

DRIVER

Digital Repository Infrastructure Vision for European Research

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Enti di Ricerca italiani, Padova, 26 Gennaio 2006

A little history

- ***“Digital Libraries Deployment” workshop, Brussels, 23-24 June 2005***

- **Objective**

Assess the role of Digital Libraries and Digital Repositories in relation to the future research infrastructure in Europe, and in particular to consider how they could form an effective part of the e-infrastructure

Aims of the Workshop

Aspects to be discussed:

1. Analysis of the current state of the art in scientific Digital Libraries and Repositories and identification of initiatives in Member States which could be built on further
2. Challenges and pitfalls of a Europe wide infrastructure of Digital Libraries and Repositories, providing advanced services for the digital recording, archiving, access, storage and distribution of academic output
3. A possible roadmap for developing and deploying Digital Libraries and Repositories as part of the European research infrastructure in both the short and medium term
4. Discussion of the possibilities and limitations of a European Open Access approach, i.e. free access to sources of scientific information

Recommendations of the Workshop (1)

- A co-ordinated set of strategic studies on the current state of development and deployment of Digital Repositories in the EU should be undertaken. These would be wide-ranging and cover technical, legal, organisational areas, national plans, and user needs.

Recommendations of the Workshop (2)

- The adoption of Open Access standards should be encouraged at the institutional, national, and European level. Consideration should be given to making Open Access standards mandatory as a condition of research grants by national research councils and under the Framework programme.

Recommendations of the Workshop (3)

- All countries in Europe should be encouraged to set up national programmes, with the aim of establishing both a *national resource*, such as a federation of Institutional Repositories, and a *national organisation*, such as an association of DR managers.

Recommendations of the Workshop (4)

- In the short to medium term, a demonstrator/testbed project should be undertaken to demonstrate trans-national access. This would be based on existing nationally-organised DR infrastructures in member states. It would act as a catalyst to further deployment as well as means for exploring the issues (technical, copyright, organisational) of creating a trans-national federation. It would demonstrate the concept of the 'knowledge infrastructure' within the European context.

DRIVER Consortium

- Univ. of Bielefeld (scientific co-ordinator, Germany)
- Univ. of Athens (administrative co-ordinator, Greece)
- CNR-ISTI (Italy)
- SURF (The Netherlands)
- Univ. of Nottingham (UK)
- CNRS (France)
- UKOLN (UK)
- ICM (Poland)
- Univ. of Gent (Belgium)

DRIVER proposal

- **Funding Programme: EU IST Research Infrastructures test-beds**
- **Duration: 2 years**
- **Requested funding: 2M Euro**

Objectives

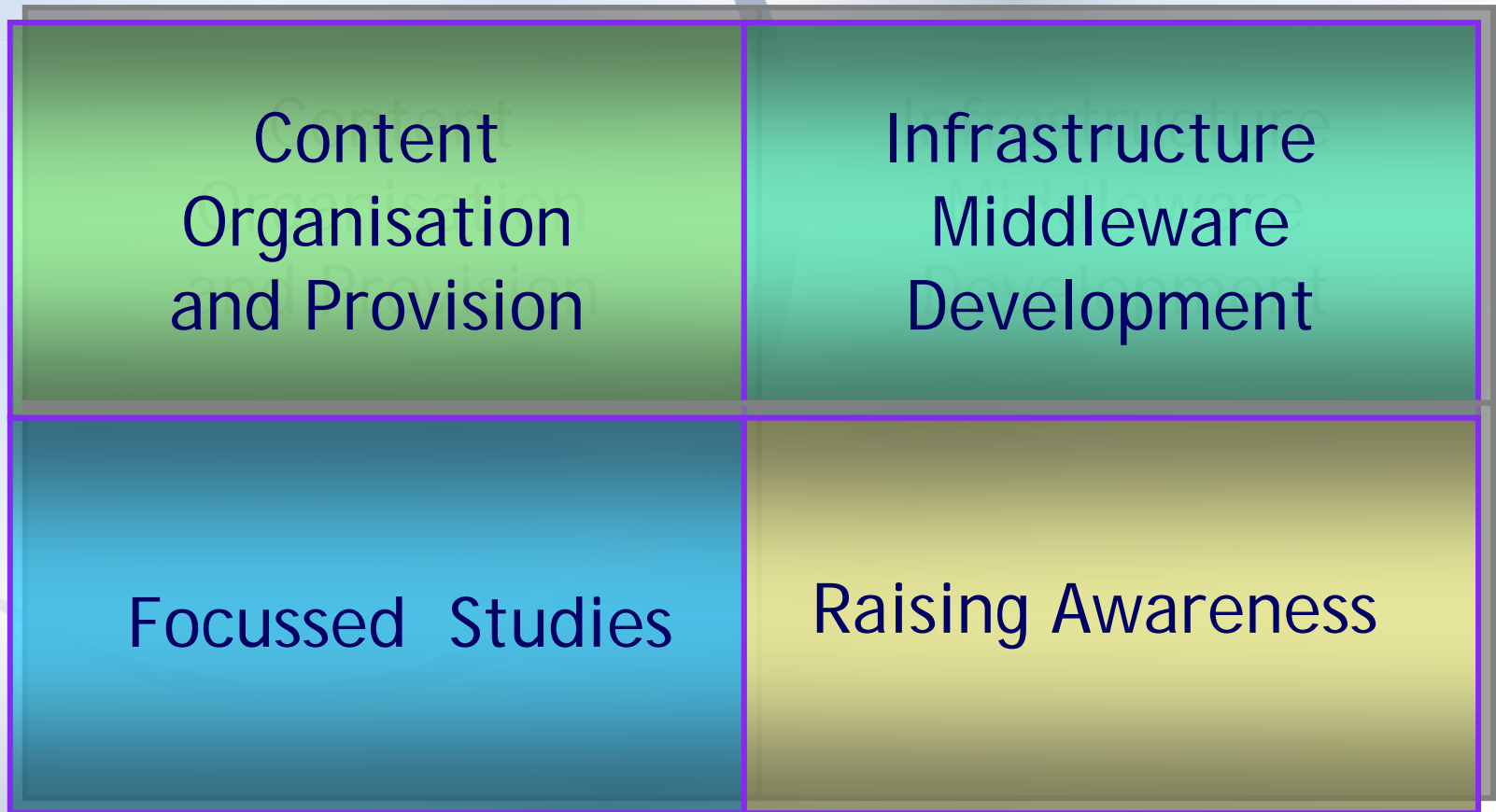
To to develop a test-bed for integrating existing national, regional and/or thematic repositories in order to create a **production-quality European infrastructure.**

This infrastructure will make accessible worldwide, through an initial set of advanced services, these sources **virtually organised and structured according to the needs of the specific audience of the user communities.**

Additional Objectives

- To identify and promote the use of a relevant set of standards
- To prepare the future expansion and upgrade of the DR infrastructure across Europe and to ensure widest possible user involvement

Project Activities



Content Organization and Provision (1)

- **Objective**

To build the basic content layer and to develop the most appropriate organizational model for national and trans-national coordination in a European network of digital repositories (Resp. Univ. of Bielefeld)

Content Organization and Provision(2)

- **Initial set of repositories: ~ 50**
 - SHERPA + DARE + repositories managed by partner organisations + friends
 - Mainly texts, a small portion of multimedia objects

Infrastructure Middleware Development (1)

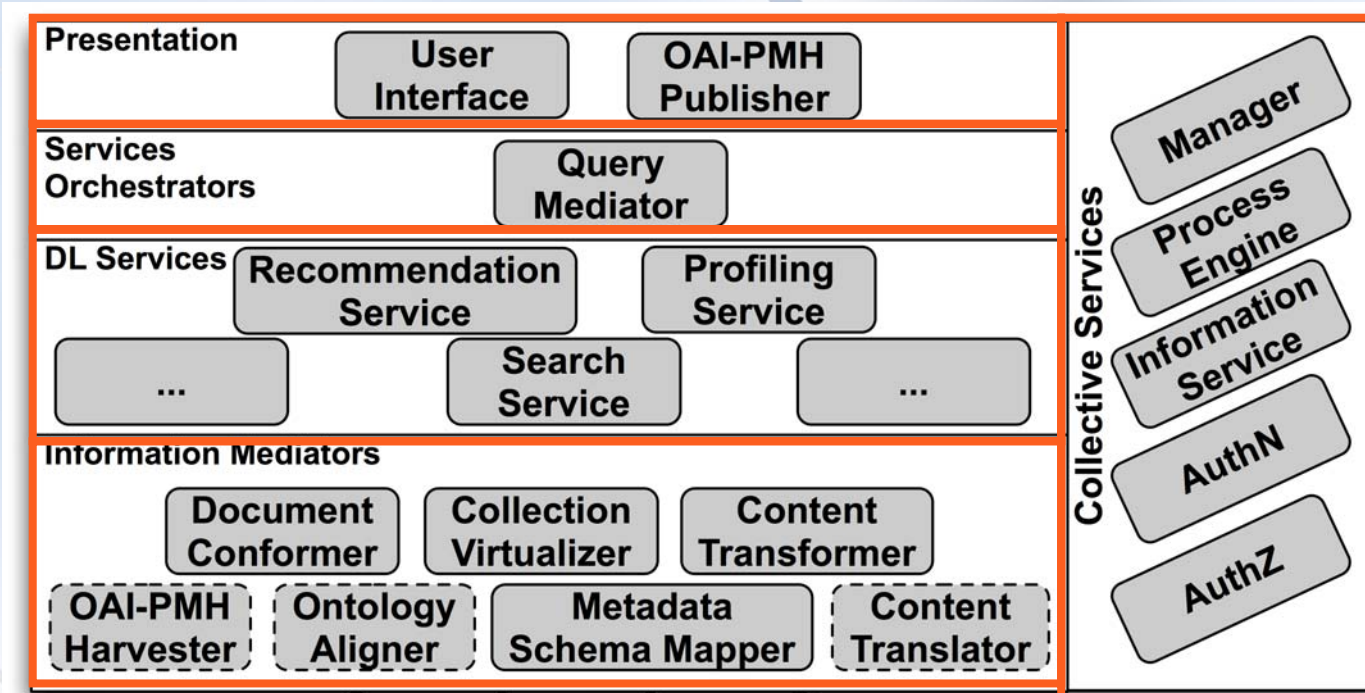
- **Objective**

To implement an open, distributed, service-oriented repository infrastructure middleware (Resp. ISTI-CNR)

Infrastructure Middleware Development (2)

- End-user functionality:
 - Personalised access to virtual pan-European collections
- Quality of service:
 - interoperability
 - extensibility (services and hosting nodes)
 - local repositories autonomy

Infrastructure Middleware Development (3)



Focussed Studies

- **Objective**

- To conduct an inventory study into the present type and level of DR activity in the EU, both at the infrastructure and service layer
- To study possible DR business model
- To investigate technical standards
(Resp. SURF)

Raising Awareness

- **Objective**

- Awareness raising for: developers, institutional managers, research funders, selected subject communities, policy makers
- European Repository Awareness Point
(Resp. Univ. of Nottingham)

Road map

- First public release: ~ May 2007
- Final release: ~ April 2008

Final Remarks

- Many national and regional institutional initiatives exist
- DRIVER wants to create a pan-European infrastructure based on a common middleware
- De-facto standards can be stimulated
- The test-bed will also enable other experimentations towards the integration of new type of documents repositories supporting research and learning activities



Thank you for your attention

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