Open Repository Theseus

Success Story of 25 Finnish Universities of Applied Sciences

Minna Marjamaa,
AMKIT Consortium
Theseus – the biggest* Finnish repository with 25 member universities

• Theseus is an open repository for all the Finnish Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS)

• Easy to search for research of all 25 UASs from one interface benefits students, lecturers, researchers, and anyone interested in Finnish UASs

• Nearly 120,000 deposits

*biggest in the amount of full text
Theseus in a nutshell

- Theseus started as a national UAS Open Access project in co-operation with National Library of Finland in 2008
- DSpace was chosen as the software
- Creative Commons licenses added to Theseus upload process from the very beginning
- The service was launched in 2009 as an Open Access platform for all UASes in Finland
- Content:
  - Bachelor and master’s theses
  - Open Access monographs published by Finnish UASes
  - Self-archived research and academic articles
Statistics

Number of Downloads

- 2010: 0.2
- 2011: 0.4
- 2012: 0.6
- 2013: 0.8
- 2014: 1.0
- 2015: 1.2
- 2016: 1.4

Income in million:
Users and sessions of the year 2016

- 1,265,090 users
- 2,046,115 sessions
  - 1,877,522 from Finland
  - 22,033 from Sweden
  - 16,751 from USA
  - 13,718 from UK
  - 7,272 from Russia
What’s behind the success?

- Same policies and one user interface for all 25 UASs
- Quality of process guaranteed with common instructions for students and staff as well as for libraries
- Self-uploading of theses reduces work from staff point of view
- One sign-in system Shibboleth and an option to choose Creative Commons licenses helps to curate the user rights
- Efficiency and reduced costs created by one Theseus office – a UAS user support and co-operation group together with the National Library of Finland
- Google optimization increases visibility on the Internet
Theseus office

• One user support and coordination office for the whole repository
• Cost-efficient:
  • Two UAS information Specialist working 25% for Theseus
  • Technical support from National Library
  • Every UAS library has a contact person to coordinate the work
• The office answers to various questions on process, self-archiving, Creative Commons licences and technical support
• The office coordinates the development work together with National Library and UAS library management
• Advices UASes with Open Access process
Challenges and further developments

1. Self-archiving as a permanent process in every UAS
   • Rectors’ Conference of Finnish UASs gave the OA mandate in 2009
   • The mandate obligates researches to deposit their research papers into Theseus
   • Still, many UASes haven’t started the self-archiving process
     → How to make the change?

2. Expand Theseus office model into other fields of Open Science:
   • Data management of R&D projects
   • Open learning and teaching

3. Develop open repository into a wider information platform of member UAS’s R&D work containing theses, publications, current press releases, blogs and data mining projects
   → For the time being we are applying for funding
Questions for discussion

• Do you have such joint open repositories of several institutions /universities in your home country?
• What would be your suggestion for us on how to get self-archiving process working in every UAS?