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Directory of Open Access Repositories (*OpenDOAR*) Press Release

***OpenDOAR* is pleased to announce an upgrade to its service, with more repositories listed and more features for both users and repository owners.**

OpenDOAR, the Directory of Open Access Repositories, has now surveyed over 1000 candidate sites world-wide for inclusion in the list. This has produced a quality assured list of 760 repositories - see <http://www.opendoar.org>

A key feature of *OpenDOAR* is that all of the repositories we list have been visited by project staff, tested and assessed by hand. We currently decline about a quarter of candidate sites as being broken, empty, out of scope, etc. This gives a far higher quality assurance to the listings we hold than results gathered by just automatic harvesting.

This approach is of benefit to end-users - minimising the chance of finding broken links, or archives holding only metadata, or irrelevant sites. It also supports the growth of "service providers" that need a quality assured list of repositories to draw from for their services. *OpenDOAR* recently came as the leader in a global survey of 23 repository listings carried out by John Hopkins University* for the purposes of analysing repositories and their holdings.

OpenDOAR records a rich variety of repositories - many are institutional, but there is also a wide range of subject-based and governmental sites. The range of the list shows the spread of repository use around the world.

OpenDOAR listings can be sorted by subject area, language, country, content type and results searched in combination with keywords. Results can be displayed in different formats, including a tabular form which can be changed and specified for an individual's interests. Entries highlight repository features such as the size of holdings, presence of e-alerts, RSS feeds and language.

However, *OpenDOAR* is more than a passive directory and works to improve the quality of the repository network. The *OpenDOAR* team have produced tools to assist repository administrators in defining the re-use policies for their holdings. These tick-box tools are simple to use and help administrators clarify their permissions. They produce complete policies, ready to plug into a repository's structure.

Dry as they sound, re-use policies are essential if a service provider is to know what use can be made of the information in the archive. For instance, can the full-text of a repository be data-mined? Can the metadata be collected and publicised elsewhere? Service providers need to be able to find if they have the right permissions to develop these innovative and value-added services which will benefit researchers. However, work by project staff shows that over two-thirds of repositories do not have these policies defined.

OpenDOAR staff will be encouraging administrators to use the *OpenDOAR* tools to define how their holdings can be used and re-used. *OpenDOAR* will be talking to service providers to ensure that they are able to get the information they need to make full use of open access material. *OpenDOAR* can be used in this way as a communication bridge between repositories and services and is working to develop the community of repository administrators.

For more information, go to the *OpenDOAR* site - <http://www.opendoar.org>

* Survey paper at
http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/papers/151-Oliver_Swain-en.pdf

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

OpenDOAR is a continuing project hosted at the University of Nottingham under the SHERPA Partnership. OpenDOAR maintains and builds on a quality-assured list of the world's Open Access Repositories. OpenDOAR acts as a bridge between repository administrators and the service providers who make use of information held in repositories to offer search and other services to researchers and scholars worldwide.

<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk>

<http://www.opendoar.org>

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OSI - <http://www.soros.org>

JISC - <http://www.jisc.ac.uk>

CURL - <http://www.curl.ac.uk>

SPARCEurope - <http://www.sparceurope.org>