

## Overview

“Open-access (OA) literature is digital, online, free of charge...” Peter Suber

[www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm](http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm)

Open Access (OA) repositories are a mechanism for managing and storing digital content from a range of publication sources. A number of key services have been developed to support researchers in depositing and searching in OA repositories which also support those responsible for the management and development of OA repositories.

This briefing paper gives an overview of some of the key services currently available and provides further details on how to access and use them

## Registry Services

Online registries are useful tools for locating and accessing information about OA repositories and journals. Several such registries have been developed, each providing slightly different levels of service or functionality:

**OpenDOAR:** is a directory of academic open access repositories worldwide that enables users to search for both repositories and repository contents. Repository administrators can register their repository and all registrations are reviewed by the OpenDOAR team prior to listing. OpenDOAR also provides tools and support to both repository administrators and service providers in sharing best practice and improving the quality of the repository infrastructure. <http://www.opendoar.org/>

**ROAR:** is another worldwide database of open access repositories. Repository administrators can register their repository with ROAR. Using ROAR,

repository contents can be searched, monitored and compared in table or graph form. It also provides useful data for OA and preservation research.

<http://roar.eprints.org/>

**DOAJ:** is a directory of academic open access journals worldwide. The journals listed cover a wide range of subjects and languages but all of them allowing access to the full text of articles free of charge. <http://www.doaj.org/>

## Deposit Support Services

Two SHERPA web-based services are currently available to assist researchers and repository administrators in the deposit process:

- **SHERPA Juliet:** currently in the UK six of the seven research councils have OA policies as part of their grant awards. Some funders specify that deposit be made in particular repository e.g. UK PubMed Central, or within a particular time period after publication. Juliet provides summaries of the policies of research funders worldwide and provides links and contact details for each funder.

<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/juliet/>

- **SHERPA RoMEO:** provides a summary of permissions that are normally given as part of each publisher's copyright transfer agreement. Publishers' policies vary greatly in which version, if any, of an article they will allow to be deposited in a repository. RoMEO provides simple summaries of these policies and can be searched by either journal or publisher name. Repository administrators can use the RoMEO API to link directly from their repository to the RoMEO database.

<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo.php>

A small number of UK-based repositories provide shared deposit services, currently including:

- **OpenDepot:** a service for researchers in UK Further and Higher Education institutions which do not currently have a repository. Items deposited in the Depot can subsequently be used to populate an institution's repository once available. Researchers whose institutions already have a repository will be directed there automatically. <http://opendepot.org>

- **JORUM:** a learning and teaching materials repository service for staff in UK Further and Higher Education Institutions. <http://www.jorum.ac.uk/>

## Search & Retrieval Services

Listed below are a number of services that have been developed to assist researchers to search for open access materials. These typically utilise the OAI-PMH protocol<sup>1</sup> which enables more sophisticated searching and more relevant results than is possible from general online search engines. Just as popular search engines may initially seem similar, users typically favour one OA search service over the other. Hence it may be worth trying each of the services below several times to find the one (or more) that best suit your needs.

- **BASE:** is a multi-disciplinary search engine based in Germany that allows users to search for materials in OA repositories, OA journals and other resources worldwide. All repositories and websites are reviewed to ensure that only high quality open access scholarly resources are included in the BASE search. <http://www.base-search.net/>
- **OAlster:** is another multi-disciplinary search engine of OA repositories, journals and other resources worldwide, based in the U.S. All repositories and websites are reviewed to ensure that only high quality open access scholarly resources are included in the OAlster search. <http://www.oaister.org/>

- **OpenDOAR Search:** *OpenDOAR* uses Google to provide a simple full-text search of all repositories listed in *OpenDOAR*. The repositories have been quality-checked for academic relevance. <http://www.opendoar.org/search.php>
- **DART-Europe:** the DART-Europe search service currently provides access to theses from over 50 European institutions. <http://www.dart-europe.eu/>
- **Institutional Repository Search:** searches across approximately 89 UK Further and Higher Education repositories. Searches may be limited to a subset of these repositories for more specific searching. <http://irs.mimas.ac.uk>

## Conclusion

By providing access to high-level functions that span entire networks of repositories, shared services such as those above contribute significantly to the development of the international repository infrastructure. Such services facilitate deposit and re-use, whilst minimising individual development activities. More sophisticated services are being developed through the efforts of groups and projects such as JISC<sup>2</sup> and RSP<sup>3</sup> here in the UK as well as international projects such as the European DRIVER project<sup>4</sup>. Further information on all of these services and initiatives can be found on the RSP website.

## References & Further information

### OAI-PMH

The Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH) is a low-barrier mechanism for repository interoperability. <http://www.openarchives.org/pmh/>

### JISC

JISC inspires UK colleges and universities in the innovative use of digital technologies. <http://www.jisc.ac.uk>

### Repositories Support Project

The Repositories Support Project (RSP) aims to co-ordinate and deliver good practice and practical advice to HEIs to enable the implementation, management and development of digital institutional repositories. <http://www.rsp.ac.uk/>

### DRIVER

DRIVER is an international partnership working on a project to build large-scale public infrastructure for research information across Europe. <http://www.driver-repository.eu/>

### OpenAIRE

OpenAIRE aims to build support structures for researchers in depositing FP7 research publication, establish and operate an electronic infrastructure for handling peer-reviewed articles as well as other important forms of publications and work with several subject communities to explore the requirements, practices, incentives, workflows, data models, and technologies to deposit, access, and otherwise manipulate research datasets of various forms in combination with research publications. [www.openaire.eu](http://www.openaire.eu)