A funder repository of heterogeneous grey literature material with advanced user interface and presentation features

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Abstract

The present contribution concerns the development of a funder repository aiming at the dissemination, reuse and preservation of mainly grey literature material of diverse types. This material which was produced under the auspices of large scale (multi-billion Euros) funding programmes of the Hellenic Ministry of Education (co-financed by the European Union). The project involved the handling of a wide range of content, like (among others) studies, reports, educational material, videos, theses, material from a range of conferences/events. The project has been successfully completed and the system is publicly available since spring 2011 at http://repository.edulll.gr. In this repository creation use case, technical enhancements were used to provide the means to organise, process and import to the repository a wide range of heterogeneous material. Special facilities for the support of these workflows was included. The metadata schema used is an application profile using elements for Qualified Dublin core, LOM and PREMIS.
A major part of the work concerned mechanisms to enhance presentation of the digital material and better navigation to the corresponding metadata records. Easy browsing to the wide range of the availale content was achieved using a tag cloud feature that was developed from scratch for the purposed of the project. The tag cloud was applied to the thematic category data field, which used the EuroVoc thesaurus as a controlled vocabulary for assigning thematic categories to individual items. Regarding digital material presentation, a streaming video player was incorporated into the item pages to enable easy access to the video content and including configuration capabilities that enabled differentiation of the player presentation based on values of specific metadata fields. Regarding text documents, an online reading feature was included in the repository, enabling users to open, read online and search into big texts without the need to save them in their systems – an implementation fully compatible with tablets like iPad and Android-based devices. The infrastructure that enables that is based on transforming documents to JPEG2000 images, including OCR text for searching, and serving them to users via an extended version of the Internet Archive Book reader using open source and W3C standards compatible technologies.