COAR Newsletter

No. 1 – March 2011

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Introduction

Dear Members and Partners of COAR,
Welcome to this first COAR newsletter!

Through this quarterly newsletter we would like to keep you updated about the various initiatives of COAR's working groups and other activities that take place in the countries and regions of our members and partners.

Please let us know by emailing us at office@coar-repositories.org if you would like to contribute a recent development or story.

New Members
COAR welcomes all new members and groups who joined our association since last summer:

From Hungary, Corvinus University of Budapest and the University of Miskolc joined the newly founded Hungarian group together with the University of Debrecen (lead) and the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Another new group is based in Scotland: Coordinated by EDINA, additional members are the Digital Curation Centre and the University of Edinburgh.

From Germany, the Helmholtz Association joined the group under the lead of the University of Konstanz.

From Sweden, we welcome the Digitala Vetenskapliga Arkivet (DiVA), a consortium representing 28 universities and colleges in Sweden.

From France, the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) joined our association in February.

In March, the Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg University, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Malmö University and Blekinge Institute of Technology joined the group lead by the Swedish National Library.

We are very glad about this consistent interest and support in COAR and look forward to an exciting and fruitful collaboration.

The COAR Executive Board expresses its special thanks to Microsoft Research for an unrestricted gift in support of our association.

From the Working Groups

From WG 1: Repository Content
Currently, there are a number of barriers to populating repositories. These include lack of time and incentives to deposit, lack of awareness of funding agency and university policies, and confusion about publisher self-archiving policies. The aim of Working Group 1 is to address these barriers in order to assist COAR members in populating their repositories.

Over the past year, the Working Group has worked to collect, assemble and disseminate best practices for the inception, operation and growth of open access (OA) repositories. Our specific activities are described below:

- Publishing an annotated bibliography of existing evidence of the economic benefits of digital repository networks.

- Promoting the benefits of repositories at various meetings and conferences (i.e. OpenAIRE).
- In conjunction with WG2, monitoring the development of standardized usage statistics for repositories.
- Reviewing the results of the Publishing and the Ecology of European Research (PEER) project.
- Compiling case studies of self-archiving clauses in publisher licenses.
- And, monitoring new developments with publisher OA agreements.

At the next COAR meeting in March 2011, the Working Group will review its priorities and activities and develop a new work plan for the coming year.

From WG 2: Repository Interoperability

The objective of Working Group 2 is to facilitate the discussion on interoperability among OA repositories and as part of a wider e-Infrastructure. The work plan – proposing the development of joint COAR Guidelines as one of the main tasks – is currently under discussion.

From WG 3: Repository and Repository Networks Support & Training

The objective of Working Group 3 is to support regional and national repository initiatives and to promote the repository manager profession.

In recent weeks, we undertook several specific activities tied to these objectives:

- We compiled a list of recommended training materials on operational issues required to install, implement and deploy open repositories;We created a list of national and regional information portals and support networks for repository managers in over 40 countries and regions;We highlighted a list of best practice case studies related to managing open access repositories.

- Finally, we facilitated the translation of training materials for repository managers.

Outcomes from these projects will be posted to the COAR web site in the coming weeks.

In 2011 we plan to announce the COAR mentoring service. The purpose of this service is to bring repository managers who face similar situations, issues, and challenges together on a one-to-one basis across national borders to share experiences, best practices and solutions. More information about the service is available here: COAR Mentor Service – COAR Mentor Service Form.

If you would like to register as a mentor please send an email to office@coar-repositories.org indicating your name, institution, repository project, your working language/languages and area of expertise. If you require assistance from the mentor service please providing as much information as possible about your situation, institution, and repository.

COAR is planning a series of online workshops to foster the exchange of ideas and expertise and to share experiences and best practices within the repository community. If you have a suggestion for a topic that you would like to see covered in an online workshop, please let us know. In addition, indicate which topics you would be willing to lead as a presenter. In either case, email your suggestions to office@coar-repositories.org.

News from the Regions

Latin America

Red Nacional Académica de Colombia (RENATA, Red Colombiana de Repositorios y Bibliotecas Digitales (BDCOL and Latin American Community of Libraries and Digital Repositories (CoLaBoRa have joined forces to organize the first conference "Libraries and Digital Repositories: Knowledge Management,

Open Access and Latin American Visibility", BIREDIAL 2011. The conference will take place in Bogotá, Colombia, May 9-11, 2011, with the support of COAR and RedCLARA.

This important event aims to bring together the Latin American community involved with open access and digital repositories to meet and share scientific and technological advances, best practices, policy implementation, management of digital content, and other experiences related to the field of libraries and digital repositories. The conference aims to bring together a cross-section of individuals working with libraries and digital repositories within the region: researchers, librarians, specialists responsible for managing digital content at institutions, government officials, and representatives from the business sector, among others.

A COAR team will attend the BIREDIAL conference to present COAR to the Latin American community and to lead a tutorial on repository interoperability, addressing issues such as the DRIVER guidelines. Moreover, additional meetings will analyze and design the means for COAR's support of the CoLaBoRa project, led by RedCLARA, member of COAR. The purpose of the CoLaBoRa project is to develop a strategy and framework for a federated network of institutional repositories of scientific publications for storing, sharing and giving world-wide visibility to the scientific research from Latin America. The network, in its first phase, will link researchers from 21 institutions in 8 countries [Argentina (2), Brazil (2), Chile (3), Colombia (6), Ecuador (4), Mexico (3), Peru (3), Venezuela (1)].

Asia
In October 2010, the Berlin8 open access conference was for its first time held outside Europe in Beijing, China. It was co-hosted by the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Max Planck Society. Several COAR members contributed to the conference, among these Seiko Tokuda, Jun Adachi, Eloy Rodrigues, Zhang Xiaolin, Iryna Kuchma and Norbert Lossau.

In February the Digital Repository Federation (DRF), Japan, announced the release of a new report hita-hita - Institutional OA Advocacy in Japan. The term "hita-hita" was employed to signify something that penetrates gently and smoothly. As of 2011, a total of 760,000 research papers are accessible through institutional repositories (IRs) across Japan. Open access is not politically forced at the state level or institution level. Instead, a repository manager-level lateral solidarity was developed to share experiences, exchange various creative ideas, add improvements and disseminate our ideas, thereby highly developing respective IRs. The report introduces large and small ideas that have enhanced penetration of the OA movement and developed IRs in Japan, and it also outlines the activities of DRF, which has supported such ideas.

COAR, with representatives from around the world, wishes to send our deepest condolences to our Japanese colleagues, their families, and to all of the Japanese people following the disastrous events following the earthquake on 11 March 2011 and tsunami that stuck their country. From our entire membership, we would like to convey our solidarity, support, and offer any specific help during this difficult time.

Europe
On December 2, 2010, EC-Vice President and Commissioner for the Digital Agenda Mrs Neelie Kroes launched the OpenAIRE (Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe, http://www.openaire.eu) Infrastructure at the University of Ghent in Belgium. The platform allows free and open access to EU-funded peer-reviewed scientific publications. The support of the EU commissioner for OpenAIRE's support network covering 27 European countries has been noticeably clear and was warmly

welcomed by the attendees of the event. In her remarkable speech, VP Kroes concluded that "the beauty of open access is that it is not against anybody. It is for the free movement of knowledge. With already more than 6000 open access journals in publication it will move ahead since the search for knowledge cannot be stopped. I think we should ride that wave."

A review report commissioned by the EC highlights the pioneering role of the project: "OpenAIRE is poised to change attitudes in a lasting way over the value of freely sharing research papers and the accompanying data." Moreover, the project has helped to foster the idea of open access in countries where it is rather new.

On February 13, the Ghent Declaration was published, encouraging a move from open access to research and scholarship towards the creation and use of open data, open source software and open educational resources. The declaration was submitted to the EC in early January. The partners of OpenAIRE welcome the declaration and will undertake all efforts to support full deposit of articles according to the open access mandate.

Further Headlines

Communication and Marketing
Over the last year, the objectives and activities of COAR have been presented at several meetings and conferences. Among these are the presentations given at the INFO2010 Congreso Internacional de Información, in La Havana, Cuba in April 2010 (Alicia Lopéz Medina), the Regional Technical Training Meeting organised by the Caribbean Academy of Sciences in Jamaica in May 2010 (Iryna Kuchma) and the IFLA Satellite Conference Open Access and the Changing Role of Libraries in Gothenburg in August 2010 (Norbert Lossau) to name but a few.

Currently, we are re-working and extending our website. Among other things, it will include a members' section for you to interact more easily between working group colleagues.

International Cooperation
At the SPARC Digital Repositories Conference in Baltimore, USA in November 2010, SPARC announced its support and participation in COAR. Earlier, Neil Jacobs, co-chair of COAR Working Group "Repository Content", talked about features, challenges and opportunities of a global network of repositories. With the presence of about 250 participants from the Americas, COAR hopes to raise awareness for its objectives in setting up a global network of repositories. The SPARC conference was supported by COAR. The full text of the statement of support by SPARC for COAR can be found at
http://www.arl.org/sparc/repositories/coar.shtml

Public Consultation in Slovenia
On March 1, COAR submitted comments to the Slovenian Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology in response to its public consultation on the Research Infrastructure Development Plan 2011-2020. COAR welcomes the Research Infrastructure Development Plan 2011-2020 and supports international cooperation strategies including participation in the DARIAH project among the others. We also support a national strategy to establish the infrastructure for "Digital national resources" and the research infrastructure for the social sciences and the humanities. COAR especially welcomes Chapter 3.4.7 that anticipates the establishment of a national open data and open publication infrastructure (connected with the national CRIS) and plans to introduce mandatory deposit of publicly funded data and publications when this infrastructure is set up.
Our special thanks go to Iryna Kuchma for writing COAR's contribution.

From COAR Office

Our staff is busy working on setting up office structures and work flows. Regular contact is maintained both with the working group chairs as regards work plans and content as well as with external stakeholders and public authorities.

After some initial start-up challenges, web-based online conference meetings turned out to be a handy communication tool between the members worldwide.

We will keep you posted in our coming newsletters and during the General Assembly.

Looking Ahead

Our Annual Meeting will take place at Debrecen, Hungary this year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the University of Debrecen for hosting the event and look forward to meeting you! Please visit our meeting website at http://coar-repositories.org/COAR-GA_2011 for informa-tion on the venue and the programme as well as to register your participation.

See you soon in Debrecen,
The COAR Executive Board

2nd Annual Meeting of COAR

The 2nd annual meeting of COAR will take place on March 28-29, 2011 at the University Library of Debrecen, Hungary. Several sessions will be held at this occasion with the following outline:

- Monday, March 28, 2011
  12.00 – 17.00 All COAR Working Groups in parallel sessions,
  17.00 – 19.00 COAR Executive Board and Working Group Chairs plus Deputy Chairs Meeting,
  19.30 Warm-up Dinner for COAR Members and Partners.
- Tuesday, March 29, 2011
  9.30 – 16.30 General Assembly, open to all

COAR Members and Partners,
Afternoon : Additional social programme, informal get-together.
For further information and registration please visit our website at http://coar-repositories.org/COAR-GA_2011

Recent Publications

- hita-hita - Institutional OA Advocacy in Japan, Digital Repository Federation (DRF), Hokkaido 2011
- Open Access in Southern European Countries, Fundación Española para la Ciencia y la Tecnología (FECYT), Madrid 2010
- OpenAIRE Community Development Report, to be published in March/April 2011, http://www.openaire.eu