PIRUS 2

Publisher and Institutional Repository Usage Statistics

Proposal for Presentation in a Session at Open Repositories 2010

Title: PIRUS2: Creating a Common Standard for Measuring Online Usage of Individual Articles

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This presentation will provide an overview of the PIRUS2 project and will cover the project's background, its main objectives, the planned deliverables, and the benefits to the main stakeholder groups involved in scholarly information, including repositories. A progress report on the project will also be provided.

Background

The PIRUS project (http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/pals3/pirus.aspx) , completed in early 2009, demonstrated that it is *technically* feasible to create, record and consolidate usage statistics for individual articles using data from repositories and publishers, despite the diversity of organizational and technical environments in which they operate. If this is to be translated into a new, implementable COUNTER standard and protocol, further research and development will be required, specifically in the following areas:

- Technical: further tests, with a wider range of repositories and a larger volume of data, will be required to ensure that the proposed protocols and tracker codes are scalable/extensible and work in the major repository environments.
- Organizational: the nature and mission of the central clearing house/houses proposed by PIRUS has to be developed, and candidate organizations identified and tested
- Economic: assess the costs for repositories and publishers of generating the required usage reports, as well as the costs of any central clearing house/houses; investigate how these costs could be allocated between stakeholders
- Political: the broad support of all the major stakeholder groups (repositories, publishers, authors) will be required. Subject repositories, such as PubMed Central, which have not been active participants at this stage in the project, will have to be brought on board. Intellectual property, privacy and financial issues will have to be addressed

Aims and Objectives of PIRUS2

The aim of PIRUS2 is to address these issues and by doing so specify standards, protocols, an infrastructure and an economic model for the recording, reporting and

consolidation of online usage of individual articles hosted by repositories, publishers and other entities.
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In order to achieve this overall aim, the project will seek to meet the following main objectives:

- Develop a suite of free, open source programmes to support the generation and sharing of COUNTER compliant usage data and statistics that can be extended to cover any and all individual items in repositories.
- Develop a prototype article level Publisher/Repository usage statistics service comprising a technical demonstrator and a set of business model recommendations for a central clearing house.
- Define a core set of standard useful statistical reports that repositories could/should produce for internal and external consumption

PIRUS2 Deliverables

The main deliverables of the project will be: (a) a fully tested aggregated statistics demonstrator service employing agreed first versions of Standards and Protocols; DSpace, Eprints & Fedora Software plug-ins; Software to process and filter OpenURL usage data according to COUNTER rules; (b) a set of reports on the business model for the aggregated statistics service, including a list of organizations that meet the required criteria for the central clearing house, an assessment of the costs for repositories and publishers and the running the central clearing house; proposals for dealing with legal issues, results of market research surveys; (c) development of advocacy strategy in line with the Business Model; (d) a report informing plans for sustainability of services into the future.

The knowledge and experience acquired in the course of the project will be shared and discussed within the stakeholder community through workshops and seminars as well as conference papers and articles. The project web site will provide access to information pertaining to PIRUS2, including dissemination events and progress reports.

Benefits of PIRUS2

The work of PIRUS2 will ensure that usage data are available for journal articles wherever held (publisher sites, repositories, aggregators), whilst going further than web analytics software and more able to meaningfully address the consistency of the usage data and the resultant quality of the reports.

Repositories will benefit from a technical point of view as most will have access to new functionality to produce standardised usage reports from their data.

Digital repositories systems will be more integral to research and closely aligned to research workflows and requirements, as the project addresses production of authoritative usage data.

The authoritative status of PIRUS 2 usage statistics will serve to enhance trust across repositories; furthermore, the data will provide a firm evidence base for repositories to take firm steps to defining clear policies to support their goals.

Project Timetable

Work on PIRUS2 commenced in October 2009 and the project is scheduled for completion in December 2010. Further information on PIRUS2 may be found on the project website at: http://www.cranfieldlibrary.cranfield.ac.uk/pirus2/tiki-index.php