

A Portal for Doctoral e-Theses in Europe; Lessons learned from an interoperable demonstrator project for five European countries

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Abstract

In many countries in Europe doctoral e-theses are an integrated part of institutional repositories, which have been set up in recent years. In some countries they have been harvested on a national level, like in the Netherlands with the 'Promise of Science' portal (<http://www.darenet.nl/promiseofscience>).

In October 2006 SURFfoundation (The Netherlands), JISC (UK) and DIVA (funded through BIBSAM in Sweden) started a common project to harvest repositories with e-theses on an international scale and to set up a freely accessible European portal and test in practice the interoperability. The project, which aims at creating a value added service for doctoral e-Theses, will finish in June 2007.

In our paper we will present the results of the project:

- current practices that are relevant for interoperability of e-theses repositories on an international/European level
- the insight in (critical) issues and potential solutions related to interoperability, metadata, language and cultural aspects of e-theses repositories
- lessons learned and recommendations for data providers on the one hand (the Institutional Repositories with an OAI-PMH interface) and service providers on the other
- and of course the demonstrator – an interoperable portal of European doctoral e-theses in five countries: Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and the UK.