



GALILEO Knowledge Repository

Proposal Summary

The application of information technologies on USG campuses has led to significant changes in scholarly communication among both faculty and students. Much of the USG's intellectual product never appears in a permanent printed form. Instead it exists as a disorganized and decentralized body of digital objects held in personal computers, Web servers, or on various removable storage media across the university system. These digital objects include electronic theses and dissertations, technical and research reports, pre-print research, working papers, research proposals, conference papers, electronic journals, and service publications. They represent a vital part of the scholarly output of the USG, but also the part that is most endangered of being lost and that often is the least visible to the scholarly community.

What is required is a GALILEO Knowledge Repository to provide seamless access to the digital intellectual product of the University System of Georgia. Such an online repository would:

- Increase USG visibility and prestige through global exposure to its digital scholarship.
- Provide stewardship of the least permanent element of the USG's intellectual product.
- Promote efficiency by maximizing the utility and longevity of an existing investment of higher education dollars.
- Demonstrate the effectiveness of USG institutions and their faculty for assessment and accreditation purposes through enhanced access to their scholarly output.
- Promote information sharing among the 34 USG institutions, and promote learning among the citizens of Georgia, at large.
- Provide a platform for open access scholarship as an alternative to expensive print journals that place escalating pressure on library budgets.
- Create an outlet for new forms of digital scholarship.
- Promote sharing of learning objects to enhance teaching and productivity.

Georgia Tech Library, Georgia State University Library, MCG, and the University of Georgia Libraries (and others who may have immediate interest) will collaborate in a GALILEO initiative to establish the Knowledge Repository. In the first phase, the partner universities will develop Institutional Repositories (IRs) at their respective sites to serve as the first building blocks for a shared USG Knowledge Repository. This initial decentralized approach will afford each institution the flexibility to address its distinctive needs and objectives and to manage its own intellectual property issues. As the initial partners build their IR programs, they also will work together under the auspices of GALILEO to establish shared policies and standards to insure the interoperability of the data they create.

In the second phase, the partner universities and GALILEO will develop a central USG Knowledge Repository that ultimately will connect users to digital scholarship from across the University System of Georgia. They will generate the Knowledge Repository



by periodically gathering and aggregating metadata from the individual IRs using the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI PMH). The result will be seamless searching, browsing, and access to USG digital objects regardless of where they are held.

In the third phase, the partner universities and GALILEO will leverage the initial investments by offering IR hosting services for other USG institutions or groups of institutions. As with the successful GIL catalog initiative, individual institutions will manage the content and policies in regard to their own databases. These institutions will have the opportunity to take advantage of a collective USG investment in hardware, software, and file storage resulting in greater efficiencies and economies of scale. The institutions with hosted IRs will derive the benefit of shared infrastructure, while maintaining local control over intellectual property rights.

Funding required for the GALILEO Knowledge Repository initiative is TBD.

Resources

GALILEO Knowledge Repository blog hosted by GSU

<http://www.library.gsu.edu/blogs/gkr/>

Institutional Repository Webliography

http://www.library.gsu.edu/blogs/gkr/?page_id=26

Institutional Repositories: Essential Infrastructure for Scholarship in the Digital Age
by Clifford A. Lynch, Executive Director, Coalition for Networked Information
ARL Bimonthly Report 226, February 2003

<http://www.arl.org/newsltr/226/ir.html>

SMARTech: Scholarly Materials and Research at Georgia Tech

<http://SMARTech.gatech.edu>

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