<Lecture 8>COAR: Towards a global network of open access repositories for research and scholarship

Rodrigues, Eloy

COAR

Confederation of Open Access Repositories

Towards a global network of open access repositories for research and scholarship
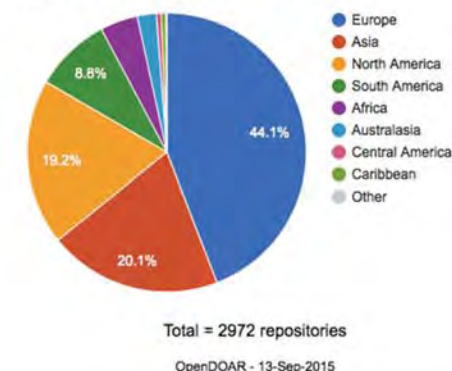
Eloy Rodrigues

October 2015

EUIJ Symposium, Kobe, Japab

Open access repositories are becoming key infrastructure components for research and scholarship

OpenDOAR has almost 3000 repositories listed

Proportion of Repositories by Continent - Worldwide

- Europe
- Asia
- North America
- South America
- Africa
- Australasia
- Central America
- Caribbean
- Other

44.1%

20.1%

19.2%

8.8%

Total = 2972 repositories

OpenDOAR - 13-Sep-2015

The COAR vision

A sustainable, global knowledge commons based on a network of open access digital repositories

…but we must collaborate and harmonize standards and practices!

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COAR *aims to facilitate the vision by bringing together research repositories as part of a **global infrastructure;** to link across continents and around the world, enabling new forms of research and supporting new models of scholarly communication.*

Standards, policies, infrastructure, strategy, interoperability, support, awareness, integration…

Inspired by Tim Berners Lee

Factsheet

- COAR e.V., was founded in 2009 as an international association
- Office is based in Göttingen, Germany
- Members & Partners: over 100 institutions from 35 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Northern and South America
- Institutional membership fees: 500 Euros

- Members from Japan:
  - Digital Repository Federation (DRF)
  - National Institute for Informatics

Executive Board

As of Oct 2015:

- Chairperson: Eloy Rodrigues, University of Minho, Portugal
- Vice Chairperson: Carmen-Gloria Labbé, CLARA, Chilé
- Treasurer: Márta Virágos, University and National Library of Debrecen, Hungary
- Wolfram Horstmann, University of Gottingen, Germany
- Oya Rieger, Cornell University, United States
- Daisy Selematsela, National Research Foundation, South Africa


COAR Principles

- **Global:** COAR focuses on the needs and issue of interest of repositories across the world
- **Sensitive to local differences**: COAR is cognizant of the tremendous diversity globally, and aware that needs will differ depending on the distinct regional environment.
- **Strategic:** Bringing together policy makers and regional networks to work for a future vision of repositories
- **Grass roots:** COAR aims to support developing local capacity at member institutions
- **Synergistic:** in order to achieve a common vision, repositories around the globe must adopt common approaches to policies, metadata schemas, vocabularies, etc.

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Overview of COAR Groups, Committees, and Task Forces
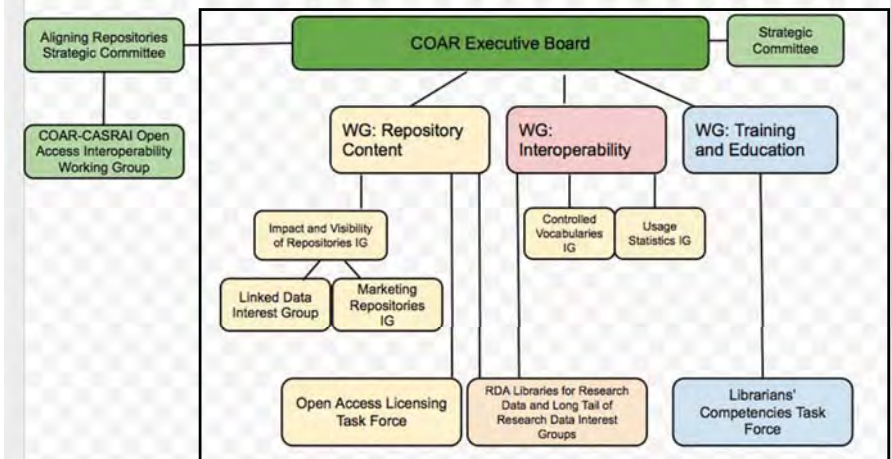
Global voice for the repository community

RAISE THE VISIBILITY OF REPOSITORIES AND THEIR VALUE

COAR

Confederation of Open Access Repositories

Promoting Open Knowledge and Open Science
Report of the Current State of Repositories

May 21, 2015

Produced by Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR) on behalf of
the COAR Aligning Repository Networks Committee

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Global voice for the repository community

SHORT EMBARGO PERIODS ARE ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL FOR OPEN ACCESS!

- *COAR Statement on Embargo Periods*: "Embargo periods dilute the benefits of open access policies and we believe that, if they are adopted, they should be no more than 6 months for the life and physical sciences, 12 months for social sciences and humanities."

- *Statement against Elsevier's Sharing Policy*: In their new policy, Elsevier has placed greater restrictions on depositing into institutional repositories (and imposed embargo periods to up to 48 months)

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Aligning repository networks

A GLOBAL OPEN ACCESS INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIRES COLLABORATION

Why?

- To develop a seamless scientific infrastructure that supports the needs of researchers at the global level.
- To provide evidence that services are being developed in parallel with international activities.
- To provide uniform information about the impact of open access policies.
- To avoid duplication of work across networks and enable cost synergies in areas of common interest.

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Aligning repository networks

A GLOBAL OPEN ACCESS INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIRES COLLABORATION

How?

- Policy and advocacy: high-level coordination that raises the visibility and strengthens legitimacy of regional networks.
- Technical: adopting common set of interoperability standards to ensure that content can be aggregated across networks, facilitating discovery, re-use and the development of value added services.
- Service: common approaches to service adoption that would be of interest at the global level (e.g. common usage statistics across regions, routers, etc.).

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Aligning repository networks

HARMONIZING METADATA WILL ENABLE NETWORK SERVICES TO BE BUILT ACROSS THE REGIONAL NETWORKS

• *COAR-CASRAI Working Group on Metadata for Open Access Repositories* – harmonizing metadata elements across repository networks.

Funding agency	Different approaches
Project/grant number	Different approaches
Author name	✓
Output types	Controlled vocabularies being proposed by COAR
Publication date	✓
Open access status Embargoes Licenses	Different approaches
Unique identifier for publication	✓
Jurisdictional information	Ø
Institution	Ø

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Aligning repository networks

COAR AIMS TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN AN INTERNATIONAL CONTOLLED VOCABULARY FOR OPEN ACCESS REPOSITORIES

• *COAR International Controlled Vocabulary* - develop, translating and maintaining a set of international controlled vocabularies (including into Chinese)

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CONTROLLED VOCABULARY FOR RESOURCE TYPE
(DRAFT VERSION 1.0)

https://www.coar-repositories.org/activities/repository-interoperability/ig-controlled-vocabularies-for-repository-assets/deliverables/

Aligning repository networks

DISCUSSING COMMON WAYS OF MEASURING USAGE

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Slide 1

Interoperability with other systems

Repositories must be integrated and interoperable with other systems such as research data repositories, CRIS systems, aggregators, etc.
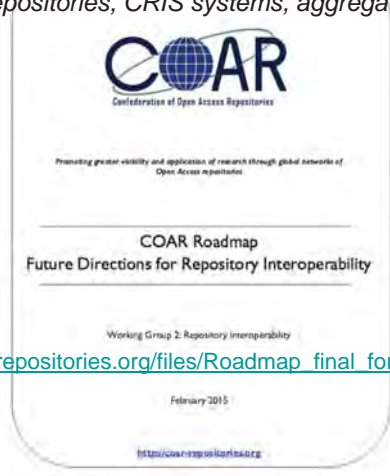
COAR
Confederation of Open Access Repositories

Promoting greater visibility and application of research through global networks of Open Access repositories

COAR Roadmap
Future Directions for Repository Interoperability

Working Group 2: Repository Interoperability

https://www.coar-repositories.org/files/Roadmap_final_formatted_20150203.pdf

February 2015

http://coar-repositories.org
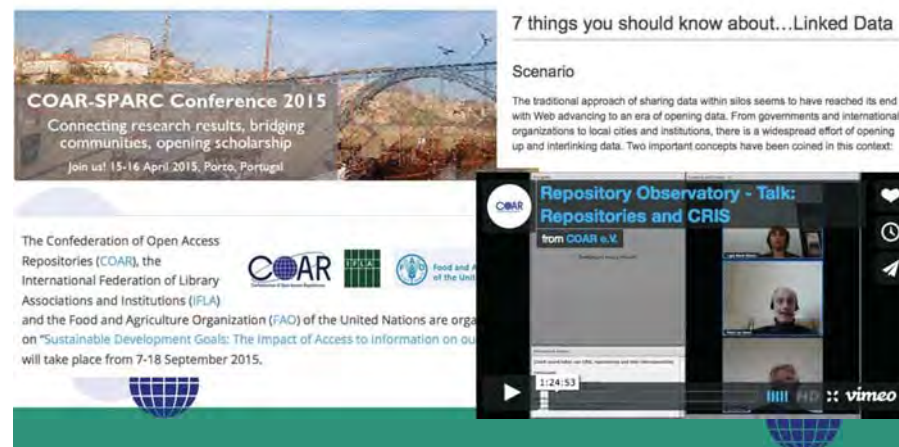
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Slide 2

Developing local capacity

SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS DEPENDS ON CAPACITY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Slide 3

Developing local capacity

SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS DEPENDS ON CAPACITY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

- Planned for 2016:
  - International best practices for repository management
  - Pilot projects partnering two COAR institutions for knowledge transfer and staff exchanges

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Slide 4

Through COAR, members can:

- *Pursue a common vision*
- *Promote policies and practices that support repositories*
- *Network with international colleagues*
- *Develop skills and knowledge*
- *Monitor trends*
- *Participate in a community of practice*
- *Learn about standards and best practices*

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Participants of the COAR Meeting in Portugal 2015

For more information:

- Visit the COAR Website: www.coar-repositories.org

- Contact COAR Executive Director, Kathleen Shearer: kathleen.shearer@coar-repositories.org

- Contact the COAR office to register your interest in becoming a member of COAR: office@coar-repositories.org

- Follow us on Twitter: **#COAR_eV**

- Find us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/COAReV