

The Open Archive at the University of Verona

15th July, 2013

1. Slide: My Research Office

In the University of Verona the Research office staff works directly with the General Director and with the Rector.

It collaborates with important academic bodies for developing research, such as: research commission, delegates for international relations, intellectual property and patents and for scientific research.

2. Slide: Research Office Organisation

The research office is made up of 4 operating units:

1. The National and International PhD Office
2. Research Projects Planning and Reporting
3. Liaison Office
4. International Relations

3. Slide: What's open archive at the University of Verona?

The Institutional Repository was built by harvesting U-Gov Research Repository.

U-Gov is the integrated information systems for the governance of university and research institution, aimed at management objectives, strategies and resources, the achievement of results and their monitoring.

The Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research uses U-gov to evaluate academic products and for the allocation of funds.

4. Slide: University Repository "U-GOV"

Verona University U-Gov Research Repository contains about 58.000 scientific products and I would like to draw your attention to 667 Doctoral Thesis and articles in Open Archive.

The real strength of U-Gov is the possibility to make visible the complete scientific production of University already contained in this catalogue according to editorial policies.

In this way University of Verona can be known everywhere and so the whole academic body.

5. Slide: From the necessity ...

The idea to build an open archive within U-GOV Research was created by the necessity to enhance the visibility of products of Humanities.

For these products the real problem is their form: they are often monograph or a philological reconstruction of texts or catalogues of archeological reports and so on... and they cannot be assessed by bibliometric indicators as science articles evaluated by Impact Factor and Citation Index.

The first indicator measures the average number of articles citations published in science and social journals and the second is an index of citations between publications.

So, the possibility to have a “full text” of products of Humanities available in the Institutional repository is very important because in this way these products can circulate in digital format and ensure a quick dissemination of knowledge among the community reference.

Finally the University will be able to allocate funds to Departments through an evaluation of the whole scientific products included in U-GOV.

6. Slide: Open Archive in Humanities ...

An Open archive in the Humanities can have the following effects:

- increase the dissemination of knowledge in Humanities
- increase the target of the multidisciplinary teams
- to disseminate them to students.

7. Slide: The solution ...

The solution for the University of Verona was to build an “open door” anchored to U-Gov Research repository according to the “Open Access” strategy.

The last goal of Open Access is to remove any obstacles to access legal, economic and technical information and to ensure technological progress in favor of a social cultural and economic growth.

8. Slide: ... The Project

The project grew in several steps:

At the beginning, it was necessary to create an environment in favor of the “open access” and to offer an accurate study of publishing policies about intellectual property of the university’s leading publishers.

The project promoters have been members of various offices: Research Office, ITC Office and Libraries.

The document of work of the project was presented to a selected group of Academic Senate that approved it.

We assigned the management to the Company “WHITE” that looked after dissemination of the open access policy, the information about open archive and the authors support about publishing contracts of the university departments .

“WHITE” also tested the CINECA software.

We integrated U-GOV with University Verona Website in order to make available the scientific contents to be harvested by external harvesters.

9. Slide: Project development

Verona University has chosen a green road and it has started to populate the repository with PhD Thesis. WHY PhD Thesis? Because they can be considered like scientific products of research and in according to Berlin declaration they should be public and publicly available.

In fact PhD Thesis has a dual nature:

1. as an administrative document, because it allows the degree “PhD in..” obtained after a long course of study.

2. as a step of research activity, because Thesis are submitted for review to academic professors.

Finally PhD Thesis can be considered as pre-print because the validation process is not financed by publishers and so their approval is not necessary in order to archive in institutional repository.

10. Slide: Open Archive in U-GOV

What must the author do in U-GOV?

He inserts bibliographic data in U-GOV and if the product is defined public it becomes visible outside by the simple action of selecting the copyright status checkbox, public products can be seen in the university website and harvested by Pleiadi, OAster and Google Scholar, now the scientific products are available for consulting.

There are a lot of benefits:

- The procedure is simple,
- there is a single repository and so we do not need to handle problems related with alignment or mismatches of products,
- the open archive is integrated within the whole university website and so there is a direct link to authors and scientific groups of the University.

11. Slide: i.e.: Guide to insert a PhD Thesis

So, for example, if you want to submit your doctoral thesis or other scientific products you should:

1. Log-in into U-GOV,
2. Choose “Doctoral Thesis” from the different types of products,
3. Click on «new» product button to insert a new doctoral thesis. And so on

12. Slide: Research Engines

These are the research engines that can search for U-GOV the scientific products included in our open archive: Pleiadi, OAster, Google Scholar. In fact they can harvest and index metadata records provided by U-GOV.

13. Slide: 1^ Problems and Solutions

The problems to manage an Open Access repository:

1. to raise awareness about the importance of open archive in order to the development of visibility of academic scientific results;
2. the choice of a specific software.

Possible solutions:

1. For improving the sensibility about this topic, it was necessary to speak in some meetings in the Board of Department. So we explained the advantages of open access for academic professors' products.

2. We have chosen the software of CINECA which operated in platform U-GOV. So we have been able to assure only one admission of data in the same repository used by MIUR (Ministry of Education University and Research) for scientific evaluations. Some Italian Universities have 2 repositories: the first repository contains all open access publications with metadata and products in ".pdf" form. The second repository contains only the metadata. This fact is because they are using 2 different software.

14. Slide: 2^ Problems and Solutions

The problems to manage an Open Access repository:

3. the official recognition by the Academic Body for the open access becomes a real policy of the University.

Possible solutions:

3. in the new Statute of the University of Verona at article 2 point 5 is written: *"The University adopts the principles of full and open scientific literature and promotes the free dissemination on internet of the research results produced in the University, to ensure the widest possible dissemination. With a special regulation provides incentives institutional repository and communication to the public, in compliance with laws relating to intellectual property, confidentiality and protection of personal data, and protection, access and enhancement of the cultural heritage."*

15. Slide: 3^ Problems and Solutions

The problems to manage an Open Access repository:

4. copyright policies

5. Italian Editors: in Italy we have a lot of problems with ours Editors in particular with the Editors in Humanities. Generally they do not permit any deposit in an institutional repository.

Possible solutions:

4. At the beginning we used Sherpa Romeo to control the editorial policies; now CINECA is developing a plug-in for the Open Archive to have an immediate response about a specific policy of the Editor. This plug-in is called "R-LINK".

5. A new policy offered by Ministry could resolve this gap and cover all universities. So we will be able to force the editors to "open their doors". For this reason the Conference of Italian University Rectors (CRUI) is developing this topic with a specific work group for Open Access of various Universities.

16. Slide: The lessons learned from our experience about open research data:

In our experience the open archive can be implemented with a process bottom - up. In fact from the necessity to make more visible the Humans scientific results, it is born a project "The

Open Archive”, and only after a long period of application, awareness and growing interest to this project, the same has been accepted by Academic Bodies. Maybe it is easier to persuade with results than only with words.

The develop of an institutional repository could become a way to evaluation of scientific results. In fact the Open Access opens new frontiers in the development of bibliometric indicators of new generation focused on the individual author rather on the journal.