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The OAI Object Re-Use & Exchange (ORE) Initiative

Presentation Abstract

Repository federation efforts such as aDORe, CORDRA, the Chinese DSpace Federation, DARE, DLF Aquifer, and Pathways (NSF IIS-0430906) demonstrate that a shared interoperability layer allows the re-use of scholarly digital objects. This cross-repository interoperability provides the fabric for leveraging objects beyond the borders of the hosting repository. Interest in developing such a fabric led to an April 2006 “Augmenting Interoperability” meeting, which was supported by the Mellon Foundation, Microsoft, the Coalition for Networked Information, the Digital Library Federation and the Joint Information Systems Committee (see < <http://msc.mellon.org/Meetings/Interop/>>).

It is now appropriate to move beyond prototypes and to support an effort to formally specify this next level of interoperability across repositories. Through the support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, a two-year international initiative to define this interoperability fabric began in October 2006. The effort is conducted under the umbrella of the OAI (Open Archives Initiative), is aptly named ORE (Object Re-Use & Exchange), and is coordinated by Carl Lagoze and Herbert Van de Sompel.

The project briefing will outline the goals and work plan of the project, and will discuss activities conducted so far.

ORE Press Release

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Open Archives Initiative Announces Object Reuse and Exchange (ORE)

Ithaca, NY and Los Alamos, NM - The Open Archives Initiative (OAI), with the generous support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, announces a new effort as part of its mission to develop and promote interoperability standards that aim to facilitate the efficient dissemination of content. Object Reuse and Exchange (ORE) will develop specifications that allow distributed repositories to exchange information about their constituent digital objects. These specifications will include approaches for representing digital objects and repository services that facilitate access and ingest of these representations. The specifications will enable a new generation of cross-repository services that leverage the intrinsic value of digital objects beyond the borders of hosting

repositories.

The goals of ORE are inspired by advances in scholarly communication and the growth of scholarly material that is available in scholarly repositories including institutional repositories, discipline-oriented repositories, dataset warehouses, and online journal repositories. This growth is significant by itself. However, its real importance lies in the potential for these distributed repositories and their contained objects to act as the foundation of a new digitally-based scholarly communication framework. Such a framework would permit fluid reuse, refactoring, and aggregation of scholarly digital objects and their constituent parts - including text, images, data, and software. This framework would include new forms of citation, allow the creation of virtual collections of objects regardless of their location, and facilitate new workflows that add value to scholarly objects by distributed registration, certification, peer review, and preservation services. Although scholarly communication is the motivating application, we imagine that the specifications developed by ORE may extend to other domains.

ORE is funded by Mellon for two years beginning October 2006. It is coordinated by Carl Lagoze of Cornell University Information Science and Herbert Van de Sompel of the Los Alamos Research Library. The ORE two-year work plan includes:

- Formation of an international advisory committee, consisting of leaders in e-Science, institutional repositories, publishing, library, and educational technology communities.
- Formation of an international working group that will meet over the two year period and develop the set of ORE specifications.
- Establishment and management of an experimental deployment community that will exercise the developed standards in a variety of contexts.
- Establishment of a sustainable community to support the widespread deployment and management of the standards fabric.

OAI-ORE will co-exist within the Open Archives Initiative with the Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH), the widely deployed standard for exchange of metadata. We expect that the naturally more expressive digital object focus of OAI-ORE will complement the narrower metadata focus of OAI-PMH. OAI-ORE will benefit from the interoperability experience and depth of the international OAI community.



For more information contact <ore@openarchives.org>.
The ORE web site is at <<http://www.openarchives.org/ore/>>.