

National Digital Repositories System: the argentine case

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Abstract: The Sistema Nacional de Repositorios Digitales (SNRD, National Digital Repositories System) created in 2011 is an initiative of the Advisory Board of the Science & Technology Electronic Library under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva) of Argentina.

The SNRD aims to form an interoperable network of digital repositories in science and technology by establishing policies, standards and common protocols for the scientific community with the main purpose of promoting equity of access to and greater visibility of the scientific information and primary data resulting from research financed by the National Government.

To achieve this objective, public institutions of science & technology with existing repositories nationwide or having plans to create it, are invited to join the SNRD in a volunteer membership process (<http://repositorios.mincyt.gob.ar/adhesion.htm>) to build this network, while the Ministry of Science facilitates funds for the acquisition of equipment, personnel's training, among other items for the creation, management and maintenance of SNRD members' repositories.

The Ministry is also building a national Portal to coordinate the SNRD's network of repositories, allowing access to their datasets and collections of publications.

Concerning legislation, at the initiative of the SNRD it was presented a bill to the House of Representatives seeking to establish the responsibilities that fit each actor involved in scientific research processes to provide open access to their results for the scientific community and the general public, defining reasonable timeframe for the release and availability of data and information produced. This bill obliges:

- Public institutions of the National System of Science of Argentina that receive funding from the Federal Government to develop interoperable open access institutional repositories for scientific and technological production, to establish policies for public access to their scientific production published and to primary research data, as well as institutional policies for management and long-term preservation.
- Governmental agencies providing financial support to research projects to contain clauses in its contract terms to ensure public availability of results.
- Researchers, technologists and doctoral students whose research activity is financed with public funds, to deposit a copy of their production in open access institutional digital repositories, within a period not exceeding six months in the case of articles and publications, and no later than five years from the time of collection, in the case of primary research data.

SNRD can be considered an example of what is happening with the Open Access movement in Latin America, in line with global trends to increase equity of access to information and knowledge.