Presentation:

Co-operation can increase visibility – NORA, the Norwegian example

Abstract

Visibility

The idea behind IRs is to increase the visibility and use of the output of researchers and students.

An IR gives you an internet presence, but this doesn't ensure sufficient visibility. To enhance your visibility towards your primary audience – researchers and students – you have to ensure that you are harvested by services directed at these groups, and you have to provide services to them.

If you are small, you will not have resources to make yourself interesting to large services, and they will not want to invest resources in harvesting you.

Co-operation can make you overcome your small-scale disadvantages.

NORA – Norwegian Open Research Archives

NORA represents a co-operation between all Norwegian Research Archives, presently 39 archives for about 50 higher education and research institutions with some 23,000 documents.

Most Norwegian archives are small, the largest has about 9,000 documents and the average number of documents is 569 while the median is merely 73.

NORA has adopted common metadata standards for all IRs:
– unqualified Dublin Core
– common vocabulary for document types
– common national subject classification scheme

NORA harvests metadata on a daily basis.

This allows NORA to present the contents of all IRs in a common searching facility, where search can be made also on document type and subject classification, in addition to IR, language, dates and text.

NORA also has developed an RSS-service that is more advanced than that offered by any individual IR.

NORA as Single Point of Harvesting

NORA is in itself OAI-PMH compliant, and we undertake to tailor data to different needs, i.e. we transform national metadata to the needs of international services if necessary.

This means that all international (and national) services can harvest NORA instead of harvesting individual repositories, overcoming the disadvantages of especially the smaller IRs.

As a consequence of this, content from small Norwegian IRs is found in major services that would not consider harvesting small IRs – they are harvesting a 23,000 document IR. Examples of this:
–   Doctoral theses from the Norwegian School of Management (IR has 34 documents) are found in DEEP (Dart Europe E-theses Portal).
–   WorldWideScience.org includes NORA as one of their sources, making all Norwegian IRs included "en bloc" in their service – as the only group of IRs.

BIBSYS, the on-line catalogue service for most higher education or research institutions in Norway, include NORA as one of their search sources.

The National library is working on a long-term preservation solution for IR content based on NORA.

Conclusion

Norwegian IR content is much more visible than the size of the IRs should indicate, this is because NORA enables the IRs to overcome the disadvantages of small scale.