OmniMea: Using Personal Repositories to Support Research Data Dissemination for Individual Researchers

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Objectives:

The OmniMea project is aimed at data acquisition and curation strategies in support of single PI or small group research projects at academic institutions – data in the so-called "long tail." Long-term data management in these projects is challenging because the funding and personnel time available for data management is still frequently small and resources available to researchers still need to be cultivated.

One resource typically available to smaller academic research projects is an institutional repository. However, participation in institutional repositories is frequently low, due to a lack of individual incentives among potentially participating faculty and a perceived high barrier to entry. The OmniMea project, a collaboration between the Corporation for National Research Initiatives and the University of Virginia Library, has the goal of increasing the usage of institutional repositories by teaming them with an individual's personal repository.

On-going activities:

Our poster will show how we use a personal repository to federate holdings, both literature and data, of multiple institutional repositories and publisher repositories into a convenient and useful form. Researchers may use their personal repository to store, reference, display, filter, and share their publications, data, and other research output with others. A personal repository can be used to capture intellectual outputs of faculty and students for submission into an institutional repository when that is appropriate. We believe that the convenience of a personal repository, combined with value-added services that OmniMea will provide will motivate faculty and student participation, with the end result that data acquisition, curation and sharing of data, plus utilization of institutional repositories are increased.

We have made excellent progress on the development of a low barrier user interface, the ordinary CV, as one form of personal repository UI. This provides the means for academic users, our initial target audience, to manage and access some of their personal repository using their CVs, something they need to maintain anyway.

Results:

The deployment of our personal repository prototype, OmniMea, is key to gauging the effectiveness of personal repositories to content recruitment for institutional repositories – the central thesis of the project. We recently expanded the capabilities of the prototype to better reflect the variety of materials that may be archived by users. We are also working to test the prototype with materials from a wider variety of users. Early test users had published on a few data sets each. Recent work with a test user who had published a much larger number of data sets led us to prototype new options for presenting and visualizing those materials within OmniMea. We are working now to build a small coherent user community in which to test and refine the OmniMea capabilities with the goal of a large-scale release within the next year.

URL: http://www.omnimea.org