Feature Article

The RCAAP Project

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Abstract
The Portugal Open Access Science Repository (Repositório Científico de Acesso Aberto de Portugal– RCAAP) is an initiative which aims to increase the visibility, accessibility and dissemination of Portuguese research, to facilitate access to information regarding the Portuguese scientific output, as well as to integrate Portugal in the wide range of international initiatives in this domain. RCAAP is an initiative of UMIC – The Knowledge Society Agency, developed by FCCN – The National Foundation for Scientific Computation, offering an advanced service on the Portuguese Network of Science and Education (Rede de Ciência e Educação). This article details the RCAAP's objectives and its services.

Key words: access to information; information dissemination; Portugal; publishing.

Introduction

The Portugal Open Access Science Repository (Repositório Científico de Acesso Aberto de Portugal – RCAAP) is an initiative which aims to increase the visibility, accessibility and dissemination of Portuguese research, to facilitate access to the information regarding the Portuguese scientific output, as well as to integrate Portugal in the wide range of international initiatives in this domain. RCAAP is an initiative of the Knowledge Society Agency (UMIC), developed by the National Foundation for Scientific Computation, (FCCN), which offers an advanced service on the Portuguese Network of Science and Education. The project is overseen by the Minho University technical and scientific expertise and is financed by the Programa Operacional Sociedade do Conhecimento and UMIC.

UMIC is the Portuguese public agency with the mission of coordinating the policies for the Information Society and mobilizing it through dissemination, qualification and research activities. It operates within the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education.

FCCN is a private non-profit association of public utility. Its mission, from January 1987, is to maintain the network of national research and education and the international connection, particularly the Network of Science, Technology and Society (Rede Ciência, Tecnologia e Sociedade – RCTS), the registry of domains .PT (DNS.PT) and the operation of the peering IP networks of Portugal (GigaPIX). Since its creation, FCCN has contributed to the expansion of Internet in Portugal with state funding, universities and other I&D national institutions. FCCN is responsible for the operation of the RCAAP Project.
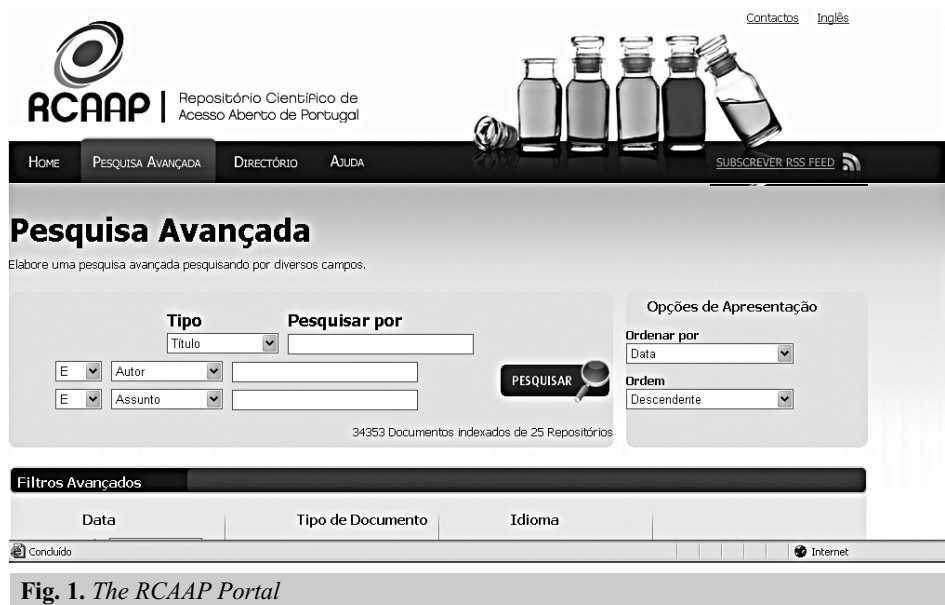
Fig. 1. *The RCAAP Portal*

Minho University is a public university with administrative and financial autonomy. Founded in 1973, it started its academic activity in 1975/76. Even if it is a young university, Minho University now has gained a good reputation based on its developed education and research as well as regarding repositories and open access subjects.

RCAAP is the most relevant Portuguese project related to Open Access. Among other results, such as the website, dissemination and advocacy materials and the 3rd Open Access Conference, held in Braga in December 2008, the project has produced the following:

- RCAAP portal (http://www.rcaap.pt) which aims to collect, aggregate and index Open Access scientific contents from Portuguese institutional repositories, forming a single entry point for searching, discovery and recall of thousands of scientific and scholarly publications;
- SARI (Serviço de Alojamento de Repositórios Institucionais), an ASP service for institutional repositories, allowing institutions to completely "brand" their repositories as desired.

Mission and objectives

The development of this repository has three main objectives:

1.*Increase the visibility, accessibility and dissemination of Portuguese research results*. Research results from the institutions that are part of the Portuguese system of Science, Technology and Higher Education are dispersed in thousands of different publications (journals, conference proceedings, etc.) and part of this scientific output has limited accessibility or availability. The development of a meta-repository that allows users to search and access scientific output in an easy way could be a positive contribution to users and organizations alike that are aggregated to this repository. If we consider that researchers are an example of good practice, information and knowledge to the business, family and society, spreading the research output can have also a strong effect. In this way, a national repository can contribute to increase the visibility, accessibility and dissemination of research results and also be a strong ally in the improvement of Portuguese scientific results.

2.*Facilitate access to information regarding Portuguese scientific output*. The interoperability of the repository with other information systems from the Portuguese scientific infrastructure can also facilitate access to information about Portuguese scientific output. The repository is integrated with the DeGois project, a platform to manage and store the *curriculum vitae* of all Portuguese researchers.

3.*Integrate Portugal in the wide range of international initiatives in this domain*. The national scientific repository allows Portugal to integrate a wide range of

international initiatives and facilitates the inter-operability and cooperation with research centers, funding bodies, and higher education institutions in Europe and all over the world.

The RCAAP Project is open to all Portuguese scientific or high education organizations. The RCAAP Repository has the following institutions participating: Hospitais da Universidade de Coimbra, Instituto Superior de Ciências do Trabalho e da Empresa, Instituto Politécnico de Bragança, Instituto Politécnico de Leiria, Universidade Aberta, Universidade de Coimbra, Universidade de Lisboa, Universidade do Minho, Universidade do Minho, Universidade de Porto, Universidade dos Açores, Universidade de Aveiro, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Universidade Técnica de Lisboa, Universidade da Madeira, Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Universidade de Évora, Escola Superior de Educação de Paula Frassinetti, Universidade Fernando Pessoa, Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência.

The main services of the RCAAP project are:
1) Search portal RCAAP;
2) SARI: Institutional Repositories Hosting service;
3) Communication, dissemination and training.

The Search Portal is the main component of the Project and is available at www.rcaap.pt. The RCAAP Portal aims to collect, aggregate and index Open Access scientific contents from Portuguese institutional repositories. RCAAP constitutes a single entry point for searching, discovery and recall of thousands of scientific and scholarly publications, namely journal articles, conference papers, thesis and dissertations, distributed by several Portuguese repositories. A list of the repositories aggregated in the portal is available in the Directory. The RCAAP portal is a meta-repository that harvest metadata from Portuguese repositories with OAI-PMH protocol. This way, RCAAP portal is a Service Provider that delivers search services based on the Data provider's metadata (Portuguese repositories). The current version of RCAAP portal was developed with the harvester and search engine ARC, created by Old Dominion University Digital Library Group.

The Institutional Repositories Hosting Service (SARI) is intended to be used by any scientific and higher education institution for hosting their institutional repository, with the individualization of the corporate identity. In addition to customizing the image of the repository, each institution may also establish and implement the configurations and parameterizations it deems appropriate to its organizational structure and its policies of self-archiving of publications and managing the repository. This is an ASP based service that runs on the infrastructure of the project (hardware, hosting, connectivity, backups, security, monitoring,…) whose operation and management is done by the project's team. Every institution is responsible for managing its repository and all managers attend a training program to understand all the tasks that they have to manage. This service offers a DSpace system, updated to the most recent version

Comunication, dissemination and training.
Since the lack of information on the use and benefits of scientific repositories is often identified as the main obstacle for the deposit of documents, some actions have been developed to increase awareness and disseminate these subjects to the different audiences in this process. Information and materials to promote the project is sent to the institutional managers and authors. The future repository administrators will also participate at a training course to achieve the necessary competencies. Some training modules are available. The project has also a helpdesk: helpdesk@rcaap.pt

References

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