Results of the Survey on the Use of Technology and Semantics in Open Access in the Agricultural Domain

Imma.Subirats, Sarah.Dister and Johannes.Keizer@fao.org

IAALD XIIIth World Congress, 26-29 April 2010

Background

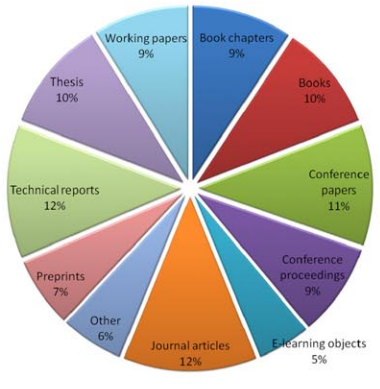
Since 2000, Open Access (OA) and the Open Archive Initiative (OAI) models have been extensively promoted within the scientific and scholarly community in Food, Agriculture, Development, Fisheries, Forestry and Natural Resources. First through the AGRIS network - international initiative based on a collaborative network of institutions - and since 2007 through the Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development (CIARD) - initiative to make agricultural research information publicly available – among others. Consequently many repositories based on OA have followed around the world and are at present contributing to the visibility and dissemination of scientific documents in the field of agriculture. According to OpenDOAR, Directory of Open Access Repositories, 29 repositories in Agriculture, Food and Veterinary have been implemented during the last years. But there are more implementations that are not currently present in international registries.

The Survey

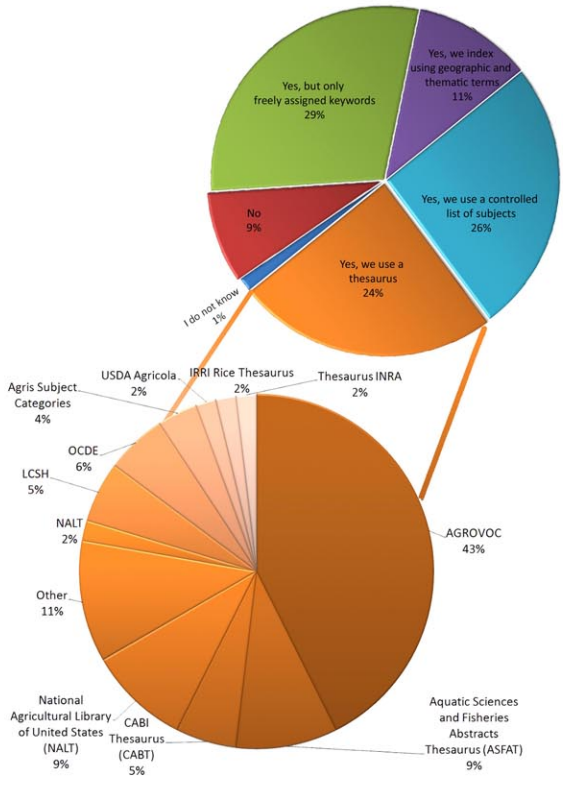
In order to get an overview of the state of the art of OA and OAI, a survey on the use of technology and semantics in Open Access in the was carried out within the agricultural research community (Dec. 2009-Jan. 2010). This poster presents the preliminary results of this study with a special attention to data content, use of syntax and semantic standards and available software tools.

The information was gathered through a web survey for which the link was communicated by e-mail to repository managers registered in DOAR, ROAR and also AGRIS partners. The e-mail was also distributed in different mailing lists within the Agriculture and OA domain. The survey was sent to a total of 150 institutions and distributed on 9 mailing lists. The first messages were sent in December 2009. Reminders were sent by e-mail one week before the survey concluded.

Results. Which types of documents are available in your digital repository?



Results. Do you assign keywords or subject categories to the bibliographical records?



The survey contained thirty questions divided over general information about the repository, content, subject indexing and authority control, metadata, software and users. This poster presents the preliminary results including information on the type and percentage of full text documents, use of subject indexing tools and software. The detailed report with all the information gathered during the survey will be made available online in the AIMS and CIARD Ring websites next Spring.

The Results

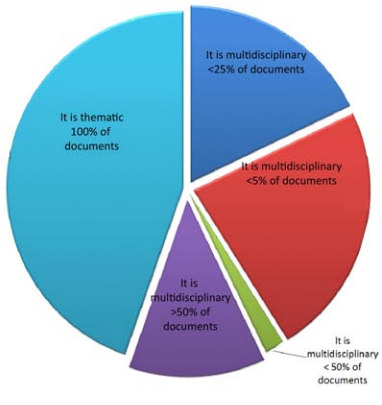
Eighty-two repositories from Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America have participated in the survey. Twenty of them were not registered in any directory.

23.) Have you registered your digital repository with any of the following directories, portals or search engines?	
Answer options	**Response Percent**
OpenDOAR	31.58%
Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROAR)	29.82%
No	17.54%
OAISTER	8.77%
AGRIS Search Engine	6.14%
DRIVER	2.63%
Other	1.75%
Avano	0.88%
SIDALC	0.88%

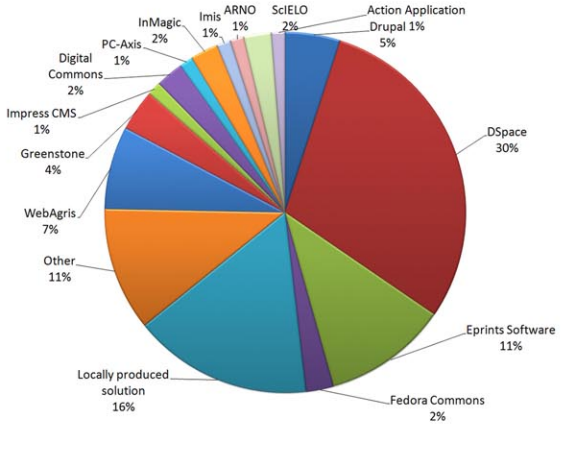
Preliminary Conclusions

Briefly some of its conclusions are that the document repositories were mostly founded after 2005. This is significant for FAO, since its division responsible for information management started actively working on the promotion of OA in 2006. The 45% use AGROVOC, the multilingual agricultural thesaurus, developed by FAO and the Commission of the European Communities in the early 80s. And last but not least nowadays still only 5% of all OA repositories in the world are related to agriculture and related sciences. This shows us that there is still much work to do in promoting the OA in the agricultural domain.

Results. Percentage of full text documents



Results. Which software do you use in your digital repository?



oek knowledge & capacity for development