

The Information Market for Research and Higher Education

How to integrate all relevant information in a network of repositories?

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Abstract

The information market for research and Higher Education (HE) will in future be based on a federated network of repositories of information relating to research and education that conform to open standards, and an accommodating infrastructure that allows users the easiest and fastest possible access to information in all of these repositories.

The information covered by such a network will not only comprise of information material for research and HE, including grey information, but also of management information relating to this information.

The market is the research and HE community; its main focus is open systems.

This federated network will be global.

This vision of a federated network of repositories of information for research and higher education will be analysed from a strategic point of view, with emphasis on the consequences for grey literature. In particular, we will discuss engines for change in this market and availability versus actual use of information is used as an important parameter. The value chain is used as analytical instrument to discuss a number of options and the roles and responsibilities different stakeholders will likely assume in these options.

The potential of a high level strategy for this market and its consequences for the different stakeholders in the value chain, and in particular the research and higher education institutions, is analysed.

These considerations lead into a strategic agenda for the research and HE institutions for all relevant information they are using and producing, in research and e-learning, in terms of content and management of this content, also for grey information.

Justification

This paper is a record of an invited presentation given at the Fifth International Conference on Grey Literature held December 4-5, 2003 in Amsterdam. As such, the paper cites freely from a previous publication¹ of the author, albeit sometimes in a different context resulting in some different and new observations and conclusions. For general references the reader is referred to the references mentioned in ².

¹ Hans E. Roosendaal, "Driving Change in the Research and HE Information Market", to be published in Learned Publishing

² Hans E. Roosendaal, Peter A. Th. M. Geurts and Paul E. van der Vet, "Developments in scientific communication: Considerations on the value chain". Information Services and Use, 21 (2001) 13-32