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Introduction

Dear members and partners of COAR,

In a few days, we will all meet in the wonderful city of Istanbul, Turkey, for the 4th Annual Meeting of our association. Many thanks to Ms. Ilkay Holt, Director of Libraries at Özyeğin University, and to the Anatolian University Libraries Consortium (ANKOS) for hosting our meeting this year. We are especially glad to welcome M. [Tony Hey](#), Vice-President of Microsoft Research Connections, as keynote speaker. Highlights in the program will continue through the days: “What is the role of repositories for Open Science?” – surely a key question for many of our members that will be discussed by a panel. Not to forget about the evenings: Cast off for the conference dinner on a Bosphorus boat! To get into the spirit, you can have a look at the [full program on the website](#) – we are looking forward to meeting you in Istanbul.

Highlights of this edition of the COAR Newsletter are the recent outputs of the new Repository Observatory, the reports from the Research Data Alliance Launch and the G8 + O5 Data Working Group Meeting in which representatives from COAR participated. Check out and

enjoy these and other exciting news on the next pages!

Furthermore, we unfortunately have to announce that Kathleen Shearer, Chair of Working Group I, resigns from her position as Working Group Chair. We are very grateful for her support of the COAR community over the years and we wish her all the best for her further activities.

Repository Observatory

TU Delft starts the “COAR Repository Profile Series”

TU Delft, in the Netherlands, has generously and enthusiastically accepted to be the first in our COAR Repository Profiles Series. TU Delft’s repository profile is innovative, full of imagination and ideas, and has a strong and vibrant repository program.

You will learn about the history of the TU Delft repository and how it is adapting to the evolving repositories’ scope: “The overall challenge will be the set-up of a clear distinction and presentation between scientific content, educational content, heritage content and raw data in a coherent way”. COAR is grateful that the TU Delft Library is sharing their knowledge and experiences with the Open Access Repository community. In particular, we would like to thank Wilma van Wezenbeek, Director of TU Delft Library; Just de Leeuwe, Product Manager in Research Support, and Anke Versteeg, Account Manager. Please enjoy reading the full profile at the [COAR website](#).

Most recently added to the Observatory is a new COAR Talk. Olaf Siegert of ZBW, Germany, interviews Isidro F. Aguillo (CSIC, Spain), the main Editor of the Webometrics [“Ranking Web of Repositories”](#).

The 30-minute -hour interview touched several issues, incl. the methodology of the ranking, the developments since its incep-

tion in 2008 and the impact on the repository scene.

You can view the video [here](#) or check out the new [COAR Vimeo Channel](#), where more videos will be posted in the future.

New Members

COAR welcomes all new members and groups who have recently joined our association:

The National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka (NSF), which was established in 1998, joined in March 2013. We welcome Sunethra Perera, the head of the National Science Library & Resources Centre who will represent the institution in COAR. From Turkey, Yasar University and Koc University Library have joined our association in March 2013. We're welcoming Gülsevil Agca, Director of Yasar University Information Centre and Tuba Akbaytürk Çanak, director of Koc University Library. We are also very pleased to welcome the World Bank as new member. The World Bank launched its Open Knowledge Repository (OKR) in April 2012 and it has grown impressively since then. We are sure it will give considerable support for COAR especially with regard to an extended outreach to institutions on the African continent.

From the Working Groups

WG1: Repository Content

In order to ensure that COAR members have access to a wide variety of strategies for recruiting content, Working Group I will update their review of Sustainable Best Practices for Population Repositories and a report will be published in early 2013. The Open Access Agreements and Licenses Task Force has completed a preliminary scan of the environment and a set of guidelines is forthcoming. The aim of the Task Force is to assist organizations and licensing consortia in supporting open access through licensing clauses or other types of agreements.

WG2: Repository Interoperability

The COAR Interoperability Project was presented at the Open-Access-Statistics workshop "Usage Statistics and Beyond" on the 22 & 23 April 2013 in Berlin, Germany, by WG-Chair Eloy Rodrigues (University of Minho, Portugal).

A Kick-Off Meeting of the new COAR Interest Group "Usage Data and Beyond" also took place at this workshop and was led by Daniel Beucke (University of Göttingen, Germany). The Interest Group deals with interoperable usage statistics, e.g. combining usage data from multiple sources or to offer a common robot blacklist. It furthermore aims at collecting experiences from several projects and initiatives in order to standardize the gathering of usage data. The group will work under the umbrella of Working Group 2.

Furthermore, the Interoperability Project started into a new phase. Based on the information gathered in an open discussion and from The [Current State of Open Access Repository Interoperability report](#), the project aims to establish the [COAR Roadmap for Future Directions](#) for repositories Interoperability, trying to maximize the (re)use of existing guidelines and best practices. The main goal of the Roadmap is to identify, to discuss and to address emerging issues and trends as well as to put effort on future repositories interoperability as key component of the wider infrastructure for research and education. Therefore, a new Experts Advisory Panel was formed to work for these goals.

WG3: Repository and Repository Network Support and Training

The [Open Education Week](#) that took place from 11-15 March 2013 online and in cooperation with locally hosted events around the world featured [COAR Training Materials](#).

For the next year, the Working Group has evolved a new [work plan](#). Your input is highly welcome. Let us know which topics we should cover in our online workshops to foster the exchange of ideas and expertise and get in touch

with us to share your experiences and best practices! The forthcoming workshops will address sustainable practices for populating repositories and other topics suggested by COAR members. Contact the chair of WG 3 [Iryna Kuchma](#), EIFL Open Access Programme Manager or the [COAR Office](#).

Reports from the Regions

Africa

“Open Access: Knowledge Sharing and Sustainable Scholarly Communication in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda” is a new EIFL regional project funded by [Spider](#), the Swedish Program for information and communication technology (ICT) in Developing Regions (DSV) of the Department of Computer and System Sciences, Stockholm University. The aim of the project is to raise visibility and accessibility of research outputs in these countries. It builds on previous work of EIFL in the region and combines awareness raising, policy work and practical training to promote, support and establish Open Access repositories and journals at institutions of higher learning. This new project will run until June 2014 and will be implemented in partnership with EIFL partner consortia: [Kenya Library & Information Services Consortium \(KLISC\)](#), [Consortium for Tanzania Universities and Research Libraries \(COTUL\)](#) and [Consortium of Uganda University Libraries \(CUUL\)](#). We are looking forward to welcoming new COAR members from Africa!

Latin America

Special Issue: Latin America turns the first page on Open Access

The LA Referencia project presents the Special Issue “Latin America turns the first page on Open Access” which summarizes the progress of the regional pilot site for access to scientific documentation of nine countries and the na-

tional efforts to complete this initiative successfully.

After having signed the Regional Agreement for the Construction of a Federated Network of Institutional Repositories in Latin America, the preconditions for more equitable scientific visibility are established. Together with state policies, other technological and organizational aspects are a big challenge in building a culture favorable to the initiative of LA Referencia. With the idea of having a pilot website from which users can quickly and easily access scientific information derived from the nine national initiatives of the project, they contribute to the extension of Open Access to knowledge in Latin America.

For the Spanish text please click [here](#).

Asia

Japan's National OA Mandate for ETDs

On 1 April 2013, Japan's new rules for degrees came into effect. Doctoral degree awardees are obliged to make their theses accessible on the internet with aid from degree awarding institutions. In practice, theses will be made available to the public through the institutional repository of each university. Japanese universities hope these revised rules will lead to Open Access to the more than ten thousand PhD theses submitted each year. This will give a boost to the content of approximately 48,000 of those already available on the repositories as of 31 March 2013.

Europe

The MedOANet Project report

The Mediterranean Open Access Network ([MedOANet](#)) which addresses the necessity for coordinated strategies and policies in Open Access to scientific information in Europe held its European Workshop at the University of Minho (UMinho), Braga, Portugal, on 6 February 2013. The workshop was part of the [UMinho Open](#)

[Access Seminar](#), which brought together the MedOANet European Workshop and the OpenAIRE Interoperability Workshop and also offered public sessions on Open Access policies, Open Science, Data Repositories, Interoperability and Research Infrastructures.

The main goal of the MedOANet European Workshop was to bring together decision-makers and task force representatives from the following six Mediterranean countries: Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Greece and Turkey. The Workshop included presentations by the project partners with a brief overview on Open Access in the aforementioned six Mediterranean countries and allowed participants to engage in discussion during two parallel sessions on policy definition, policy implementation and sustainability. Moreover, policy enforcing and monitoring were addressed in the perspective of Research Funders and Research Performing Organizations.

The general and preliminary conclusions stressed the regional diversity, the limited coordination at different levels on the Mediterranean countries and the need to strengthen the advocacy and awareness efforts and make them permanent. Finally, a strong recommendation has been issued to improve the convergence, alignment and coordination of policies at regional level, using the European Commission's policies and documents as the general framework and model for this purpose.

As a result of the MedOANet European Workshop, a report with conclusions and recommendations will be produced soon, combined with Guidelines for policy makers with a view to the effective implementation of the Commission's recommendations on Open Access to scientific information.

The presentations can be found at the UMinho [Open Access Seminar website](#).

UK RepositoryNet+ Project at EDINA National Data Centre

The JISC-funded UKRepositoryNet+ Project (aka the RepNet) is a socio-technical infrastructure for designing, developing and implementing a whole range of new services for the UK Institutional Repository (IR) Network. Following its launch at the Open Repositories Conference (OR12) in July 2012, where preliminary talks and meetings were held with related initiatives COAR and OpenAIRE, the RepNet is now rolling out initial Wave 1 services and specifying new repository applications in the following strands: **A**ggregation-based Services, **B**enchmarking and Reporting, **C**reating Repository Registries, **D**eposit Tools, **E**nhancing Metadata Quality, **F**inding and Searching and **G**uaranteeing Continuity of Access.

One of the main goals of the RepNet project is to engage with the repository community plus additional stakeholders for identifying their needs with regard to IR functionality and collecting their feedback on proposed new services. Repository interoperability is a key concept for the RepNet, which has subsequently provided extensive input to the COAR Report on 'The Current State of Open Access Repository Interoperability (2012)'. Visit the [RepNet website](#) for updated information about the project.

EIFL Open Access Program

The EIFL Open Access program released case studies describing the results of its advocacy grants 2012 national and institutional Open Access advocacy campaigns to reach out to research communities in Africa and Europe. They illustrate key achievements, activities, advocacy strategies, tactics and tools, success stories and lessons learned, so that libraries everywhere can benefit:

Students and Open Access (Lithuania):

- [Open Access from the perspective of young researchers](#)

Open Access Advocacy:

- [Belarusian national Open Access website as a focal point for advocacy campaigns to reach out to research communities](#)
- [Knowledge without Boundaries: Advocacy campaign in Kenya for Open Access and institutional repositories](#)
- [Promotion of Open Access at the University of Belgrade, Serbia](#)
- [Open Access Advocacy at Sudan Higher Education Institutions National Level \(SudHENL\)](#)
- [Promoting the adoption of campus-based, faculty-driven Open Access policies in Uganda](#)
- [Capacity building for the adoption and implementation of Open Access \(OA\) policies and OA repositories in Zimbabwe](#)

Open Access policies adoption and implementation:

- [Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology Open Access Institutional Repository, Kenya](#)
- [Open Access – Optimizing Scholarly Communication in Moldova.](#)

German Open Access Archive hits record in number of full texts

EconStor of the Leibniz Information Centre for Economics (ZBW), Germany's largest Open Access archive for economics, hits a new record: 50,000 full texts online – that means that the content has doubled in two years. The cross-disciplinary "Ranking Web of Repositories" puts EconStor in 15th place in the category of freely accessible full texts worldwide and in 7th place Europe-wide. The number of downloads has also increased substantially. In 2012, more than 1.3 million articles were downloaded from EconStor. Only a third of scholars accessing documents on EconStor do so from Germany, others cheer mostly from the US, France, UK, China, India and Spain. More than 100 research institutes, such as the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) and the Deutsche Bundesbank, use EconStor for the dissemination of their documents on the internet. The service covers nearly 85 per cent of all economic working papers published in Germany. For more information about EconStor please click [here](#).

International

IASSIST 2013, Panel Data Centers and Institutional Partnerships

In view of data driven research, data sharing policies and measures for research data management, institutional repositories play a more and more important role for sharing, linking and exposing research data assets with and to the research community.

Experts from data centres and institutional repositories will exchange their views and discuss collaborative support structures during a panel organized at the Annual Conference of the International Association for Social Science Information Services & Technology ([IASSIST](#)) in Cologne, Germany on 29 May 2013. On behalf of COAR, Jochen Schirrwagen from Bielefeld University, Germany, will represent the interna-

tional perspective from Open Access repositories.

Research Data Alliance First Plenary

The Research Data Alliance Launch and First Plenary took place in Gothenburg, Sweden, from 18 to 20 March 2013. At its first Plenary, the RDA, was launched by sponsors from the European Commission, the U. S. Government and the Australian Government as well as by leaders from the data community.

Stakeholders from the sciences, infrastructures, technology providers, Libraries etc. were present as well as major worldwide initiatives and organizations, including LIBER, OpenAIRE and COAR (see [list of participants](#)).

The Plenary was a working meeting to accelerate the general discussion, Working and Interest Group interaction, and data community development.

Interesting and relevant for our community were the formally established working groups on [Data], persistent Identifiers and Practical Policy as well as the discussions at the Interest Groups, such as Legal Interoperability, Metadata, Contextual Metadata, Repository Audit and the Certification or Preservation infrastructure. The importance of the contribution of the repositories community in these discussions was mentioned.

People with diverse interests gathered around an umbrella interest group finally titled “Publishing Data”. Many related different issues arose in the discussion of this group, e.g. recommendations on data citations, workflows involved in data publication, linking data and publications, perhaps including data peer review. This umbrella might finally split in different interest groups and eventually in some working groups. But that has to be discussed over the next months. This could be a discussion to get involved.

All these groups will report back at the next RDA meeting, which takes place in Washington

in mid-September, on the tangible results of the working groups, as well as if additional working groups have materialized into specific actions from the interest groups and what ideas are still relevant. For more information, please refer to the full article on the [COAR website](#).

Wilma van Wezenbeek, TU Delft, also writes about the launch event of the Research Data Alliance in Gothenburg, Sweden. [Find out](#) what she learned and what ideas she took back home.

From the Executive Board

Forming the “parliament” of COAR, this year’s General Assembly will meet during the Annual Meeting on 7 May 2013 in Istanbul. The members of the Executive Board along with all chair holders will report on what has happened during the past year, give an outlook on newly planned activities, answer to your questions, and be interested in your valuable suggestions.

If you are a voting member and you cannot attend the General Assembly in person but would like to cast your ballot, you have the possibility to name a proxy to speak on your behalf. Please go to the meeting’s [registration page](#) and fill in the form.

G8 + O5 Data Working Group

On 4 March 2013, the G8 + O5 Data Working Group (WG) came together for the third time after its launch in May 2011 and was hosted at Cosener’s House in Abingdon, UK. The WG was commissioned by the Group of Senior Officials (GSO) on Global Research Infrastructures at a meeting in Brussels on 24 March 2011 and was led by the European Commission (EC), namely by Dr. Thierry van der Pyl, Director Excellence in Science, DG CONNECT, supported by Carlos Morais-Pires, very familiar as Project Officer of the European OpenAIRE Project. COAR Chair Norbert Lossau had been invited by the EC to join the WG.

The Oxford meeting focused on two recommendations of the GSO Report and the rela-

tionship of the G8 + O5 group with the newly formed Research Data Alliance, RDA (see the report by Alicia Lopez-Medina in section “International”).

Two recommendations addressing Data infrastructures have been expressed:

Recommendation 9 - Infrastructure:

- Global research infrastructure initiatives should recognize the utility of the integrated use of advanced infrastructures, services for accessing, processing, and curating data, as well as for remote participation (interaction) and for access to scientific experiments.

Recommendation 10 - data exchange:

- Global scientific data infrastructure providers and users should recognize the utility of data exchange and interoperability of data across disciplines and national boundaries as a means to broadening the scientific reach of individual data sets.

In the discussion, many topics were raised, such as if publically funded data is a public good, the maintenance of data quality or a data management model for business use cases. The WG felt that a white paper would be valuable, describing 5 relevant topics for global data infrastructures, such as traceability, persistent identifier, registries, metrics or interoperability.

Interoperability was highlighted as one of the central topics, so the „COAR Briefing paper on Interoperability“ and the crucial messages described in this resource could be pointed out.

As for the Research Data Alliance there was broad consensus among the participants that the RDA will be very useful in the research data area. Funders should provide policy advice to the more technical and operational RDA working groups. As the geographic scope of RDA stakeholders is currently focused in the EU, U.S. and Australia, Norbert Lossau referred to the successful model of COAR as truly globally acting organization and its potential to reach out in

particular to research institutions, universities and organizations.

In conclusion, he thinks it is utterly important for infrastructure institutions to find and claim their role in the emerging global activities. COAR is the hitherto only truly international community to enable these global research and information infrastructures and we should partner with other communities, such as RDA or, on regional level, with RedClara (Latin America), DRF (Japan), Institutional Repository Grid (China) or LIBER (Europe) to move forward.

From the Office

At the beginning of the year, Ms. Xiaowei Yang from the National Science Library of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Beijing, was a guest of the COAR Office team. We thank her for her support in translating different sections at the [COAR Website](#) into Chinese and are looking forward to collaborating with Ms Xiaowei and other colleagues from CAS in future projects.

Forthcoming Events

Meet representatives of COAR at these upcoming events:

- COAR Annual Meeting, 7-8 May 2013, Istanbul, Turkey
- EuroCRIS Spring Membership Meeting, 13-14 May 2013, Bonn, Germany
- IASSIST 2013 Conference, 28-31 May 2013, Cologne, Germany
- 17th International Conference on Electronic Publishing, 13-14 June 2013, Karlskrona, Sweden
- 8th OAI Workshop on Innovations in Scholarly Communication, 19-21 June 2013, Geneva, Switzerland

- Open Repositories Conference 2013, 8-12 July 2013, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada
- 16th International Symposium on Electronic Theses and Dissertations - EDT 2013, 23-26 September 2013, Hong Kong, China

Recent Publications

- Raym Crow: [Sustainability of Open Access Services - Report Phase 3: The Collective Provision of Open Access Resources](#), March 2013.
- Oya Yildirim Rieger: [Sustainability: Scholarly Repository as an Enterprise](#), October / November 2012.
- Stevan Harnad: [Worldwide open access: UK leadership?](#), March 2013.
- Sarah Jones, Graham Pryor and Angus Whyte: [How to Develop Research Data Management Services - a guide for HEIs](#), March 2013

For further information, visit

<http://www.coar-repositories.org>

COAR Office

c/o Göttingen State and University Library
Platz der Göttinger Sieben 1
37073 Göttingen

Germany

Tel.: +49-551-39 2215

office@coar-repositories.org

Fax: +49-551-39 5222