COAR News Digest

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Dear reader,

We are very happy to announce the **date and the place of the COAR Annual Meeting 2015**. It will take place in Porto, Portugal as part of a joint conference with our partner association SPARC. Co-hosted by the University of Porto and the University of Minho there will be workshops and the General Assembly on April 14th for COAR members only followed by the joint conference on April 15th - 16th, 2015.

COAR members celebrated International Open Access Week through numerous local activities to raise awareness of Open Access. For its part, COAR's redistributed our Statement on Embargo Periods and received several more endorsements.

Petition on embargo periods

COAR and other international associations have relaunched the campaign against embargo periods. At a time when publishers are pushing for longer and longer embargo periods, we need to band together to make our collective voices heard. To that end, a petition has been set up on the COAR website, enabling individuals and institutions to endorse the statement automatically. Originally published in May 2014, the petition now has 34 signatories of which 27 are institutional endorsements from major organizations around the world. We urge your organization to also endorse the statement.

Repository Observatory

The current edition of the Repository Observatory highlights the interoperability of institutional repositories and CRIS. It explores why and how IR and CRIS interoperability should be implemented in "7 things you need to know about repositories and CRIS" and experts state their views in a video round table discussion. Moreover you will find use case examples in the repository profiles of the University of Porto, Portugal, the University of

Glasgow, UK and FCT, Portugal. Furthermore, members of the RO decided to take up a new section called "News out of the repository world", which will have regular news from mailing lists, blogs and conference regarding open access repositories. Find out all about the new RO edition here.

COAR, CASRAI and regional repository networks launch international group to improve interoperability

Over the past several years, a number of regional and national OA repository networks have emerged to fulfill different requirements and they have adopted a variety of metadata standards and vocabularies. Greater interoperability across networks will improve discovery and enable the development of more sophisticated cross-repository services such as usage statistics or content analysis by text mining. In October 2014, COAR launched an international, multi-stakeholder working group to develop a strategy to ensure greater interoperability across repository networks and other platforms. COAR will be the convener of the working group, and CASRAI will facilitate the process of developing the strategy. Read more.