

From CNR Annual report to an Institutional repository: Results from a survey

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Abstract

Considering that the collection policy is one of the most important elements in the development of Institutional Repositories (IR), the general aim of this study is to contribute to the development of a future CNR's IR identifying and proposing GL collections and related metadata. In this paper the results of a qualitative analysis of a sample of GL document types stored in a database containing CNR scientific production are described. The analysis of both the metadata schema and information content of the note fields allowed the identification of database improvements, which are represented by the introduction of fields describing GL characteristics as well as the provision of guidelines that help information providers to correctly insert bibliographic data.

1. Introduction

In 2008 a CNR "OA supporter group", composed mainly of CNR librarians, promoted a survey to acquire a more precise picture of Open Access practices at CNR, one of the largest Italian multidisciplinary research organizations [Luzi, 2008; Di Cesare, 2009]. One of the main results was that the questionnaire respondents identified in a central database, containing CNR scientific production, a potential building block of an IR.

This database derives from the CNR Annual report and contains the description and outputs of its research activities. It is online updated and contents are directly added from the CNR research units involved, which provide descriptions of projects carried out, information on internal and external funding, personnel and equipment involved, collaboration with other national and international institutions, etc. A subset of this information is available at the main CNR webpage (<http://www.cnr.it/istituti>), where publications are linked to both the research units and to the projects within which they are produced. Moreover, all publications produced by CNR researchers available since 2002 are organised according to a predefined list of document types that include both conventional and non-conventional literature.

The positive attitude towards this central database shown by questionnaire respondents, its comprehensiveness as well as the involvement of researchers and librarians in the process of providing information, motivated us to further investigate its information content and quality. Therefore, our aim is to analyse the bibliographic collections - both conventional and non conventional - reflecting the multidisciplinary CNR nature.

Moreover, CNR is currently developing an Institutional Repository (IR) to diffuse its research production/scientific output. Considering that the collection policy is one of the most important elements in the development of institutional repositories, the general aim of the study is to contribute to the development of the future IR, identifying and proposing GL collections and related metadata. In particular, the analysis intends to verify whether the actual metadata are suitable to clearly identify and correctly describe GL document types. This can contribute both to identification of a standardized metadata schema and to development of guidelines supporting the correct insertion of information.

In this paper we present the results of this study on a sample of selected GL documents produced by a selected CNR research units. Paragraph 2 describes the methods used to select the sample examined and perform the qualitative analysis of the records stored in the database. A general overview of the development of this database is given in paragraph 3, reporting a summary of an interview with the person in charge of its management. The database bibliographic collections are illustrated in paragraph 4, while the results of the qualitative analysis of the selected sample of GL documents is reported in paragraph 5.

2. Methods

2.1. Survey design

The object of our analysis is the information content of the database currently used to collect CNR scientific products. To perform this analysis we used a stratified random sample of CNR research units and documents. In addition we used an in-depth interview with the person