Implementing OAI-PMH

OAI-PMH is a technology based on metadata harvesting. It aims at creating the basis for cross-archive search by centralised services.

Several software applications to support OAI-PMH have been proposed and some obtained a brilliant success. However, in certain situations the deployment of an OAI-PMH conformant repository is still problematic.

Lagoze & Van De Sompel, “fathers” of OAI-PMH, in 2004 created the model Static repository and Static repository gateway, a simplified OAI implementation architecture for small and medium size archives.

Supporting such a model, a software solution, named OAIsistema, has been implemented. It can be easily adapted to other cultural projects.

A full set of metadata has been created in accord with Dublin Core specifications to describe each article. Metadata are stored in a database and then exported as an XML file conform to the OAI Static Repository schema.

In order to be accepted on an OAI circuit, the Static Repository needs a gateway. We have been supported by the University of Ghent, that administers a gateway developed by Patrick Hochstenbach.

To increase the visibility and diffusion of the journal’s data archive, a project for digitalisation and web diffusion of its content has been started in 2004 and an OAI-PMH (Open Archive Initiative-Protocol for Metadata Harvesting) repository of published articles has been implemented.

The Static Repository has been registered in the OAI official data provider register and successfully harvested by the main OAI Service provider: OAISTER.

Besides entering OAI, data collection has been used to produce two further services. The first is a local search engine for the website of the journal.

The second service offers to the Google spider a persistent URL for each record contained in the repository, which can be easily indexed on the web.

The aim of this digital archiving project focuses on the potential use of the web and its crucial role in a new type of communication, based on the principle of shared knowledge. Technological innovation accelerates knowledge sharing and circulation, in order to create an interactive “face to face” consultation to bring the knowledge when and where it is needed in a collaborative virtual environment.

Paola Moscati, Claudio Barchesi, Riccardo Pasquini
CNR - Istituto di Studi sulle Civiltà Italiche e del Mediterraneo Antico