

# The impact of organisational issues in the development of institutional repositories

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# Summary

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- Organisational aspects in the transition from special projects to integrated IRs
- Purpose of the research and methodology
- Results
- Concluding remarks

# Purpose of IRs

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IRs: services to manage, disseminate and preserve the community's body of knowledge.

Correlated benefits:

- To enhance internal and external communication
- To facilitate collaboration, interaction and sharing
- To promote innovation and change
- To create new workflows involving different sectors, roles, stakeholders

# Towards a deeper integration

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- Developers need to deal with:
  - Organisational infrastructures
  - Cultural environment
  - Disciplinary specialisation
  - Existing services
- It is difficult to define criteria and guidelines related to cultural and organisational issues

# Research objectives and methodology

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- To identify suitable criteria to evaluate integration
  - Review of the literature
- To explore how these have been developed in IRs in Italy using DSpace
  - Analysis of publicly accessible information
  - Semi-structured interviews
- To explore barriers and facilitators
  - Semi-structured interviews

# Successful implementations of repositories

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- Key recommended issues
- Criteria to evaluate:
  - success
  - trustworthiness
- Selection of criteria related to organisation, procedures, management

# Factors

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<b>Sustainability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Project</li><li>•Mandate and long term accessibility</li><li>•Financial resources</li><li>•Management structure</li><li>•Job description</li></ul>
<b>Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Policy</li><li>•Promotion</li><li>•Evaluation</li><li>•Workflow</li></ul>
<b>Interoperability</b>	
<b>Integration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Information resources</li><li>•Digital services</li></ul>

# IRs using DSpace

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- DRIVER Report, WikiDSpace, Pleiadi, ROAR, Google
- June 2007: 18 DSpace repositories
  - 13: universities
  - 3: research institutes
  - 1: local government
  - 1: school libraries
- Few publicly available documentation

# Sustainability: the project

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## **Informal project**

- formal support arrived later
- pros and cons

## **Context: the library**

## **Preliminary information**

- analysis of Web sites

## **Pilot project**

## **Institutional initiative**

## **The library and other units**

## **Analysis of users needs**

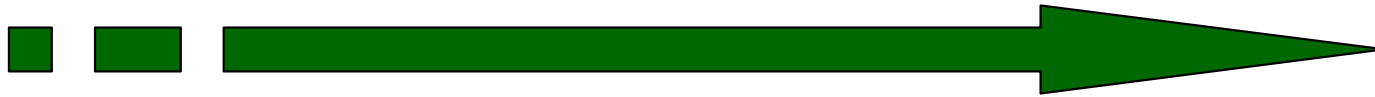
- questionnaire
- information collected in a second phase

## **IR service**

- Faculty, committee, information system unit

# Sustainability

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## **Objectives / Results**

Problems:

- existence of competitive services
- many metadata, few full-texts
- delays
- lack of faculty participation
- no submissions from other institutions

## **Long term retention?**

## **Future developments**

- interaction with electronic services
- focus on theses
- conclusion of the pilot phase
- improvement of international cooperation
- analysis of users' typology

## **Institutional commitment**

- Not yet a strategy

# Sustainability

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- **Financial resources**
  - Initial external funds
  - Institution's financial support
- **Management structure**
  - A single unit (library)
  - Two units sharing responsibility
  - No management structure
- **Job description**
  - Staff
  - Staff and outside contractors
  - Hardly ever the staff has a formal job description

# Management

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- Only one of the IRs sites has a policy document
- It is not possible to define a policy because:
  - The IR is still in a pilot phase
  - There is a risk to stop the project
  - It is not possible if you don't have a strong institutional support
  - To let community's administrators completely free

# Management



## **Promotional initiatives**

- presentations, one-to-one talks, e-mail
- one-to-one talk is more effective

## **Reports**

- monitor the project's evolution

## **Workflow**

- submitters: researchers, students, librarians
- faculty tend to delegate submission

## **Promotion strategy**

- related to the objectives and users

## **Periodical evaluation**

Might consider:

- percentage of submitted documents
- users' knowledge and satisfaction
- ease of use
- number of accessed documents

## **Increase participation**

- it is easier in narrow communities
- librarians too have to be encouraged

# Integration

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- Most IRs are linked from the institution or management structure Web pages:
  - Only 8 IR are included in library lists of catalogues and information resources
  - No IR links to library lists of catalogues and information resources
  - Some IR have not clear linkages to their institutions
- The preferred way to integrate the IR to library resources is the portal
- There are initiatives for integrating the IR with local electronic services

# Conclusions

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- From pilot projects to services
- Clear ideas for future developments
- The process is more difficult with complex, large multidisciplinary communities
- Critical issues:
  - Set objectives on the basis of recognised needs
  - Evaluation: objectives/results
  - Set the policy
  - Assure funds and sufficient human resources
  - Define tasks and responsibilities
- Increase cooperation and sharing

Thank you very much for your  
attention!