DL.org – New Insights on Interoperability Strategies, Open Access, Education, Research, Theory & Practice in the Digital Library Space

Editorial

DL.org is delighted to announce the one-day Workshop on **Digital Libraries & Open Access. Interoperability Strategies**, **4 February 2011** at the British Academy in London. The Workshop gathers together international experts on Digital Libraries and Open Access Repositories (OARs) to explore issues key to taking the field to the next level. Registration for the Workshop is now open. However, places are limited due to venue capacity, so early registration is strongly advised. The Workshop is the third in a series of highly successful events that have taken place in Europe over the last few months. The first event was a one-day Seminar on **Research and Education in Digital Libraries,** 9 November 2010 in Parma in synergy with the Digital Library Learning Master Programme funded by the EC's Erasmus Mundus initiative. The second was a one-day Workshop on **Theory and Practice in Digital Libraries: A European Approach**, 13 December 2010 in Athens. In this issue we announce the London Workshop and sum up the main outcomes of the other events. In particular, the Parma Seminar offered opportunities to explore the key role of fostering closer synergies between research communities and educational programmes, which are further investigated in our **interviews** with **Professor Anna Maria Tammaro** from the University of Parma and **Marical Reyes Batiancila** a Master Student from the Philippines. We also sum up the main outcomes of the Athens Workshop and share the views of participants who kindly offered their **position statements** on the talks and demos presented at the event. Finally, we provide a round-up of the highly successful **Autumn School** in early October 2010 together with the testimonies from the attendees. We wrap up with a thank you to all past and future participants helping to build a community as a key asset for DL.org. We would also like to renew our thanks to all the experts in Europe and globally who have contributed to the Digital Library discourse in general and in particular to outputs such as the DL.org Reference Model and the Technological and Methodological Cookbook, which are now being taken to the final stage.

Digital Libraries & Open Access. Interoperability Strategies
4 February 2011, British Academy, London

Registration Open!

Research & Education in Digital Libraries
9 November 2010, Parma

Theory & Practice in Digital Libraries: A European Approach
13 December 2010, Athens

Interviews on
Digital Library Research & Education

Prof. Anna Maria Tammaro

Marcial Reyes Batiancila

Autumn School

Round-up & Testimonies

Strategic Alliances

ERASMUS MUNDUS

Education and Culture DG

Digital Library Learning –
Master Programme

Synergies for Athens Workshop

Veria Central β Public Library
a smart library   an open approach

Digital Libraries & Open Access. Interoperability Strategies, 4 February 2011, British Academy, London.

DL.org is delighted to announce the one-day Workshop on Digital Libraries & Open Access. Interoperability Strategies, 4 February 2011 at the British Academy in London. The Workshop gathers together international experts on Digital Libraries and Open Access Repositories (OARs) to explore issues key to taking the field to the next level. Registration for the Workshop is now open. However, places are limited due to venue capacity, so early registration is strongly advised.

The Workshop aims to:

- Trigger multi-disciplinary debate on research on Digital Libraries and Open Access.
- Discuss the DL.org project results, and existing frameworks and best practices for interoperability within the communities of practice.
- Propose common strategies for interoperability by opening a discussion on how to implement a mechanism for exchanging, sharing and integrating results between DLs and OARs communities.
- Create new connections and partnerships, and explore ways for a closer co-operation between researchers and the communities of practice.

In terms of DL.org outputs, the Workshop address the interoperability challenges within the context of digital libraries and open access repositories, along the perspectives of content, user, functionality, policy, quality and architecture, the six core domains captured in the DL.org Reference Model.

The workshop is addressed to Library and Information Science researchers and professionals, and to the Open Access community. It is of interest to people involved in developing interoperability frameworks or models, and people dealing with the implementation of digital libraries, institutional, subject or learning object repositories, and associated services across a broad range of communities of practice.

Web Link
http://www.dlorg.eu/index.php/dl-org-events/digital-library-research-open-access-repositories
Early Registration deadline before & on 5 January 2011
Regular registration from 6 January 2011
Special rates for students (doctoral & master) apply

Workshop Agenda
08.45–09:15 Registration and Welcome Tea & Coffee
09:15–09:30 *Introduction*, Prof. Seamus Ross, University of Toronto (CA)
09:30–10:00 *The DL.org Reference Model*, Vittore Casarosa, National Research Council (IT)
10:00–10:30 *Interoperability best practices and solutions: the DL.org Cookbook*, Leonardo Candela, National Research Council (IT)
10:30–11:00 *The Policy & Quality Interoperability Surveys. Lessons learned from the OAR community*, Perla Innocenti and Giuseppina Vullo – HATII, University of Glasgow (UK)
11:00–11:30 Networking Coffee Break
11:30–12:00 *Data Libraries: A matter of trust, reliability, quality*, Hans Pfeiffenberger, Alfred Wegener Institute (DE)
12:00–12:30 *The Sonex Workgroup on Interoperability*, Pablo De Castro, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (ES)
12:30–13:45 Lunch break
13:45–14:15 *Open Repositories and interoperability challenges in UK*, Peter Burnhill, EDINA, University of Edinburgh (UK)
14:15–14:45 *The "many ways" to interoperability. Outcomes and challenges within. DRIVER & OpenAIRE*, Wolfram Horstmann, University of Bielefeld (DE)
14:45–15:15 *Future scenarios on Open Access*, Heather Joseph, SPARC (US)
15:15–15:45 Networking Coffee break
15:45–16:45 *Round Table - Common strategies for interoperability*. Chair: Prof. Seamus Ross, University of Toronto (CA)
16:45–17:00 Conclusions and Future opportunities

Digital Libraries are a new research topic, opening up important opportunities for a multi-faceted approach spanning information seeking behaviour and social processes such as learning and knowledge sharing, in addition to Digital Libraries as collections of content that need curation (collection, description, preservation, retrieval and so forth).

Digital Library Learning (DILL), a two-year international master programme funded by the European Union under the Erasmus Mundus programme, is chartered with taking forward an interdisciplinary approach to take scholarship to the next level. The Programme has brought together three European partners (pictured from left to right): Tallinn University (Estonia), Oslo University College (Norway) and Parma University (Italy). Anna Maria Tammaro from Parma University shares her thought leadership on the programme and its synergy with DL.org.

What is the main focus of the DILL international master programme?
DILL brings together the best experiences in digital libraries teaching and research both in Library and Information Science (LIS) and Computer science. DILL students with different backgrounds are recruited globally. During their internship in different European countries, they gain experience in different types of digital libraries. DILL aims to be interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary, thus adapting to all these different environments, training students to be flexible and use research methods to apply a professional approach and most effective orientation. In a nutshell, DILL is educating the leaders of future DLs. Students have to have a vision of services that can be provided by adopting digital technologies, but they also have to take stock of their individual starting points, which can sometimes be difficult and challenging circumstances. Users and their contexts are the focus of the Parma modules, together with the best research results from the DL space.

What specific competences does it help develop and what value-add does it offer in the evolving DL landscape?
DILL seeks to develop technology-based competencies, transversal competencies and library related competencies. "Competencies" are broadly defined here, not as a specific skill set but as learning outcomes we want students to achieve by the end of their DILL Master (http://dill.hio.no). LIS competencies are focused on understanding user needs and activities, together with the main principles of collection development and designing user-centric

services. The main value-add lies in educating professionals well placed to support users, also in a non-"institutionalised" DL.

You played a very active role in the Seminar. What are the main drivers behind the synergy with DL.org?
This synergy has its roots in the Seminar "IT profiles and curricula in libraries" held in Parma in 2005 in close collaboration with the EU's DELOS Network of Excellence. The outcomes of this initiative are being taken forward by DL.org, recognising that research and education have much to gain from working more closely together, sharing and applying research findings in education. The DELOS Reference Model has been used in DILL since its inception. Binding together research and education will become even more important should the DILL PhD programme be approved. In this respect, DILL could make an important contribution to research projects by bringing into sharper relief knowledge on the educational needs of DL professionals and guidance on teaching-learning approaches to ensure research outcomes inform learning material in the most effective way possible.

What was the main message you conveyed during your talk at the Seminar?
DL is an emerging area of research, where we continue to use analogies as in the traditional library. However, a number of issues are yet to be clarified. The subject can be very broad, ranging from digital library curation, which is more technical in focus, to digital scholarship, which is related to different organisations of information. Furthermore, hurdles that need to be cleared include conflicting paradigms, such as disintermediation. Taken in isolation from each other, LIS and IT approaches have a number of constraints. While interdisciplinary convergence is needed, it will not suffice in overcoming all the constraints. This is where a multidisciplinary approach comes into play, encompassing disciplines such as linguistics, economics, psychology, and semiotics, among others.

What were the main discussion points during the round table?
The discussion brought to the fore a range of perspectives with one underlying theme, that is, that the characteristics of different Digital Libraries both converge and diverge. More events like this are needed where participants are chartered with exploring a range of discussion points, building bridges and consensus on the best way forward. In my view, the participation of a Master student in the roundtable brought the most value-add. Marcial Batiancila effectively conveyed the needs of current and future professionals that educational and research programmes need to take on board.

How do you see Education in DL evolving over the next few years?
DL education is growing, so more eLearning programmes will be needed alongside innovative ways of delivering courses, moving forward. Internship also should become an essential part of DL education. However, we also need to work towards a stronger theoretical foundation basis. Whether this will be Human-Computer Interaction (HCI), knowledge management, or communication theory is, for now, an open question.

Stephanie Parker, Trust-IT Services Ltd

http://www.dlorg.eu/index.php/on-line-media-room/interviews/interview-with-anna-maria-tammaro

Profile - Anna Maria Tammaro

Anna Maria Tammaro is a professor at Parma University, where she has served as Rector Delegate for eLearning since 2008 and Local Coordinator of the Master Erasmus Mundus Digital Library Learning since 2007. Her international expertise in the field of Digital Libraries has been recognised through her roles as Research Fellow at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois, U.S. and as Education and Research Division Chair as a Member of Governing Board and of Standing Committee with IPA-International Publishers Association on behalf of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA). Her publications and research interests span DL curriculum; quality assurance and inter-university, international educational programmes and eLearning.

Face-to-Face with Marcial Reyes Batiancila - Student Representative, 2009-2011 Erasmus Mundus Digital Library Learning
Digital Library Learning through the Eyes of a Master Student

Digital libraries are both technological systems and organisations intimately bound up with multi-faceted research perspectives. Research themes not only include investigations into these broad areas but also information seeking behaviour and social processes such as learning and knowledge sharing, in addition to Digital Libraries as collections of content that need curation (collection, description, preservation, retrieval and so forth). Finally, Digital Libraries are social institutions with a social mandate, and as such they are affected by social, demographic and legal issues. Digital Library Learning (DILL), a two-year international master programme funded by the European Union under the Erasmus Mundus programme, was aimed at taking forward this multi-faceted approach.

Marcial Reyes Batiancila from the Philippines was one such Master student offering insights into his experiences at the Parma seminar. Here DL.org talks to Marcial to find out more.

Why did you choose this Master Programme?
My main reasons when applying for a DILL scholarship was to gain knowledge on digital librarianship and share my experiences and goals with fellow professionals, bringing international perspectives. This is a particularly important opportunity to assist myself and fellow Filipino librarians in unleashing our potential as information professionals, in acquiring new skills and gaining valuable insights into how information is organised in a digital environment, while also enhancing the role we play in the knowledge society. What's more, the training provided through the Master Programme will help me achieve one of my professional goals to develop training programmes on digitisation initiatives and play an active role in developing a content-rich knowledge society.

What new knowledge have you gained from it and your experiences at other institutions?
The DILL Programme has provided us with so many opportunities to learn about both the theory and practice of digital librarianship. The Programme has also enabled us to interact with DL experts from the four corners of the globe sharing their expertise, knowledge and experiences on recent development in the field. This has given us the real picture of what digital librarianship means in practice.

What did you like best about the Seminar and what is the main value-add you will be taking away with you?
The seminar delivered new insights into best practices fostered in the DL community and an understanding of how DL.org is working towards interoperability as a foundation for current and future DL initiatives. The seminar also brought value-add in terms of fostering collaboration between experts, offering a good example of a Community of Practice where the core values are grounded in close co-operation and openness to share knowledge and learning among stakeholders. The DL.org Cookbook is what I liked most about the Seminar. The Cookbook is a good initiative and a powerful tool for sharing and managing knowledge.

How do you intend to take your experiences forward in the future?
I would very much like to share what I have gained from my studies here in Europe and my insights into DL.org with my colleagues in the Philippines, while also taking a leading role in the future in educating new DL professionals. I also wish to congratulate DL.org for organising the event and for giving us the opportunity to take an active part in it.

Stephanie Parker and Timea Biro, Trust-IT Services Ltd

http://www.dlorg.eu/index.php/on-line-media-room/interviews/interview-with-marcial-reyes-batiancila

Marcial Reyes Batiancila, an International Master student in Digital Library Learning (IM-DILL) at the time of conducting this interview, comes the Island of Bantayan, Cebu in the Philippines. He is a librarian by profession, a graduate of Bachelor of Arts major in Library Science (1997) from the University of San Jose-Recoletos and has a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science (2007) from Cebu Normal University in Cebu City, Philippines.
An active member of both local and national library associations of the Philippines, Marcial has served as a member of the national Board of Trustees of the Philippine Librarians Association, Regional President of the PLAI-Southern Tagalog Region and has also worked as a visiting lecturer teaching LIS courses relating to ICT application in libraries.
His interests include library administration, cataloguing and classification, metadata, ICT application in libraries, library automation, digital archiving, digitisation, digital asset management, knowledge management, community of practice, and information architecture.

Theory & Practice in Digital Libraries: A European Approach, 13 December 2010, Athens

Theory and Practice in Digital Libraries: A European Approach, 13 December 2010 in Athens, was co-hosted with the Veria Central Public Library, Laboratory on Digital Libraries and Electronic Publishing at Ionian University. The event brought together over 40 representatives from the Greek Digital Library community, spanning librarians and library managers, researchers, PhD students, theorists and practitioners.

The Workshop facilitated a clear understanding of Digital Library Modelling, current DL challenges, and solutions proposed by European initiatives, such as Europeana's approach to metadata. Talks illustrated how top-level challenges like interoperability are being addressed by DL.org through its Reference Model and Technology & Methodology Cookbook. The Demo Session delivered insights into real-world challenges for researchers to draw on and offered practitioners an opportunity to understand how to adopt proposed modelling solutions. Discussions and networking opportunities ensured knowledge exchange with other members of the Greek DL community with the ultimate goal of bridging the divide between theory and practice. Participants kindly offered their views and wish lists on the Digital Library taking as a starting point the talks and demos presented.

"A pure scientific, compact and comprehensive workshop. I really liked the interactive nature of the seminar, as most of the presentations led to fruitful discussions on interesting topics e.g. "What is Digital a Library" or "Education on Digital Libraries". These sessions underlined the need for future educational activities for DLs and also the importance of DL in collecting, preserving and disseminating cultural heritage among different countries of Europe."
Librarian, Bank of Greece

"In future I would like to see more tutorials and educating videos about DL, as I believe this would motivate and inspire DL students. Copyright Vs Open Access, issues related to organizational aspects such as government or institutional support, financial coverage and continuous education of librarians are some of the hot topics that I would like to see in future workshop agendas. Finally, cross-country collaboration of Librarians and organisations within Europe is very

important in building the "know -how" and exchanging knowledge and ideas."
Librarian, TEI Piraeus

"Very interesting presentations, as they focused on the state of the art in the DL domain. I hope to see more similar collaborative workshops in future, which bring together different organisations of the DL community"
Librarian Public Central European of Eleftheroupolis

"I would prefer a more detailed analysis of the technical part. Thank you for letting me to participate."
Computer Scientist BSc, Department of Informatics and Telecommunications NKUA

"A remarkable workshop! I've also attended the workshop of EuropeanaLocal (Athens October 2010) and really liked the connection between these events. As a Librarian, I express the need for more events of this kind, as I find them really useful important for our continuous education process. Interesting talks presented by competent speakers, with different backgrounds from Technical focused to more Conceptual/Organisational oriented."
Librarian, NKUA School of Philosophy, Department of Linguistics

"Interesting and compact presentation of the DL.org project and its parts. The real time demo session was extremely useful. Excellent presentation the educational role of the DL Reference Model and its usage as a guidance in future DL and Repositories applications. The one -day workshop was perfectly organised."
Librarian, MSc,, Music Library of Greece Lilian Voudouri

"This workshop gave me the opportunity to see in real time how the theory and concepts which I've been studying as a Librarian, are implemented in practice. Especially for people who have finished their studies, but still didn't have the chance to practice their profession, such workshops provide them the opportunity to remain up-to-date. Thank you!"
Librarian National School of Public Health

"Congratulations! Thank you very much for the wonderful organisation and constructive presentations."
Librarian, Aikaterini Laskaridis Foundation

"Very useful event, not many opportunities to discuss about these things."
Librarian, MSc

"It was not only an event but an interactive seminar, where you had the opportunity to learn, more than expected. The educational aspect should be further strengthened."
Librarian

Web Link: Talks, demos, position statements, Virtual Goody Bags
http://www.dlorg.eu/index.php/dl-org-events/theory-and-practice-in-digital-libraries-a-european-approach

DL.org Autumn School, 3-8 October, Athens

The **DL.org Autumn School, 3-8 October 2010, brought together a group of enthusiastic students to gain insights into digital libraries and digital repositories along the perspectives of content, functionality, users, policy, quality and architecture, the six core domains captured in the DL.org DL Reference Model, which is being taken forward from the DELOS Network of Excellence.**

Best practices and interoperability scenarios were also key features of the School. Internationally established lecturers led each of the half-day sessions and most of them were on-site throughout the week for further discussion. The DL.org Autumn School offered participants (pictured with lecturers) an important opportunity to network and socialise with other researchers, international experts, and practitioners across disciplinary and national boundaries. DL.org also put together a dedicated **Virtual Reading List** for the Autumn School taking place 6-10 October 2010 in Athens, Greece. The Reading List contains current DL.org outputs, such as the State-of-the-Art Survey and the Reference Model, as well as articles and papers from leading figures in the Digital Library space.

"The competence of trainers, good explanations of the field are the two things I liked best about the Autumn School. The wide view of DL's and requirements that have to be discussed for interoperability is my take-home message." **Library Manager**

"The topics for the user domain and architecture domain are my favourite workshop features." **Librarian**

"What I liked most was the D4Science demo, bringing a different perspective. For me the main take-away is new knowledge on conceptualisation and generalisation of DL model, as well as interoperability guidelines." **Project Manager**

"The expertise of the speakers is what impressed me most. I take home general knowledge about the requirements needed."
Librarian & Digital Reproduction Service

"I take away with me a method, a complete list of points to take in count, some sites or applications on which I'd like to find more information after the School." **Librarian**

"I really liked the extensive and thorough presentation of all aspects of Digital Libraries, Digital Library Systems and Digital Library Management Systems. I take back with me new know-how on the DL.org Reference Model and the Cookbook." **Software Developer**

"I most liked the user interactive study approach of Prof. Yannis Ioannidis. I take away with me the systematisation of DL research." **DL Designer**

"Perfect organisation, good lecturers, interesting topics, and team working exercises are the best things about the Autumn School. I take away some best practices about DLs and interoperability." **Software Developer**

"Meeting nice people, the social dinner, and an informative well-structured series of lectures are what I liked best. A better understanding of DL interoperability issues and some general knowledge of the DL.org Reference Model is what I am taking away with me." **Software Developer**

"I liked the part of the practical hands-on exercises, as well as the part where various researchers presented the steps that they are undertaking such as the DRIVER project. The Autumn School was very helpful in understanding matters that are related to the implementation of a digital library, especially the ones that are related with the matter of interoperability." **Librarian**

"Collaboration by working on problem solving solutions, the participation of the speakers during the lessons and presentations scenarios based on real-life cases is what I liked best. Additional practices solutions and best methods in order to organise or reorganise digital libraries and repositories is what I am taking away with me." **Librarian**

"The organisation into the various fundamental "domains", how they have been treated and explained to us, so as to understand the essential importance and role of each of them to achieve interoperability is what I liked best. Useful theoretical as well as practical references to promote some Digital Libraries ideas for future projects in the organisation is what I am take back with me."
Technology Coordinator

Web link: talks, demos, student papers, Virtual Reading List
http://www.dlorg.eu/index.php/autumn-school