

OAF Workshop Pisa, May 2002 - Breakout Session Organisational Issues

The breakout session on organisational issues was facilitated by Denis Nicholson of the University of Glasgow, and reported by David Casal of the University of East Anglia. It provided an opportunity to share experience and identify issues that were arising across many initiatives. A full report of the session is available on the OA-Forum website from the 1st Workshop programme page at http://www.oaforum.org/workshops/pisa_programme.php.

Participants represented a substantial body of implementation experience, which showed that academic attitudes are important. This applied to convincing a user base to actually use the service either as contributors or users of data, though the scientific community are more eager to contribute electronic copies. Institutional structures and policies constitute a framework within which an open archive must find its proper place. Unless repositories are firmly embedded in institutional life, they won't survive the end of their project funding, or the departure of their original implementers.

IPR (Intellectual Property Rights), metadata, quality of metadata and content, and business models emerged as important issues. Intellectual Property Right (IPR) was acknowledged as an important issue, with a need to protect institutional IPR on one hand, and the dangers of institutions inadvertently violating IPR on the other. Better understanding and awareness of IPR is needed. There was considerable discussion of subject metadata requirements, the role of authors in the creation of metadata, the need for guidelines for the application of unqualified DC (Dublin Core), and the adequacy of DC in meeting the needs of service providers.

Participants in the organisational issues breakout session agreed to establish a European working group that will carry out discussions and produce best practice guidelines in key areas. It will communicate via the OA-Forum discussion list in the first instance, and meet at upcoming OA-Forum workshops. The first task of working group is to scope its work and decide which guidelines to produce as a priority.