INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY MOVEMENT IN TURKEY

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Abstract:

ANKOS (The Anatolian University Libraries Consortium) established Open Access and the Institutional Repositories Working Group (OAIRWG) in order to raise awareness on Open Access (OA) and Institutional Repositories (IRs) among information professionals in Turkey.
Ankara University is one of the first open access initiatives in Turkey. It has been involved in ANKOS since 2001, expressing a strong interest from the beginning. Over seven hundred and fifty scientific papers produced by faculty members have been self-archived (http://acikarsiv.ankara.edu.tr/) and made accessible since the beginning of 2006. The "Hacettepe University Electronic Theses Project" has been carried to make the full-texts of graduate theses and dissertations accessible through the Internet. The Middle East Technical University Electronic Theses and Dissertations project was started to provide web access to theses and dissertations that have been completed at the Middle East Technical University (METU) since April 2003. In September 2003, the METU Library Theses and Dissertations Archive was established and since that time students have been submitting their theses in both print and PDF. On the poster, the activities of ANKOS OAIRWG will be summarized and three examples of open archive initiatives in Turkey will be presented: Ankara and Hacettepe Universities' Institutional Repositories and Middle East Technical University's E-Theses Archive.

ANKOS Open Access and Institutional Repositories Working Group (OAIRWG)

ANKOS Open Access and Institutional Repositories Working Group (OAIRWG) was established in January 2006. Its mission is to raise awareness of Open Access (OA) and Institutional Repositories (IRs) among information professionals in Turkey; ensuring the cooperation between ANKOS, information professionals, researchers - as to the related practices; and cooperating with domestic and international organisations who operate in the relevant areas. OAIRWG's goals may be summarized as follows:

- Informing member organisations about the studies carried out in Turkey and outside on OA and Irs,
- Enabling member organisations, as a consortium, to internalise and take advantage of the OA movement,
- Creating opportunities for member organisations to expand and apply OA within their own structure,
- Providing methodological guidance for the relevant organisations in enabling them to build their own repositories,
- Engaging in activities to sustain the related actions in a coordinated manner, making the educational and supplementary documents available at the ANKOS website.

OAIRWG has been using its web page (www.ankos.gen.tr/acikerisim) (Figure 1) and blog (www.acikerisim.blogspot.com) (Figure 2) as a promotional tool to create a greater awareness of OA and IRs.

(Figure 1 - ANKOS Open Access and Institutional Repositories web page) *(Figure 2 - ANKOS Open Access and Institutional Repositories blog)*

OAIRWG is working in cooperation with the OA Advisory Committee to support events on OA. ANKOS is a member of SPARC and aligns itself with the goals of SPARC on OA and IRs. OAIRWG has begun by inviting the library community to use OA sources and IRs, and encouraging authors in library science to deposit their work in open archives e.g. E-LIS (E-prints in Library and Information).

Ankara University Open Archive Repository (AUOAR)

Ankara University was founded in *1946*, including 15 graduate and undergraduate schools. Ankara University is one of the big universities of the country with 3666 academic staff. Major fields of study are health and natural sciences, and social sciences.

Ankara University has become one of the first open access initiatives in Turkey (http://acikarsiv.ankara.edu.tr/) (Figure 3-4) *since 2005*. Indeed, AUOAR was formed as part of the Open Access Project according to the administrative decision in *April 2005*, for the purpose of supporting scholarly research.

Firstly, it has been decided to place the pre-prints and post prints, course notes, project reports, and book chapters, conference presentations and texts prepared by the faculty members to the open archive.

The software is constructed on PHP based MySQL in July 2005 and has been uploaded to a server that is only used for open archive purposes. Between July and October 2005, testing of the project was carried out with the support of 15 faculty members of Information and Records Management Department and 25 publications have been added to the open archive for web-based access. Articles written by the academics of our university and published in the academic refereed journals published by the university itself, together with articles passed through referee consideration are placed in the repository with the university administrative board decision in June 2006. Since the beginning of 2006, the graduate theses and dissertations, and articles published in the journals, have been included in the archive with the permission of their authors. The copyright of the documents belong to the University. Today, total number of downloads by 670 different academics has reached 856 (292 post prints, 403 theses and

(Figure 3-4 - Ankara University Open Archive Repository)

dissertations, 137 project reports, 17 conference presentation and text and 7 course notes). AUOAR, which was developed to meet the criteria of the OAI_PMH protocol, has been registered in the OAI database of conforming repositories in July 2006.

Hacettepe University Open Archive: Open Access to Electronic Theses and Papers

Founded in 1967, Hacettepe University is one of the top public universities in Turkey with more than 25.000 students and 2.000 faculties. Some 600 graduate theses get completed each year. Faculty members are most productive in publishing refereed papers in scholarly journals.

A project has been carried out to demonstrate that the full-texts of graduate theses and dissertations can be accessed through the Internet. Selected theses and dissertations including multimedia components (pictures, maps, audio and video features) were scanned and files in PDF (Portable Document Format) format were created. Metadata elements such as titles, tables of contents, and abstracts were captured through an optical character recognition (OCR) software. Machine readable cataloging (MARC) data for theses and dissertations were obtained from the university library. Dublin Core-based metadata was created for each thesis and dissertation.

(Figure 5 - Hacettepe University Open Archive Repository)

The DSpace software (Version 1.2.1) was installed on a web server (Apache Tomcat) running on Linux Fedora Core (Version 3) operating system with access to PostgreSQL database. A domain name was assigned to the web server so that metadata and full-texts of theses and dissertations can be input and searched via a web-based DSpace user interface. Lucene search engine is used in DSpace to index the contents of archives. It provides several access points (author, title, keywords, etc.) and advanced search and retrieval techniques (e.g., stemming, fuzzy search) to query the database.

The DSpace user interface was translated to Turkish to facilitate the data input, search and retrieval process. Dublin Core-based metadata and corresponding full-texts files of theses and dissertations were entered to the system. Using the DSpace software, a small-scale and experimental archive ("Hacettepe University Open Archive") was developed to demonstrate that the full-texts of books, articles and other types of materials can also be made available through the Internet. In addition to theses and dissertations, the full-texts of some 300 articles, reports, lecture notes and presentations authored by the faculty of Hacettepe University were added to the Archive.

The next step was to register the base URL address of the Open Archive and its port numbers for incoming and outgoing requests at the Open Archives Initiatives (OAI) Registry. The Open Archive was assigned a handle prefix (2062) by the CNRI Handle System. This prefix was used to create permanent, persistent and universal URLs for items included in the Open Archive. It became the first archive in Turkey using the OAI-PMH protocol (March 29, 2005). Thus, the metadata created by the Open Archive became harvestable by the crawlers of the OAIster search engine as well as that of others (e.g., Google Scholar). Using these search engines, World-Wide Web (WWW) users were able to discover and get access to the full-texts of titles that are available through the Hacettepe University Open Archive.

Carried out by the Department of Information Management, this small-scale demonstration project has proved that both theses and dissertations (printed or "born digital") and other types of materials (preprints and postprints of articles, reports, lecture notes, etc.) authored by the faculty of Hacettepe University can be made available through the Internet using an open source (free) software package (DSpace).
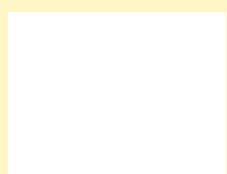
The Middle East Technical University's E-Theses Archive

Middle East Technical University (METU) is founded on November 15th, 1956 to contribute to the development of Turkey and Middle East countries and especially to train people so as to create a skilled workforce in the fields of natural and social sciences. METU is one of Turkey's most competitive universities. Each year, among the students taking the National University Entrance Examination, over 1/3 of the 1000 applicants with the highest scores attend METU. Over 40% of METU's students go on to graduate school and over 21,000 students have registered to METU in the 2005-2006 academic year. Approximately 25% of these are enrolled in graduate programs. Each year, between 800 to 1200 students with various academic degrees from nearly 50 different foreign countries attend METU.
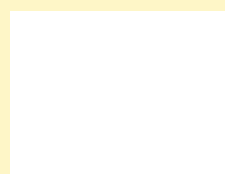
METU has 47 undergraduate programs within 5 faculties. Additionally, there are 5 Graduate Schools with 97 masters and 55 doctorate programs and a "School of Foreign Languages" which includes the English Preparatory Department. 10 undergraduate programs (including 1 international program) are offered in connection with METU Northern Cyprus Campus.

The Middle East Technical University Electronic Theses and Dissertations project was started to provide web access to theses and dissertations which have been completed at the Middle East Technical University (METU) since April 2003. In March 2003, David F. Kohl (Dean and University Librarian, Emeritus, University of Cincinnati) has been invited to work with METU ETD Group. In April 2003, METU ETD Web site has been created and the ETD Submission Form put into the site (Figure 6-7).

In September 2003, the METU Library Theses and Dissertations Archive was established and since that time students have been submitting their theses in both print and PDF. Since April 2004, the Middle East Technical University Library has been a member of Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD) an initiative to improve graduate education, increase sharing of knowledge, help universities build their information infrastructure, and extend the value of digital libraries. Today, there are more than 2.600 e-theses and dissertations in the METU Library Theses and Dissertations Archive.

(Figure 6- METU ETD Web Site)   *(Figure 7- The ETD Submission Form)*