Knowledge Exchange and its view on Open Access

Berlin 5 Open Access – From Practice to Impact
Padua, September 2007
Who is Knowledge Exchange (KE)?

- Denmark’s Electronic Research Library (Denmark)
- German Research Foundation (DFG) (Germany)
- Joint Information Systems Committee (United Kingdom)
- SURF Foundation (Netherlands)
KE Mission and Approach

Mission

to develop closer working relationships between the partner organisations in order to increase the return on national investment in ICT infrastructure, services and projects in higher education and research.

Approach

By sharing knowledge, exploring differences, collaborating and promoting international dialogue, the Knowledge Exchange seeks to:

• add genuine value to the activities of the partners, which requires infrastructure and services developed in collaboration organisations by fostering closer working relationships between those organisations at all levels

• support the European agenda by promoting better access to information resources in higher education and research

• create the optimal virtual environment for Higher Education and Research Community who need to choose from a wide array of possible technologies and approaches
How does KE work?

*Structural exchange* …

- Partner Reps meet frequently to exchange developments within the four organisations
- Continuous process of spotting opportunities, brokering between demand and supply from within the organisations
- Procure overviews on topics of mutual interest: state-of-affair reports comparing level of development, ambitions and issues to be solved
- Analyse and synthesize findings and propose next steps to proceed
- Strategic management meet regularly and formulate shared vision

… *to support improved decisions*

- Organise expert workshops (invite specialists outside Knowledge Exchange) or conduct further research that will lead to recommendations for the partner organisations – the core business of Knowledge Exchange!
- Each partner individually decides to follow the recommendation or not, embark in joint or separate action
Activities in years one and two

- **Partner perspectives**
  - Strategic vision
  - Sustainability

- **Issues of national priority**
  - National licences
  - Institutional repositories
  - Open Access

- **Other Issues**
  - ePortfolios

- **Emerging Issues**
  - Trust Federations (Shibboleth)
  - Virtual Research Environments

- **Continuous brokerage**
  - on emerging projects
  - to identify experts
  - to provide prior knowledge
  - alerts to conferences & events
  - international partnerships
A strategic vision

To make a layer of scholarly and scientific content openly available on the Internet

- Building an integrated repository infrastructure
- Exploring new developments in the future of publishing
- Facilitating integrated management services within education and research institutions
- Supporting the European digital libraries agenda

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Knowledge Exchange Vision

• **Building an integrated repository infrastructure**
  A robust interoperable network of repositories will form the **backbone for science** and scholarship in the 21st century. Repositories can store and make available a diverse range of scientific and scholarly output, **facilitating the Open Access** agenda of making research and teaching materials freely available.

  In an **interoperable network**, repositories enable **powerful new forms of collaboration and communication** among researchers as well as between teachers and students.

• **Exploring new developments in the future of publishing**
  Enabling access to research means creating a **new environment for publishing** in which the diverse range of products of science and scholarship are openly available. This means **working with publishers to find new licensing models and platforms for the output of research**.

  It also means **working with researchers and funding agencies to support the Open Access agenda and the transition from text to data publication**.
Institutional Repositories

Goals

• emphasis to ensure interoperability -- *Towards a common vision of repository infrastructure.*

• Focus on solving genuine problems not currently being tackled elsewhere -- *’not talks, but tasks’.*

• Involve DRIVER (EU).

Activities

• **Workshop of experts** (from eight European countries, January 2006, in Utrecht) focusing on usage statistics, research paper metadata, exchanging research information, author identification, OAI, and eTheses.

• **Outcome**: 6 reports including recommendations for future actions (available on the KE Website)

• Recommendations have been reviewed by IR experts of partner organisations and KE Group and will be discussed to prioritise recommendations for funding and advise partners on next steps.
Institutional Repositories

Currently under Consideration:

• **Promoting CRIS – OAR Interoperability**

  To increase the operational interoperability of metadata used in CRIS (Current Research Information Systems) and OAR (Open Access Repository) systems by definition of a metadata exchange format and a common vocabulary that can be used by both platforms.

• **Compound Objects in Electronic Theses and Dissertations**

  Address the practical interoperability challenges that arise from storing and sharing compound (that is, multi-file) electronic theses or dissertations (ETDs) via an institutional repository. These include the lack of:

  – a commonly agreed data model for compound ETDs
  – clarity over how best to ensure compound ETDs can be legally stored and shared
  – understanding of the ways in which preservation could best be managed for compound ETDs
  – guidance or identified good practice in authoring compound ETDs
National Licences

Goals

• Create a framework for multi-national licensing
• Exchange *best practices* and explore opportunities for improvements for the four partners

Activities

• **Workshop of Experts** (February 2007 in Copenhagen) focusing on: getting content, providing access, statistics and evaluation, access and administration technology.
• Outcome: 4 reports including **recommendations** for future actions (will be available in the coming weeks on the KE Website)
• A joint **international tender** to move the multi-national licensing agenda forward while minimising many of the risks involved.
  – invitations to publishers (February 2007) led to 30 potential participants
  – closed second round of bidding resulted in 9 proposals currently being evaluated by the partner organizations
• A **benchmarking project** on licensing methods (and prices)
• Establish **Working Groups** to take forward recommendations from Conference
Open Access

Goals:

• articulate common voice on policy and other initiatives

Activities

• Joint petition on Open Access together with SPARC Europe, signed by over 26,000 individuals and 1200 institutions; presented to Potocnik in Brussels, 15/16 February 2007

• Meeting of national OA experts (May 2007, Bristol) to discuss possible joint KE work in the future

• Exchange best practice approaches to Open Access

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Open Access

Current Topics & Approaches under consideration

- **License to Publish** – promote awareness of authors’ rights
- Focus on the **economics of Open Access**, coordinate studies, share results
- **Make existing services better**, more sustainable, more international (e.g., Sherpa / Romeo database on information on publishers)
Thank you for your attention!

Questions?

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further information:

http://www.knowledge-exchange.info
http://www.deff.dk
http://www.surf.nl
http://www.jisc.ac.uk
http://www.dfg.de/lis