, consisting of scientific contributions accepted for presentation at the 11th ELPUB conference, organised by the Vienna University of Technology, Austria.

The 11th ELPUB conference keeps alive the mission of the ten previous international conferences on electronic publishing - held in the United Kingdom (in 1997 and 2001), Hungary (1998), Sweden (1999), Russia (2000), the Czech Republic (2002), Portugal (2003), Brazil (2004) Belgium (2005) and Bulgaria (2006) - which is to bring together researchers, lecturers, developers, entrepreneurs, managers, users and all those interested in issues regarding Electronic Publishing in widely differing contexts.

The theme for this year's conference, "Openness in Digital Publishing: Awareness, Discovery, and Access", is devoted to exploring the full spectrum of "openness" in digital publishing, from open source applications for content creation to open distribution of content, and open standards to facilitate sharing and open access to scientific publications. In addition to technical papers, we also encouraged submissions reporting on research on economics of openness, public policy implications, and institutional support and collaboration on digital publishing and knowledge dissemination. The goal is to encourage research and dialogues on the changing nature of scholarly communications enabled by open peer-to-peer production and new modes of sharing and creating knowledge.

In order to guarantee the high quality of papers presented at ELPUB 2007, all submissions were peer-reviewed by the Programme Committee (PC), whose thirty-four highly qualified and specialised experts represent many different countries and cover a wide variety of institutional and knowledge domains. The PC did a great job in selecting the best submissions for ELPUB 2007, and we would like to thank them sincerely for the valuable time and expertise they put into the peer review process.

At the conclusion of the peer review procedure, all selected and confirmed entries for this conference, including full papers for scientific presentations, and shorter papers for workshops and demonstrations, were pre-published in the ELPUB Digital Library at <http://elpub.scix.net>. Potential delegates could therefore see, in advance, what could be expected at the meeting. The same system - SOPS, or SciX Open Publishing System - was also used to set up the submission and review of abstracts.

To assist with the assignment of reviewers, submitters were asked to characterise their entries by selecting 3-5 key areas out of a larger list of subject descriptors. In a similar way, reviewers identified their 3-5 fields of expertise and this allowed the Programme team to map papers to reviewers. Finally, the same system supported the Programme Committee with the scheduling of the sessions and with grouping papers according to common and over-lapping themes. The Table of Content of this volume follows both the themes and the order of the sessions in which they were scheduled during the conference.

As with all previous ELPUB conferences, the collection of papers and their metadata are made available through several channels of the Open Archives Initiative, including Dublin Core metadata distribution and full archives at <http://elpub.scix.net>. It may appear ironic to have a printed proceedings for a conference dedicated to Electronic Publishing. However, the "need" for printed publications is an old and continuing one. It seems that it is still essential for a significant number of delegates to have "something tangible" in their hands and their respective university administrations.

We hope you enjoy reading the proceedings. It is also our pleasure to invite delegates and readers to ELPUB 2008, taking place in Toronto, Canada. The 12th ELPUB conference will be organised by the University of Toronto, and this marks the first time the conference series will be held in North America. Details of the conference will be forthcoming at the ELPUB web site.

Finally, we would like to thank our Keynote Speakers, Keith Jeffery and Norbert Kroó, for their insightful and timely contributions to the conference. Thanks also go to Grace Samuels for checking the references, to Tomo

Cerovsek for maintaining the submission- and review-interface. We would also like to thank the sponsors for their generous contributions.

With our best wishes for a very successful conference,



Leslie Chan
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University of Toronto Scarborough



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Vienna University of Technology