AgEcon Search: An international disciplinary repository

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- Background
- How is life easier in for a subject repository
- How is life more complicated
- Technical issues, opportunities, future
What is AgEcon Search

- Like arXiv for agricultural and applied economists
- DSpace
- 33,000 working papers, conference papers, small press journals
  - Not all open access
What is Applied Economics?

- Changes in Debt Patterns and Financial Structure of Farm Businesses: A Double Hurdle Approach
- The Spatial Effect of Ethanol Biorefinery Locations on Local Corn Prices
- The sensitivity of trade flows to trade barriers
- Food vs. Wood: Dynamic Choices for Kenyan Smallholders
170 groups contribute

- Academic departments
- Gov agencies
- NGOs
- Professional associations

Sponsors:
- Ag and Applied Econ Association
- U of Minnesota - Libraries and Applied Econ
From the beginning

- Gopher, with papers in WordPerfect
- Local solution for working papers
- From 3 states to 35 countries and 8 languages
Finances

- Distributed network
- Regular support from sponsors
- Grants - USDA, Farm Foundation
- Student work, cost-recovery basis
How is life easier?

- One topic
- Recruitment
- Researchers are loyal to their discipline
- Advisory Board and local champions
How is life easier?

- Economics has a “pre-print culture”
- Peer pressure
- Self submission
- E-mail distribution of new titles
- Professional associations
  - Support
  - Require submission
How is life harder?

- 170 groups
  - People are in multiple groups

- Workflow is different
  - Big submission deadlines

- Multiple languages, cultural differences
How is life harder?

- Journals
  - Structure of database
  - Embargos
  - Publishers

- Customization

- Exhibiting

- Workforce
Earlier software had limitations

DSpace
- Not designed for journals
- Large submission deadlines
  - Sorting
  - Stats

Conversion to DSpace

Metadata
Opportunities

- RePEc
- Developing countries
- Journals
  - Appendices
  - Exposure for small journals
Future of AgEcon Search

- Pre-prints and post-prints, dissertations
- Cooperation with other large databases
- Social networking
  - EthicShare
  - Twitter
Future of AgEcon Search

- More work in developing countries
- SPARC Partner - scientific communities
- More assistance for journals
- New platform
Questions?