Landscape of Open Access Institutional Repositories in Spain

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The open access movement is an emerging issue in Spain, but it is becoming a familiar term within the scientific community. It has advanced in the past three or four years with more frequent initiatives related to repositories and openfere journals. This work aims to offer some figures about Spanish institutional repositories and compare them with data from different sources, analyze their growth and describe some service providers created over those repositories.

Spanish BD signatory Date
Gobierno Autonómico de Canarias 22 October 2003
Universitat Jaume I 10 October 2006
Spanish Research Council (CSIC) 26 January 2008
Universidad A Coruña 26 January 2008
Universidad de Lleida 10 February 2006
Universitat de Ví 8 March 2006
CIEMAT 9 March 2008
Secretaría de Univ. e Inv. GC 24 March 2008
Biblioteca de Catalunya 19 April 2006
Universitat Oberta de Catalunya 2 June 2006
Universidad de Alcalá de Henares 12 June 2006
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid 12 June 2006
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid 12 June 2006
Universidad Complutense de Madrid 12 June 2006
Universidad Politécnica de Madrid 12 June 2006
Universidad Rey Juan Carlos 12 June 2006
UNED 12 June 2006
Universitat Pompeu Fabra 12 July 2006
Universidad Alcalá 9 November 2006
Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya 25 January 2007
Societat Catalana de Física 6 March 2007

The Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROAR) and the Directory of Open Access Repositories (OpenDOAR) have in their records 32 and 23 open access repositories from Spain, respectively, however those figures still do not represent the real picture, since there are more repositories that have not registered yet (see BUSCA REPOSITORIOS), and others that are listed in those directories which are not repositories but journals or aggregators. There are nomenclature discrepancies (different names for the same repository) among directories: directories and errors in the directories (duplicate, inclusion of open access journals journals or entries which do not respond to a repository (the case of UPComemant). It would be recommendable to revise those data to amend any erroneous interpretation of those figures.

Growth
The oldest repository in Spain Texto Doctoral en Xarxa (“Worked Doctoral Theses”) was created in 2001, however most of Spanish institutional repositories emerged at the end of 2004 or the beginning of 2005 (Meler, 2006). Nevertheless, there is evidences that more exist than those which have been created and announced during last months (Melero, 2007). Those data do not correlate with the DRIVER inventory study (above), which included only the three responses from the 12 repositories that were invited (those registered at that time in OpenDOAR).

The growth of Spanish repositories with time, from data provided by ROAR, seems to fall into three types: plateau, stepwise and steady growth. The clearest growth behaviour is the one of TDOX, which has followed the stepwise pattern. The first model responds to repositories in which digital objects are deposited on demand along the time, the second and the third ones are those in which unbatched are done by batches of different size at different intervals of time, as has been observed previously in other repositories (Devlin and Connolly, 2007).

Repositories in figures
There are some discrepancies among sources referred to items contained in our repositories. The following graph shows the number of records, according 4 sources (repositories are numbered as in table above) consulted. RECOLETA (h delivered over Spanish-OAI/PMH open access data providers) and the data displayed in their web sites are the most available sources.

Comparison of repositories size. Data from RECOLECTA.

Based on OpenDOAR records, Dipase followed by ePrints are the most used repositories for their repositories' implementation. Most of Spanish repositories are institutional (78%) mainly created by universities. The most frequent types of repositories are those archiving conference and workshop papers, theses and dissertations, and research papers (pre- and postprints).

Services over repositories
In Spain there are different initiatives, at regional and national level, to develop services on top of the existing repositories. At the regional level, the Autonomies repositories of Catalonia and Madrid are the most active, because their respective territories concentrate the majority of the existing institutional repositories in Spain. The services are implemented through the Library Consortia of each Autonomous Community.

The Autonomous Community of Madrid and the “Consorcia Madrido” have created a regional scientific deposit service “d-cadena” which gives free access to academic research output in the Region of Madrid from the seven participant universities and the Spanish National Research Council. The Catalan Consortium, CBCU, from the Autonomous Community of Catalonia, works with a slightly different model: it has created aggregating or inter-institutional repositories: RECCEL, TDOX, RACO and digital memory of Catalonia.

Busca repositorios (Repository Search). It is a web site which lists and updates open access Spanish institutional repositories with some tools over them; Google search API and OpenDOAR graphs API.

At the national level the initiative is leaded by the Network of Academic and Research University Libraries of Spain, RESERB. RESERB has created the national open access research portal “RECOLETA” just indexed in February, 2008. The portal has been inspired by DSPACE in the Netherlands, the information platform open-access.net in Germany, and DRIVER.

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Respect to Spanish forums, related to repositories and in general to the OA movement, at least there are 3 very active: the OS-Repositories (Open Science-Repositories), GUDE (Dipase Spanish users group) Open Access Mediation (A. López’s blog supported by Madrid Regional Government) and the two groups hold meet-ups and workshops periodically about hot topics related to repository issues.

References
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GUDE: Dipasa Piso http://www.dipasa.es/dipasa.html
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http://www-biblio.uclm.es/informes/recolecta.html
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