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Introduction

Dear Members and Partners of COAR,

In this newsletter, we would like to give you a summary of news and developments about COAR and COAR members from the past few months.

New Executive Director from April 2012 on

The Executive Board announces the appointment of Alicia López Medina as the new Executive Director of COAR, effective from 1 April 2012. “We wish to congratulate Alicia – an individual driven by her commitment to the development of open access repositories world-wide – on her appointment as the next Executive Director of COAR, and we look forward to working with her in her new role,” says Norbert Lossau.

“Thank you very much for the opportunity to contribute to this common endeavour,” says Alicia. “I am very happy to contribute my experience, enthusiasm and ideas. I believe in COAR’s vision, and I will strive in particular to foster its regional dimension of COAR, contributing to COAR’s international visibility. I look forward to supporting its activities and will

work to expand our membership to reach out to other geographic regions. But such ambitious planning would have not been possible without Birgit Schmidt. Without her commitment to shape and support COAR’s development over the last years, without her tireless devotion and dedication, COAR would not be what it is today. We give our special thanks to Birgit and we are glad that she will continue to contribute her knowledge and experience to the core activities of COAR’s working groups“, Alicia says.

From the Executive Board

Alicia López Medina will resign from her post as Treasurer of the Executive Board, effective by the end of March 2012. Her position in the board will be refilled at the forthcoming General Assembly in Uppsala.

2012 COAR Annual Meeting

This year’s Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Uppsala University Library in Sweden. The meeting will be held from May 21-22, 2012 in Uppsala. The DiVA Consortium, Openaccess.se and the University of Uppsala generously agreed to host the meeting.

Details are available at the COAR website. If you have any questions, please contact the COAR Office at office@coar-repositories.org.

We look forward to seeing COAR members at this year’s Annual Meeting in May!

Member survey

We kindly ask for your participation in the first COAR Member Survey which will be sent to members and partners in February. The survey is intended to gather information about members’ expectations and interests so we can tailor our offerings to best meet members’ needs. General themes from the survey will be presented at the Annual Meeting; specific

responses will be used exclusively for planning purposes. We would very much appreciate your input at <http://bit.ly/coar-survey> (available through Friday, 2 March 2012).

New Members

COAR welcomes all new members and groups who joined our association since last spring.

From the regional government of Andalucia in Spain, the Council for Economics, Innovation and Science became a member last year. A new group is based in Bulgaria: Coordinated by the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, additional members are Sofia University “St. Kl. Ohridski” – Scientific Research Department and State University of Library Studies and Information Technologies. The German National Library of Economics ZBW – Leibniz Information Centre for Economics joined as part of the member group coordinated by the University of Konstanz.

New collaborations

A new and exciting initiative has been launched in Latin America to establish the first regional network of COAR. See “News from the Regions” for details.

In July 2011, COAR and the Association of European Research Libraries (LIBER) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together to promote Open Access repositories and develop international cooperation for repositories and their infrastructure. Both organizations share a vision for Open Access implementation and the importance of Open Access for research, teaching, and learning.

From the Working Groups

WGI: Repository Content

Most recently, several members of Working Group I drafted an open letter on behalf of COAR condemning Elsevier for its recent business practices and lobbying efforts that undermine Open Access to scholarly literature. In the letter, COAR expresses opposition to Elsevier’s recent changes to its article posting policies which prohibit authors affiliated with institutions that have OA mandates to deposit copies of their articles into OA repositories unless affiliated institutions sign a highly restrictive agreement with Elsevier. These policies are in direct conflict with the objectives of COAR members, partners, and the broader research community – who aim to maximize access to and use of research literature. Therefore, COAR is discouraging members from entering into agreements with Elsevier or other publishers that undermine OA mandates in any way.

In September 2011, COAR, SPARC Europe and KE organized a session at the International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC) Europe Meeting held in Istanbul. The session focused on the convergence of Open Access repositories and content licensing. Specifically, it investigated the ways in which consortia can support OA and explored some practical examples of how licensing agencies are already supporting OA. As a result of the meeting, attendees proposed the creation of a joint task group to improve the uptake of OA clauses in publisher licenses. Representatives from COAR and SPARC Europe are currently drafting the terms of reference for the task force. Once the task force has been established, members of COAR will be invited to participate. COAR was represented at ICOLC by Norbert Lossau, Birgit Schmidt, and Kathleen Shearer; Lars Björnshauge presented on behalf of SPARC Europe.

In February, Working Group 1 will be launching a new project to collect and disseminate COAR-recommended best practices related to populating repositories. The project will identify regional and global trends, selected case studies, and general best practices from institutions around the world. Topics will likely include themes such as lessons learned, successful strategies to gather content and populate repositories, using technology to support content ingest, and strategies for presenting the repository to organizational constituents.

WG2: Repository Interoperability

In July of 2011, Working Group 2 published its first briefing paper, “The Case for Interoperability of Open Access Repositories.” The briefing provides an explanation of Open Access interoperability; an overview of key interoperability processes and protocols; and an outline of current technical, administrative, and organizational issues and challenges. A Spanish-language edition, “El Caso de Interoperabilidad para Repositorios de Acceso Abierto,” has also been published. Working Group 2 is extremely grateful to COAR member Malgorzata Lisowska (Universidad del Rosario, Colombia) for translating the briefing paper into Spanish!

In connection with the briefing paper, Working Group 2 hosted an open online discussion on the COAR website designed to raise issues related to global interoperability for OA repositories. The third phase of this year-long process will be launched in February 2011 when the group begins drafting a follow-up report, “A Roadmap for Open Access Repository Interoperability.” The Roadmap is intended to provide guidance for institutions with repositories operating on all points of the spectrum in terms of infrastructure, resources, personnel, funding, and institutional support. It will provide various paths or steps for repository managers and administrators to assist in the decision-making process when

determining which interoperability guidelines to implement in order to make their repositories interoperable in various ways. A draft of the Roadmap will be launched at the 2012 COAR Annual Meeting.

WG3: Repository and Repository Network Support and Training

Working Group 3 has been actively compiling information for repository managers and administrators and presenting this information on the COAR website. Now available are two collections of information designed to support repository managers and administrators. First, the National Helpdesks page (<http://bit.ly/coar-helpdesks>) includes a listing of known national and regional information portals and support networks for repository managers. Resources from 44 countries are currently included on the website.

A second collection of information includes useful resources for repository managers and administrators. Readings and websites are organized according to a number of themes: introductory materials, setting up and running Open Access repositories, how to register a repository with various service providers, copyright clearance resources, and advocacy issues. Resources will be added to the site on an ongoing basis; please suggest additional resources to include by posting comments to the website. <http://bit.ly/coar-resources>

On July 27, 2011, EIFL, the Royal Tropical Institute, and COAR sponsored an online workshop to support capacity building for open access repository managers and administrators. The workshop included three speakers: Africa; Jumanne Bwamkuu from the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) in Amsterdam, Netherlands; Dominic Tate from the United Kingdom Council of Research Repositories (UKCORR); and Iryna Kuchma from EIFL and COAR, who presented COAR-collected training materials on operational issues related to installing,

implementing, and maintaining open repositories. Materials from the workshop are available on the EIFL website: <http://www.eifl.net/news/capacity-building-oa-repository-administrator>. Over 71 institutions were represented from 27 countries: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Botswana, Canada, Croatia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Estonia, France, Hungary, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Mali, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Togo, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, and Zimbabwe.

Additional training workshops will be hosted in the coming months; exact themes will be based on member input. We hope members will suggest topics of interest for future training sessions in the member survey or by emailing the COAR Office (office@coar-repositories.org). If you are interested in organising or presenting a workshop on a specific topic, please submit a proposal on the COAR Training website: <http://bit.ly/coar-training>. Furthermore, we wish to collect training materials such as handouts, new staff training documentation, posters, brochures, or slides related to setting up and managing Open Access repositories. We hope that you would like to share your training materials with the COAR community. If interested, please contact the COAR Office.

The COAR WG3 member Paola Bongiovani (MinCYT Argentina) translated the Open Access Policy Kit into Spanish. The kit was produced by RCAAP (Portugal Open Access Scientific Repository) and contains valuable information and resources for the development and implementation of open access policies at funding agencies and universities. The Kit de Políticas de Acceso Abierto was translated into Spanish as part of COAR's Working Group 3 "Repository and Repository Networks Support & Training" efforts which facilitates the translation of training materials. The kit is freely available to all and can be downloaded from the RCAAP website: <http://bit.ly/yfYoXz>

News from the Regions

Latin America

COAR is actively increasing its activity in Latin America. As a first step, at the BIREDIAL conference in Bogotá, Colombia on May 9-11, 2011, representatives from COAR, RedCLARA (Cooperación Latina Americana de Redes Avanzadas), and CoLaBoRa (Comunidad Latinoamericana de Bibliotecas y Repositorios Digitales) signed a Memorandum of Understanding committed to establishing a regional branch of COAR. Within the worldwide structure of COAR, this regional approach will build upon existing Open Access activities in Latin America and encourage and support the development of new initiatives. At the same time, the new distributed network structure recognizes the national and regional legal, organizational, cultural, language and communication challenges. This regional initiative will be coordinated by CoLaBoRa through its network of national contacts and in close collaboration with RedCLARA and the COAR office.

In addition to establishing a regional Latin American COAR network, COAR has supported proposed legislation in Argentina – "Open Science Argentina 2010." The proposed legislation supports the creation of science and technology Open Access Digital Repositories.

The "Sistema Nacional de Repositorios Digitales (SNRC) from Argentina is developing a national network of digital repositories. SNRC is aiming to promote open access as well as the exchange of research through a national network of repositories and their interoperability with the Latin American and international virtual networks.

Asia

There is a cooperative relationship between repository manager communities in Japan and

the UK. On January 19 2012, the Digital Repository Federation (DRF) in Japan (a member organization of COAR), invited Jackie Wickham, Open Access Adviser of Repositories Support Project (RSP) in the UK, to a meeting at Hokkaido University to discuss the issues around how to train and develop repository managers. As a consequence of the DRF and RSP presentations lively discussion was held and many similarities in each programme were recognized with regard to the development of repository managers in both Japan and the UK. After the meeting DRF, RSP and also UKCoRR agreed to exchange an MoU to share experiences and expertise in both countries. As part of 2012 activities, it is now planned that each initiative will attend an event in each other's country.

Europe

At the OAI7 Scholarly Communication Workshop in Geneva in June, a group of COAR members met for a Birds-of-a-Feather session. In this session, Birgit Schmidt, Executive Director of COAR, and Chair of the Working Group 2, Eloy Rodrigues and Chair of the Working Group 3, Iryna Kuchma provided an overview of current activities.

During the LIBER Annual Conference in Barcelona in June 2011, Executive Board member Alicia López Medina gave a presentation on COAR's objectives and activities. Petra Hätscher of University of Konstanz presented COAR at the German Library Congress in Berlin in June 2011.

December 2011 saw the launch of OpenAIREplus, a parallel project to the OpenAIRE initiative. OpenAIREplus moves beyond the realm of The Seventh Framework Programme for research and technological development (FP7) and includes the wider Open Access repository infrastructure built by the DRIVER projects, and extends to accredited data repositories.

The overarching goal of OpenAIREplus is the interlinking of research objects, which has implications for optimising the research process, allowing the sharing, enrichment and reuse of data. The ability to link within a publication out to a citable database, or other research material, will enable users to find, view, interact, and also create their own relationships between different information objects. The project will explore how links between text-based publications and research data are managed in different scientific fields. The project's first activities will focus not only on building the technical infrastructure and creating an appropriate data model, but also on the networking aspect of raising awareness among OpenAIRE members about data management and identifying appropriate data content from among the distinct geographic regions of this collaborative project.

North America

In January 2012, COAR submitted a statement in response to the United States Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) public consultation on Public Access to Federally-Funded Research. The COAR statement focused on concrete steps United States government agencies could implement to better ensure government-funded research was more widely accessible and articulating why it is critically important to make research outputs in various formats freely and publicly accessible.

The Berlin9 conference was held in Washington, DC area in December 2011. Norbert Lossau, Chair of the COAR Executive Board, represented COAR at the meeting and gave a presentation entitled "Into the Limelight: Supporting Less-Developed Open Access Communities." The presentation focused on how Communities of Practice such as COAR and OpenAIRE are able to support a highly diverse group of institutions and organizations with OA repositories. The 2011 Berlin

conference was the first of the Berlin series to be held in North America.

International

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) held an Experts Meeting in Paris 22-23 November 2011 to discuss the UNESCO Open Access Strategy. UNESCO's activities are visible through the [Global Open Access Portal](#) (GOAP). Three members of COAR, i.e. Norbert Lossau for the Executive Board as well as for OpenAIRE, Xiaolin Zhang for the National Science Library of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Iryna Kuchma for eIFL have attended the first Open Access Forum of UNESCO to discuss the emerging Network for Open Access to Scientific Information and Research (NOASIR), planned to go live in 2013 and coordinated by UNESCO.

Marketing & Communication

COAR on Social Networks

In July, COAR member Ikuko Tsuchide (DRF, Japan) created a group for COAR members in Facebook: <http://on.fb.me/coar-members>. If you would like to connect with other members of COAR via Facebook, please join the group.

In addition, COAR also has a presence in Twitter at http://www.twitter.com/COAR_eV. Please follow COAR news there and stay informed!

From COAR Office

Two new staff members have joined the COAR Office: Maxie Putlitz and Elif Dogan. Please join us in welcoming Maxie and Elif! You will have the opportunity to meet them in Uppsala.

Upcoming Events

- SPARC Open Access Meeting. Kansas City, United States. March 11-13, 2012. (Co-sponsored by COAR)
- COAR Annual Meeting. Uppsala, Sweden. May 20-22, 2012.
- 7th International Conference on Open Repositories. Edinburgh, United Kingdom. July 9-13, 2012.

Recent Publications

- [RCAAP Open Access Policy Kit](#) Spanish translation, Repositório Científico de Acesso Aberto de Portugal (RCAAP), Minho, Portugal. 2011.
- [DINI-certificate](#) Die Deutsche Initiative für Netzwerkinformation (DINI) - Certificate in English translation, German Initiative for Network Information (DINI), Göttingen 2011 – Spanish version to be published shortly

We are happy to receive your input and would like to encourage all members and partners to contact the COAR Office if you have an idea you would like to share. We hope to see everyone in Uppsala in May!

For further information, visit

www.coar-repositories.org

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