Building Digital Libraries on Open Archives

Donatella Castelli
IEI-CNR
Italy
Open Archive

- **Archive**
  repository of digital information

- **Open archive**
  archive that provides a machine interface for making its content available to external services
E-print archives

● Different scholarly communities “communicate” through electronic archives

  – ArXiv (Los Alamos National Laboratory Physics Archive - 100,000 papers, 50,000 user daily)
  – NCSTRL (University of Cornell - papers on Computer Science from 120 Institutions)
  – NTLDL (electronic theses and dissertations)
  – RePec (papers on Economics)
Cross-domain access

- Each archive has its own interface and its own services
- Cross-archives access is not possible
- Mechanisms for supporting interoperability are required
Scientific communities that publish their pre-prints on electronic archives met in Santa Fe (New Mexico) on July 1999 and set up the Open Archives Initiative.

- ArXiv
- NCSTRL
- NDLTD
- RePEc
- CogPrints
To explore the co-operation among e-print archives as a way to contribute in a concrete manner to the transformation of the scholarly communication
Key Issues

- To solve the problem of interoperability among the e-prints archives

- Very simple, low-barrier to entry interface that shifts implementation complexity and operational processing load away from the archives
Solution proposed

Service providers

- personalised dissemination
- search
- browse

Data providers

- Archive_1
- Archive_2
- \( \text{Archive}_N \)

OAI Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH)
OAI Metadata Harvesting Protocol

- Identify
- ListMetadataFormats
- ListSets
- ListRecords
- ListIdentifiers
- GetRecord

service provider

data provider

- HTTP-embedded
- XML response format
Identify

Repository name
Base-URL
Admin e-mail
OAI protocol version
Description Container
List Metadata Formats

List Metadata Formats

service provider

data provider

* identifier=oai:mlib:123a

Note:
Dublin Core is mandatory

- Format prefix
- Format XML schema
List Sets

- ListSets
- service provider
- data provider

list of
- Set Specs
- Set Name
- *Set description*
List Records

* from=a
* until=b
* set=klm
* resumption token=XXX

ListRecords * metadataPrefix=oai_dc

list of
- Identifier
- Datestamp
- Set spec
- Metadata
- About Container

service provider

H A R V E S T E R

REPOSITORY

data provider
List Identifiers

- *from=a*
- *until=b*
- *metadataPrefix=oai_dc*
- *resumption token=XXXX*
- *set=klm*

list of:
- Identifier
- Datestamp
- Set specs
Get Record

* identifier=oai:mlib:123a
* metadataPrefix=oai_dc

- Identifier
- Datestamp
- Set spec
- Metadata
- About

service provider

data provider
OAI-PMH

Version 2.0 available since 14th of June 2002 at:


http://www.openarchives.org/OAI/2.0/openarchivesprotocol.htm
OAI compliant data providers

- Around 80 archives have implemented OAI-PMH
- Other communities
  - Libraries
  - Museums
- Budapest Open Archives Initiative
  (Open Society Institute – Soros Foundation)
Service providers

- Cross-archives search
  - Arc (http://arc.cs.odu.edu/)
  - citebaseSearch (http://citebase.eprints.org/cgi-bin/search)
  - my.OAI (http://www.myoai.com/)
  - ............

- Other services
  - Cyclades
  - Scholnet
E U V Framework Project – February 2001

- IEI-CNR (Italy)
- UNIVERSITY OF DORTMUND (Germany)
- FORTH (Greece)
- FRAUNHOFER FIT (Germany)
- ERCIM (France)
Objectives

Develop a system which provides an open collaborative virtual archive environment for supporting single scholars or communities of scholars.
Functionality

- Search in large, heterogeneous, multidisciplinary digital archives
- Personalised Information Space Organisation
- Support to collaboration
- Filtering and Recommendation
Architecture

User → Communities/Projects

Personalised Collaborative Information Space

Search & Browse

Filtering & Recommendation

Collections

DIGITAL ARCHIVE 1

DIGITAL ARCHIVE 2

... DIGITAL ARCHIVE n

CYCLADES Virtual Archive Environment

OAI-PMH

Corfu, 21st June 2002

Developing Digital Libraries
Virtual Collections

- The information space is organised into virtual collections.
- Users and Communities may define their own collections, e.g. by specifying criteria and by refinement of existing ones.
- The OAI archives remain hidden to the users and communities.

![Diagram showing virtual collections and OAI archives.]

Corfu, 21st June 2002
Search & Browse

- Search using the collection’s search fields
- Query formulation through browsing
- Multiple schema browsing allowed

Collection = “Logic”,
Author = “Straccia”,
Description = “Fuzzy Logic”
Users may save the retrieved metadata records into their folders.

QUERY:=
Collection = “Logic”,
Author = “Straccia”,
Description = “Fuzzy Logic”

Result List
R1. A fuzzy Description Logic
R2. A note on fuzzy IR
...

Corfu, 21st June 2002
Developing Digital Libraries
A folder may contain:

- Metadata records (retrieved from the OAI archives)
- Uploaded user documents
- System recommendations (users, records, communities, projects)
- Hyperlinks
- Annotations
- User ratings
- Discussion forums
Filtering & Recommendation

- Service learns the user information needs (folder profile) automatically from the user’s folder content

- Uses of folder profiles
  - Filtering of metadata records
    Used by users to filter out irrelevant information during a search session
  - Recommendation of records, users, collections, communities
    Used by the system to automatically notify users about new documents relevant for them
Recommendations

- Recommendations pertain to a user folder, i.e. user topic of interest
  - Document recommendation
  - Collection recommendation
  - User recommendation
  - Community recommendation
Some considerations

- Cyclades is a complex DL service that exploits data digitalised by others.
- Existing archives can be accessed through the advanced Cyclades services.
- Cyclades can be activated on selected OAI compliant archives.
EU V Framework Programme project

CNR (Italy)  INRIA (France)
FhG (Germany)  FORTH (Greece)
SICS (Sweden)  ERCIM (France)
Univ. of Masaryk (Czech Republic)
SCHOLNET aims at developing a digital library infrastructure to support the communication and the collaboration within networked scholarly communities.
Functionality

- information acquisition, description, archiving, search, access, and dissemination of multimedia documents
- handling of annotations on documents
- multilingual access
- personalised information dissemination
User communities

Scholnet must be able to serve the needs of any scholarly community
Serving any community

- Generic with respect to the DL content
  - Structure of the document
  - Organisation of the information space
  - Metadata format
  - Controlled vocabulary
Serving any community

- Open
  - Easily extensible with other services that meet the specific needs of a user community
Federation of services (replicated and/or distributed) which communicate through an HTTP-based protocol
Architecture (cont.)

- Scholnet Repository
- OAI Gateway Repository
Interoperability

OAI compliant service

Cyclades

Scholnet Repository (OAI compliant)
Objective

European forum for discussing issues related to the open archives and for disseminating information about the implemented solutions.
Title to be decided

Open libraries and historical archives

http://www.oaforum.org
Some links

http://www.openarchives.org
http://www.ercim.org/cyclades
http://www.ercim.org/scholnet
http://www.oaforum.org