

# Building Repository Networks with DRIVER: Joint Explorations with the IR Grid in China

WOLFRAM HORSTMANN<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Bielefeld University, Bielefeld, Germany, whorstma@uni-bielefeld.de

**Abstract** Scenarios of collaboration for supporting Open Access to research results through institutional repository networks have been explored between the IR Grid of the National Science Library of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the European DRIVER-Initiative through its German partners Bielefeld University Library as well as the State and University Library Göttingen. The activities included a joint analysis of the DRIVER infrastructure software D-NET and also resulted in the registration of Chinese Repositories in the DRIVER network.

**Keywords** Institutional repository, Open Access, research infrastructure

## 1. Introduction

Institutional Repositories (IR) have been established worldwide for providing Open Access to digital research results for human discovery through internet applications as well as reliable and fast exchange via machine based protocols. Thereby repositories are becoming a significant content provider in international research infrastructures. Since research results in repositories are originating at the local, institutional level, methods of systematically networking the repositories have to be put into practice. The European DRIVER-Initiative [1] has achieved this over many national networks in Europe through organisational measures and technical systems based on the D-NET software. It provides a European Information Space aggregating the content of repositories compliant with the DRIVER-Guidelines and offers national portals as well as independent infrastructure installations of the D-NET software. The National Library of Science – Chinese Academy of Sciences (NSL-CAS) has implemented a national approach to institutional repositories, the “IR Grid” [2]. Collaboration between the German partners in DRIVER, Bielefeld University Library as well as the State and University Library Göttingen, and the NSL-CAS has been launched in order to exchange knowledge and identify synergies between the two initiatives.

## 2. Activities and Results

Building upon the ongoing collaboration between the NSL-CAS and the State and University Library of Göttingen for aligning processes in the development of Open Access in general, specific actions have been carried out in order to strengthen collaboration on practical aspects of institutional repositories. In a testing-activity of mutual interest, the Chinese Academy of Science provided servers in China and Bielefeld University Library installed the latest development version of the D-NET software on these servers for testing. In this installation, the NSL-CAS could analyze the technological solutions of D-NET for building repository

networks in order to draw conclusions for their own IR Grid. DRIVER had the benefit of receiving feedback for their current development process of D-NET.

In a second line of activities, an expert from the NSL-CAS visited Germany, mainly the State and University Library Göttingen, in order to enable on-site knowledge exchange supplementing the intensive on-line collaboration described above. The expert's visit at Bielefeld University Library was focusing on the question how to include Chinese repositories in the D-NET software. The exercise included in-depth analysis of the DRIVER-Guidelines that became a de facto international standard for repositories with translations in English, Spanish, Portuguese and Japanese and applications in many countries. Specifics of Chinese repositories were analyzed, so that the NSL-CAS can exploit the principles of the guidelines more easily and Chinese requirements can be included in future versions of the DRIVER-Guidelines. Further activities resulted in the registration of the first Chinese repositories in the DRIVER Information Space.

### 3. Discussion and Conclusions

Interim conclusions of the collaboration were drawn in the Sino-German-Symposium 2009. The collaboration of only a few months so far yielded practical results such as the D-NET test-installation in China and the registration of Chinese Repositories in DRIVER. Additionally, through the establishment of the points of contacts on both sides, a major step towards joint activities in the future has been made. Identified issues for future collaboration such as the internalization features of D-NET and Chinese repositories can be thus followed up easily. Further plans made at the Sino-German workshop 2009 pointed at a possible scenario for a realization of future collaboration in the context of the "Confederation of Open Access Repositories", a recently funded international repository organisation.

### 4. References

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