

Abstract

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Economists Online: researchers and libraries collaborate. A subject-specific service model.

Nereus is an innovative consortium of 15 prestigious European universities and institutes in the area of economics. Its central motivations are cost-efficiency and knowledge exchange for innovation, showcasing its first-rate research through added-value services.

A cornerstone for Nereus is the Economists Online (EO), a subject-specific repository with information services. It was initiated by six partners, and now includes fifteen leading European university libraries from eight countries. EO aims to increase the usability and visibility of economics research by digitizing, organizing, archiving and disseminating the complete academic output of some of Europe's leading economists. It is building an integrated online showcase of Europe's top economics researchers based on IRs.

Giving access to open access full text is central. EO involves the information provider by addressing his/her needs, with knowledge of essential work processes and issues at stake - critical success factors in getting information providers to collaborate. Promoting the open access movement is secondary. This EO strategy will be shared in more detail in the session.

EO, and university libraries with their more pro-active roles are thus building valuable partnerships with their clients and information providers; where mutual benefits are felt. EO's prime goal is to focus on services of direct value to the *author*, the content-provider, e.g. providing new full text content online, digitizing older material, creating automatised publication lists, metadata quality-control, more focused dissemination of content - all from one repository source. This is a service which is complimentary to the services publishers provide. Once these partnerships have been established and work, which experience has shown to do so, the interests of the institution (e.g. increased visibility) and its library (IR quality content acquisition) follow suit.

How can libraries achieve successful partnerships for collaboration on repository work in the future through international collaboration? This paper will share the Economists Online experience and show how our model could be one for other libraries in the future.