

Open Repositories 2009

Conference Theme strand: Repository Use Cases and Case studies

Conference Paper: Discipline-oriented repositories

Presented by: Michelle Blake, Assistant Librarian (Eservices), London School of Economics and Political Science

NEEO (Network of European Economists Online) is a 30 month EU-funded project. NEEO is the flagship project of the Nereus consortium which currently consists of twenty-three prestigious partners in the world of academic economics. These partners are based not only in Europe (Tilburg University, London School of Economics, Oxford University, Université Toulouse 1 Sciences Sociales) but also include partners in Australia (Monash University) and the USA (Columbia University).

NEEO aims to address the lack of integration of academic output amongst premier European economics institutions by increasing the accessibility and usability of quality content through an original, relevant and valued new service called Economists Online.

Key objectives of the NEEO project include:

- To develop a technically and managerially sound viable network of institutional repositories across Europe that allows the integration of high quality content in the field of economics, including both textual documents and primary data.
- To openly disseminate the academic production of leading European economics research institutions, within the corresponding legal framework. This is for the benefit of the international community of academics, students, policy-makers and economists in the private and public sectors.
- To maintain and develop a user-friendly portal with value-added services that allow users to access information in an efficient and accurate manner as well as to keep them informed about recent developments in the field of economics.
- To develop a sustainable business model that could be replicated in other subject disciplines.

Economists Online will provide access to the recent research results of over 800 leading economists from 20 leading academic institutions. It will include journal articles, working papers, books, book chapters, conference proceedings, theses and datasets. When the service is launched in Autumn 2009 it will contain over 50 000 bibliographic citations, over 15 000 full text records and at least 160 datasets.

As part of the project we have benchmarked the developing service, Economists Online, with current existing economics services including RePEc and SSRN as well as broader services such as ISI Web of Knowledge and Google. Anecdotal evidence has already shown that the service is providing more open access full text and bibliographical records for researchers participating in Economists Online than any of the current generic or economics-specific search engines or services.

Economists Online is driven by users' needs. It is based on the findings from a baseline questionnaire and four focus groups which were undertaken at the beginning of the project between November and December 2007. The implementation has been evidence-informed from the report produced from this research. The portal will present results in ways that are meaningful and accessible, for example, with full text searching and complete publication lists for individual researchers. Finally because project partners all have their own institutional repositories Economists Online is committed to continually adding new material to its service.

The NEEO project was commended for its high quality metadata by the EC at the mid-project review meeting. This metadata allows the implementation of cutting edge services such as, faceted searching, publication lists and usage statistics.

Not only is the portal itself state-of-the-art, but the work of the NEEO partners represent an innovative step-forward with its pan-European infrastructure. Institutions work collaboratively and in so doing increase efficiency by cooperating on technical and administrative tasks as well as harnessing and developing the talents of those involved.

The key objectives of this session are:

- To give participants an understanding of the background to the NEEO project.
- To disseminate the user requirements of the project (these were undertaken during the start of the project and followed up in a mid-project questionnaire) and demonstrate how these requirements have been implemented into the project plan and the Economists Online service itself.
- To provide a first opportunity for the repository community to view the Economists Online portal. This will include a demonstration of author profile pages, publication lists, faceted searching and an OpenURL resolver.
- To disseminate the sustainable business model developed by the NEEO project which may be replicated in other subject disciplines.