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Introduction

Dear members and partners of COAR,

COAR is delighted to publish its next newsletter after the summer break. The last few months have been an active time: the new COAR STRATEGY for 2012 – 2015 has been published on our website (<http://www.coar-repositories.org/files/COAR-Strategy-FINAL1.pdf>). This has been shaped by the members of COAR and identifies the work plan for the next four years.

COAR was also present at a number of conferences: the LIBER Conference in Tartu in June; in Edinburgh in July at the Open Repositories Conference; in Bangalore, India in July; and in Peru in September. We also have a new section in the newsletter: the “Repository Observatory” which we hope you will enjoy.

Repository Observatory

COAR Repository Observatory is a new section of the COAR Newsletter. Its main goal is to identify trends and future scenarios in the

context of the use of repositories in research and education, to help open access repositories to anticipate and respond the constant state of rapid evolution. The COAR Repository Section will include: interviews with experts from different fields as to how they see the future panorama of repositories; links to innovative projects commenting about what changes and directions these projects bring to the repositories; presentations of innovative cases from COAR members institutions, as well as annotated bibliography of reports, articles, roadmaps, etc., with a visionary or strategic focus on the landscape of open access repositories

New Members

COAR welcomes all new members and groups who have recently joined our association: Vilnius University, Lithuania, has joined COAR in August. We are also very happy to welcome Irena Kriviene, Director of Vilnius University Library, who will be representing Vilnius University in COAR. Vilnius University Library is involved in different projects, some of them related to digitized cultural heritage objects and training in digital curation and long term preservation. Izmir Institute of Technology Library (IZTECH), which is a partner in OpenAIREplus, has joined COAR in August. We are very glad to welcome Gültekin Gürdal, director of IZTECH Library and chairman of Anatolian University Libraries Consortium (ANKOS) who is leading the Open Access movement in Turkey.

- From LA-REFERENCIA Project in Latin America we have many new members:
- The Departamento Administrativo de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación (COLCIENCIAS), Colombia;
- Comisión Nacional de Investigación Científica y Tecnológica (CONICYT), Chile;

- Fundación Centro Nacional de Innovación Tecnológica (CENIT), Venezuela,
- Secretaría Nacional de Educación Superior, Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación (SENESCYT) Ecuador
- Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT), México,
- Consejo Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Tecnológica (CONCYTEC) Perú
- Instituto Brasileiro de Informação em Ciência e Tecnologia - Institute of Ministério da Ciência e Tecnologia (IBICT), Brazil

From the Working Groups

WG1: Repository Content

Working Group 1 is continuing to collect and post sustainable best practices for populating repositories on the COAR website <http://bit.ly/LyPF6r>. If you know of any such examples, please send a link or message to Kathleen Shearer, chair of Working Group 1 (mkshearer@videotron.ca). The Open Access Agreements and Licensing Task Force is in the information gathering stage and aims to have a preliminary report available in Autumn 2012.

WG2: Repository Interoperability

The “Repository Interoperability Roadmap” from Working Group 2 was successfully presented by the chair of Working Group 2, Eloy Rodrigues, in July 2012 in Edinburgh. Based on the first public draft version of the COAR Interoperability Roadmap (available since June 2012), this workshop presented an overview of the current and emerging services such as usage statistics, mass ingest processes, web standards compliance, maximizing web visibility, support for international and regional networks, and

integrating repositories into research administration workflows. Chair Eloy Rodrigues announced proudly that a final draft version of the COAR Current State of the Art Repository Interoperability document will be available in October. Eloy Rodrigues will present "Towards repository interoperability for Open Access and Open Science" session on 6 November as a Berlin 10 preconference event.

Open Repositories Conference

A workshop on the COAR Repository Interoperability Roadmap was hosted by Eloy Rodrigues on July 10 at the Open Repositories Conference in Edinburgh. COAR was one of the sponsors from the Open Repositories Conference. The conference brings together an international community of stakeholders engaged in the development, management, and application of digital repositories. Eloy presented the latest outcomes of the COAR interoperability project in order to help participants to make sense of the interoperability landscape, and to understand which standards and protocols support which services. Please read more on the internet site <http://bit.ly/VDGMj5>

WG3: Repository and Repository Network Support and Training

COAR Working Group 3 welcomes our newly joined members Oya Y. Rieger, Cornell University Library (USA) and Dongrong Zhang National Science Library, Chinese Academy of Sciences (China). If you are interested in Repository and Repository Networks Support & Training, join our WG, and read more here: <http://bit.ly/Qg6IT0>. COAR WG 3 launches a support service for COAR members (helpdesk and expert consultations). If you need consultation or advice on repository development and management please email to helpdesk@coar-repositories.org. Please provide as much information as you can about the type

of institution and repository you work for and as much details as possible about the issue or question you would like to discuss. The helpdesk service operates on a good will basis and is free of charge.

Reports from the Regions

Latin America

A COAR poster was presented by Fernando Ardito, from the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Peru, member of LA REFERENCIA, at the [15th International Symposium on Electronic Theses and Dissertations](#) (ETD 2012) held in Lima, Peru. At this conference, representatives from more than 30 countries from around the world shared key aspects of successful cases in the management of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) and knowledge of institutional repositories and open access software. Fernando Ardito reported many visitors to the COAR poster and a great interest in our activities.

Repository pilot experience:

Members of La Referencia Project recently evaluated the national conditions offered by those countries that are members of the aforementioned initiative, to start the Pilot Plan for the construction of a regional harvester.

During a meeting, held in Bogotá in August 27th and 28th, the participants worked to understand the National Nodes that will be connected to the Project's Repositories Network. Technical agreements and the strategic/political framework to advance the development of the Pilot Plan were also discussed and defined.

La Referencia Project expects the development and performance of a pilot project for a federated repository infrastructure- this will be in accordance with best practices identified

and the agreements achieved by the member countries

La Referencia presented the Diagnosis of Repositories in Latin America

The La Referencia Project looked at regional good practices for Open Access and Institutional Repositories. In a summation of this pilot, Lisowska emphasized the notable expansion of IR's in the region as a positive factor. However, she announced that "the diagnosis showed a worrying situation for the creation of regional networks: the lack of Repositories standardization, regarding metadata, the interoperability protocols and some other important aspects for building common services". This situation emphasises the importance of the La Referencia Project objectives and its search for consensus on these issues.

Asia

ICTK 2012 in Bangalore

Ikuko Tsuchide represented both the Digital Repository Federation (DRF) and Osaka University Library and presented COAR at the International Conference on Trends in Knowledge and Information Dynamics, 10-13 July 2012 in Bangalore, India. Norbert Lossau, who is a member of the international Programme Committee, as well as Alicia López Medina, were at the workshop, together with experts from India and Sri Lanka. Ikuko Tsuchide talked about the aims, structure, and missions of Digital Repository Federation (DRF) as the biggest community for repository managers in Japan. Please read more on the website <http://bit.ly/OSRyQW>

North America

Repository at Cornell University

Oya Riegel from Cornell University, COAR member of North America is delighted to share the good news that the Simons Foundation will support arXiv's transition from an exclusive initiative of Cornell University Library (CUL) to a collaboratively governed, community-supported resource through a generous gift. arXiv has been based at Cornell University since 2001. The repository includes research in physics, mathematics, statistics, computer science and related disciplines. As an open-access service, it allows scientists to share "preprint" research before publication and boasts hundreds of thousands of contributors. In 2011 alone, arXiv saw close to 50 million downloads from all over the world and received more than 76,000 new submissions. "The sustainability planning process focused on how to diversify revenue models — but, equally importantly, we wanted to make sure arXiv could establish a set of governance principles. It's setting an example of a transparent and reliable community-supported service," said Oya Rieger, arXiv Program Director and Associate University Librarian for Digital Scholarship Services. The press release on the funding is available at: <http://bit.ly/NAQTwT>

Europe

Open Access Days in Vienna

The 6th Open Access Days took place in Vienna on September 26th and September 27th. Open Access Tage (Open Access Days) is an annual conference for the German-speaking open access community. Its aim was to spread knowledge about open access and to promote activities of the open access community. One main focus was best practices and Content strategies of the Repositories and the presentation can be read on the internet site: <http://bit.ly/TXvLIX>

COAR Response to EC Communication and Recommendation

The European Commission has published its [Conclusion and its Recommendation to Member States](#) on the [European Research Area](#) outlining measures to improve access to scientific information produced in Europe. COAR strongly supports the Commission by promoting open access to research data (experimental results, observations and computer-generated information etc.) and setting up a pilot framework in Horizon 2020.

From the Executive Board

Carmen-Gloria Labbé from the Cooperación Latinoamericana de Redes Avanzadas (CLARA) in Uruguay took up the position of new Vice Chairperson of COAR in October. We congratulate Carmen Gloria Labbé on her new position.

The finalised COAR Strategy 2012-2015 and Work Plan 2012-2013 as approved by the Executive Board have been published. Please read more on the website <http://bit.ly/Uy5guG>.

From the Office

The new COAR leaflet is on the website available. Please send a short description of your institute to the office, if you want to present your organisation on our COAR website. We will be very happy to support you in disseminating information about COAR during Open Access week.

Forthcoming Events

In November COAR will be represented in many cities all over the world such Stellenbosch, Beijing, Ankara, Gottingen and Barranquilla. A list of upcoming events is as follows:

- International Conference on Library Cooperation and Resource Sharing, Beijing, China, October 2012.
- Open Access week, Brussels, Belgium, 22-28 October, 2012.
- Berlin 10 Open Access Conference, Stellenbosch, South Africa. 7-8 November, 2012.
- Open Access workshop in Ankara, Turkey. 8-9 November 2012.
- Conferencia Internacional Acceso Abierto, Barranquilla, Colombia. 13-16 November, 2012.
- Project Meeting LA REFERENCIA "Formation of a federated network of institutional repositories of scientific literature in Latin America" Component II - Establishing a framework of common policies and agreements. Buenos Aires, Argentina. 29-30 November, 2012

Recent Publications

- Najla Rettberg, Dr. Birgit Schmidt: OpenAIRE - Building a collaborative Open Access infrastructure for European researchers. Please read more on the website: <http://bit.ly/T1a313>
- good practices for university open-access (OA) policies: Please read more on the website: <http://bit.ly/goodoa>
- Alma Swan: Sustainability of Open Access Services: Report Phase 1 and 2: Scoping the challenge and consulting the

stakeholders, Knowledge Exchange, September 2012. Please see <http://bit.ly/OCOLuM>

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 22215