

Interview with Pedro Principe:

“Behind the technical things, we build a human community”

COAR Annual Meeting 2016 in Vienna, April 12th–13th, 2016

Interviewee: Pedro Principe (University of Minho, Braga, Portugal)

Interviewer: Anna-Maria Finta (Vienna University Library)

Transcriber: Brigitte Semanek

Anna-Maria Finta: Welcome to the first day of COAR meeting – annual meeting, actually. Next to me is Pedro Principe.

Pedro Principe: Yes.

AF: Welcome to Vienna, welcome to Skylounge.

PP: Thank you.

AF: Can you tell us a little bit about yourself, Pedro? – Where are you coming from?

PP: Okay. Yes. I am Pedro Principe. I come from Portugal, from the University of Minho. In the University of Minho I work in a specific office about Open Access projects, so I am the project manager, and I work currently mainly in OpenAIRE. So, University of Minho is one of the partners in OpenAIRE, and we manage the work package on the support and training. So, in a daily basis, I manage the helpdesk of OpenAIRE, but I am also, of course, working in other areas of OpenAIRE, and I collaborate in other Open Access projects, European and national Open Access projects that the University of Minho is responsible.

AF: So what’s the added value of your participation in COAR?

PP: Okay – for me?

AF: Yes.

PP: So I think, the most important, in my perspective, is that in COAR we are building community. And the most important I think in this area of repositories is the way that we, for technical reasons, so to improve our repositories, to work, collaborate and to aggregate our repositories in national or international harvests, we create this way to collaborate and we build a community. So, behind the technical things, we build a human community, and the result is that we are technically strong and we are also better to manage our repositories. So, I think COAR contributes a lot to the way we develop our skills and to the way we know about the others, the work that the others are doing, and what we need to improve our own work and our repositories.

AF: So, how do you see the further developments of archiving infrastructure and your library in relation with Open Access?

PP: So I think – how do you see the further developments of archiving? Okay, okay, okay. So, the infrastructures are really, really important. So, for example, OpenAIRE as a European

based infrastructure was really useful to improve the interoperability, the way that repositories manage the funding information, the way the repositories can become a very important tool for the funding agencies at the national level and the international level, so we have different Open Access policies and different funders, and the repositories can play an important role to provide that information and that services. And I think the repositories were aware of that important role because we have some infrastructures. We have OpenAIRE at the European level but we have also others at the national level or the international level. So I think the infrastructures are really contributing to improve the different roles and different services that repositories can provide.

AF: Thank you very much for your time, Pedro.

PP: Okay, thank you.

AF: And we wish you a pleasant time here in Vienna at the COAR meeting.

PP: Many thanks, and congratulations for all the organisation.

AF: Thank you very much.