The OpenAIRE Project
Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe

Stefania Biagioni, Donatella Castelli, and Paolo Manghi
Institute of Information Science and Technologies, ISTI-CNR, Italy

OpenAIRE (Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe) [1] will deliver (i) technological infrastructure for the identification, collection (by deposition and harvesting), access and monitoring of FP7 and ERC funded articles and (ii) a networking infrastructure for the uptake of the EC Open Access’s mandate and OpenAIRE’s system across authors and institution in Europe. Dissemination will be achieved by means of the establishment and operation of the OpenAIRE European Helpdesk System and a network of National correspondent.

In particular, the project targets the following objectives: (i) it will offer a special repository, called “the orphan repository”, for the ingestion of metadata and document of the articles whose authors do not have an institutional or subject-based/thematic repository of reference; (ii) it will enable deposition and OAI-PMH harvesting policies of metadata of the articles whose authors have a repository of reference; (iii) it connect all collected article metadata with EU project contracts metadata, (iv) it will monitor the system use to obtain statistically-significant trends about projects, articles and authors, and (v) it will provide the the OpenAIRE portal (www.openaire.eu) through which all collected and inferred data will be freely accessible worldwide.

Thematically, the project will focus on peer-reviewed publications (primarily, journal articles in final or pre-print form, but also conference articles, when considered important) in at least the seven disciplines highlighted in the Open Access Pilot in FP7 [2] (energy, environment, health, cognitive systems-interaction-robotics, electronic infrastructures, science in society, and socioeconomic sciences-humanities) and on research datasets in a subset of them. Geographically, however, it will have a definitive “European footprint” by covering the European Union in its entirety, engaging people and scientific repositories in almost all 27 member states and beyond. The technological infrastructure built by the project will be based on state-of-the-art software services of the D-NET package developed within the DRIVER and DRIVER-II projects [3] and the Invenio digital repository software developed at CERN [4]. These will be further enhanced and complemented with services developed within OpenAIRE to address critical requirements and issues that arise in the target environment and require further investigation. For example, monitoring tools and statistics services will infer relevant information and statistics on FP7 and ERC funded research from article, research data, project metadata and relationships between them. Further, OpenAIRE will work with several subject communities to explore the state of the art of research datasets management and their combination with research publications.