Get the Good Stuff!

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Agenda

- What are the problems?
- What is AgNIC’s answer?
  - What is OAI & is it effective?
  - Is this sustainable?
- Lessons learned
What are the problems?

- **Problem #1:**
  - Cross searching databases and “interoperability”
    - Expensive and time-consuming to build filters for multiple databases
    - Federated searching depends on one or more systems at the other end – impacting response time
    - Independent systems do not necessarily use the same named fields – creating a mix of information and a potential point of confusion for the user

- **Problem #2:**
  - How to offer the public user/customer more full-text
Thinking “outside the box”

- **INSIDE THE BOX** - Consider the traditional options
  - Build metadata
  - Hyper-link to sites
  - Content Management Systems
  - Rely on Google, Yahoo, etc.

- **OUTSIDE THE BOX** - What else can we do?
  - Identify full-text
  - Reuse what works
  - Go get it!
AgNIC’s Answer: OAI

- What is OAI?
  - Open Archives Initiative – OAI – is a “protocol which is intended to supply and promote an application-independent interoperability framework for communities involved in publishing content on the Web”.
  - Effort began in 2000 and launched in January of 2001
OAI attempts to address

- Interoperability and exchange issues
- Exposure/access to targeted, openly available full-text
Is OAI Effective?

- Yes and no
  - Yes because it works!
  - No because it is not adequate
    - Many digital objects are broken into parts. OAI is not optimal for aggregated digital objects.

- Options
  - Other protocols such as Z39.50, MARC, AGRIS, etc. – none of which are optimal – some are ubiquitous for databases but not in repositories
  - New effort called OAI-ORE, or Open Archives Initiative – Object Reuse Exchange
    - allows distributed repositories to exchange information about their constituent digital objects
How Has AgNIC Applied OAI?

- For the pilot project, we:
  - Targeted repositories
  - Targeted collections within repositories
  - Performed technical work
    - Develop and run scripts that check for URLs, descriptions, format, and titles – essential pieces of descriptions [metadata]
      - For example - to normalize formats such as html, pdf, etc.
    - Establish OAI routines to harvest periodically
Why?

- Able to target appropriate collections
- Ease of implementation
  - Many applications have OAI “built in”
- Automated harvesting – makes this *nearly* maintenance-free
14 repositories identified, dozens of collections’ metadata harvested

Nearly 30,000 metadata records harvested

Updated on different schedules according to number of items in the collections

Added “subject search” feature

We need more repositories and collections!
This section contains full-text, freely available materials from the sources listed on the left. This collection is updated on a regular basis.
What is a repository?

The Texas A&M Repository is an digital service that collects, preserves, and distributes the scholarly output of the university. The repository is an important tool to facilitate scholarly communication and preserve the scholarly legacy of Texas A&M faculty. Based on the principles of Open Access, the Texas A&M Repository contains many types of content, from electronic theses and dissertations to digitized maps from the Library's holdings.

Communities in the Repository

Select a community to browse its collections.

- Colleges & Schools
- Programs, Centers, and Institutes
- Special Collections
- State Agencies
- Texas A&M University Libraries
- Texas A&M University Press Consortium
Record 1 of 6
Title / edited by Thomas J. O’Shea, Bruce B. Ackerman, and H. Franklin Percival.
Identifier http://purl.fcla.edu/dlib/UF/UF00000121.jpg
Identifier http://purl.fcla.edu/dlib/UF/UF00000121.pdf
Description Proceedings of a workshop held at the Austin Cary Forest of the University of Florida, Feb. 4-6, 1992.
Subject Manatee-Florida-Congresses ; Rare mammals-Florida-Congresses ; West Indian manatee-Florida-Congresses.
Contributor O’Shea, Thomas J.; Ackerman, Bruce B.; Barnett, Patricia; Franklin, H. Franklin (Harry Franklin), United States National Biological Service, PALMM (Project), Technical Workshop on Manatee Population Biology (February 4-6, 1992; Gainesville, Fla.)
Publisher U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Biological Service.
Date 1992
Provider Publication of Archival, Library and Museum Materials (PALMM)

Record 2 of 6
Title Ground-water resources data of Charlotte, De Soto, and Hardee Counties, Florida / by M.I. Kaufman and N.P. Dion.
Creator Kaufman, Matthew I.
Identifier http://purl.fcla.edu/UFIk/b/GroundwaterResourcesDataOfCharlotte.jpg
Identifier http://purl.fcla.edu/UFIk/b/GroundwaterResourcesDataOfCharlotte.pdf
Description Prepared by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with the Division of Geology, Florida Board of Conservation and the Southwest Florida Water Management District.
Subject Groundwater-Florida-Charlotte County ; Groundwater-Florida-De Soto County ; Groundwater-Florida-Hardee County ; Charlotte-12016 ; De Soto-12027 ; Hardee-12049
Contributor Dion, N. P.; Geological Survey (U.S.), Southwest Florida Water Management District (Fla.); PALMM (Project)
Publisher State of Florida, Division of Geology.
Date 1988
Provider Publication of Archival, Library and Museum Materials (PALMM)

Record 3 of 6
Title / Roland M. Harper.
Identifier http://purl.fcla.edu/dlib/UF/UF00000212.jpg
Identifier http://purl.fcla.edu/dlib/UF/UF00000212.pdf
Is this sustainable?

- Yes and no.
  - This is a very easy way to provide access to open access full-text
  - We do not have to manage the files or the metadata!
  - Need help identifying additional repositories
  - Need help identifying repository collections
    - New collections seem to be coming online fast
Lessons Learned

- AgNIC seems to be in front of the curve -
  - Many of the repositories we began harvesting are now adding collections – we have to go back and look at the new collections
  - Need to have discussions about the quality of repository metadata, or maybe it is not important?
    - Everyone has their own rules for metadata
  - We made it work, but some have not been able to make OAI work on their systems
  - We should build a committee, community, or such to further build out such a service
More ...

- Use of a single, or selected controlled vocabularies would make for better topic organization
- Begin to answer some of the questions that have come up about:
  - Metadata quality
  - Format standardization
  - Character encoding – UTF-8
Questions?
Comments?

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