

Studies and future plans

DRIVER has performed a set of strategic and coordinated studies on digital repositories and related topics: an inventory study that provides an overview of the present type and level of OAI compliant repository activities in the EU; a study containing comprehensive and current information on digital repository-related issues that are relevant to repository managers, decision makers and funding agencies; and an investigative study of standards for digital repositories and related services.

As part of the project's commitment to enhance repository development, DRIVER is also conducting a study whereby users/researchers are invited to test the search tool and feed back their observations and requests for improvement.

DRIVER has thus far concentrated its efforts on the support of institutional repositories and the management of textual content in repositories. As a next step, subject communities will be invited to become involved with DRIVER and technical developments will focus on the advancement and enhancement of services for specific communities.

For more information on the development of national repositories, technical support, and ways in which DRIVER can benefit national networks, please see DRIVER leaflet "Frequently Asked Questions" or visit the DRIVER website.

The Future for DRIVER

The initial phase of DRIVER focused on the support of institutional repositories and textual content in repositories. DRIVER II follows on from this and is funded under the Seventh Framework Programme.

In DRIVER-II, subject communities will feature more prominently in the project and DRIVER technical developments will focus on the development and enhancement of services for specific communities. In DRIVER-II, the technical focus will expand from the management of textual content in repositories to also include the management of complex objects such as data and multimedia. DRIVER's original partnership of 10 European partners which will expand to 13 with a further 6 additional partners to join later.



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- **National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece**
- **Bielefeld University, Germany**
- **Consiglio Nazionale Delle Ricerche, Italy**
- **STICHTING SURF, Netherlands**
- **SHERPA, University of Nottingham, UK**
- **Centre National pour la Recherche Scientifique, France**
- **UKOLN, University of Bath, UK**
- **Uniwersytet Warszawski, Poland**
- **Universiteit Gent, Belgium**
- **Goettingen University, Germany**



**Information
for
Researchers**



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Introduction

The current system of academic publication can hamper the dissemination and use of research material because access to articles is limited by publishers to only those who can afford to subscribe. Open Access makes research freely available to everyone, increasing readership, use and citation.

What is Open Access?

“Open-access (OA) literature is digital, online, free of charge.”
Peter Suber*

What are Institutional Repositories?

Institutional Repositories hold and make available as much of the research output of an institution as possible. Authors deposit copies of their finished articles or book chapters in open access repositories that are maintained by their research institution. These copies are in addition to publishing in research journals and other traditional routes. Hence institutional repositories provide a means whereby the traditional publishing model can co-exist with Open Access. Peer review is unaffected.

Self-archiving does not take long—approximately 10 minutes. Some institutions offer a service to deposit research material on behalf of their researchers. Software is constantly being developed to make the process as easy and time efficient as possible.

Full text articles held in repositories are then available to anyone via search services such as Google, Yahoo! and others. Permission to archive is subject to publishers' copyright but the majority of publishers allow some form of Open Access archiving. For more information, visit RoMEO at www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo

*www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm

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Benefits for Research

Published material which is Open Access can be freely accessed by anyone in the world via an internet connection. The resulting increased readership means that the results will prompt more use of the research results which in turn, facilitates the research process.

Benefits for the Public

Much scholarly research is publicly funded; it follows therefore that the results of this research should be available to the public. At present much of this publicly funded research is locked behind subscription barriers.

DRIVER

Digital Repository Infrastructure Vision for European Research

This is an EU-funded project which is building a testbed for a future knowledge infrastructure of the European Research Area.

DRIVER aims to deliver any form of scientific output, including scientific/technical reports, working papers, pre-prints, articles and original research data to the various user groups.

Its main objective is to build a virtual, European scale network of existing institutional repositories using technology that will manage the physically distributed repositories as one large scale virtual content resource.

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Benefits for Researchers

DRIVER provides a unified approach and is leading the way as the largest initiative of its kind, helping to enhance repository development and use of open access materials through the provision of key discovery services.

DRIVER's work in Open Access meets the requirements of prominent researchers advocating the benefits of free, immediate access to research results.

“Ensuring that the outputs of research are freely available to all is the best way to maximize their utility. Open access is good for science, the research community and mankind”

Sir John Sulston
2002 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine

The DRIVER Search Service

The DRIVER search tool draws on repositories that are linked to the DRIVER network. Users can access the system via the web and benefit from functionalities such as free-keyword search, advanced fielded search on virtual collections of documents.

DRIVER search provides access to full text records only, a feature not currently available from existing services such as OAster or Google Scholar. Furthermore, DRIVER search can be customized to search only selected repositories.

As the service develops users will be able to join communities, be sent recommendations on content in their field of interest, open their own individual search account and apply query profiling techniques.

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