COAR (Confederation of Open Access Repositories) is a coalition established last October and is just like an “international DRF”. COAR consists of 48 pro-Open Access organizations in the world. Other than the DRF, NII and MyOpenArchive are the members from Japan.

The first General Assembly held on March 2, 2010 discussed the present policies on its activities. Ten presenters discussed with the audience the issues on many activities proposed by the COAR head office. For instance, Dr. Clifford Lynch of CNI (see the photo below) said, “Being neutral is the top priority.” Ms. Kathleen Shearer of CARL stressed the significance of sharing success stories.

The GA finally took the decisions on five core objectives of COAR activities.
1. Promotion and Enlightenment
2. Information Sharing (collecting and sharing good practices, …)
3. Interoperability (object identifiers, statistics, …)
4. Staff Development (IR manager trainings, …)
5. Worldwide Metadata Collection

Since the DRF signed the MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with DRIVER (ex-COAR, whose chair was also Dr. Norbert Lossau), at the 2008 SPARC Digital Repository Meeting, international contribution of the DRF has rapidly become more likely. The world which we thought was far from us seems to have suddenly become equal to ours.

University libraries in western countries have a different institutional background from the counterparts in Japan, which makes their comparison difficult on the same footing. Regarding project management, there seems the unique and excellent culture, history and frameworks in other countries, especially in Europe.

Being one of the COAR members significantly paved the “path (way)” for disseminating information from Japan, against language barrier, while understanding these differences. This has never been done so far among university libraries in Japan. The members of the DRF are expected to be assertive in showing their achievements and quality by fully utilizing this pathway. YOU are the major players.
February 17-18, DRF-KanNihonkai (Kanazawa University)

Program Overview
February 17
* 13:00 - 13:10 Opening
* 13:30 - 14:30 Lecture
   (Kenji Koyama)
* 14:45 - 15:45 Lecture
   (Sho Sato)
* 16:00 - 16:20 Lecture
   (Yoshihiro Takata)
* 16:20 - 17:35 For Discussion
February 18
* 9:30 - 11:30 Case Reports 1-9
* 11:30 - 11:50 Q & A
* 11:50 - 12:00 Closing

For Discussion: Dialog on the Role of University Libraries
Shigeki Sugita (Hokkaido Univ.) Service and preservation have become separated today. So we should never do the same jobs as we did in the days of paper publishing, shouldn’t we? Libraries should function to connect writers to their readers, people to people. Yoshihiro Takata (Kanazawa Univ.) Yes, libraries may be able to serve as a connector between diverse areas. Hideki Uchijima (Kanazawa Univ.) Are IRs able to play the role?

Case Reports


2. “IRs as part of Library Activities” Masako Suzuki (Otaru Univ. of Commerce) OA can be pursued by the library as a whole. Springer Tunnel, SCOAP3, BRIL... “IR staff in the library should not be the only persons to think about IRs.”

3. “IRs as archives” Naoyuki Tsuchiya (Yamagata Univ.) Our shared repository is not an aggregation of IRs, but jointly and regionally operated.

4. “Niigata University Academic Repository (Nuar) and Niigata Regional Repository (NIRR)” Masakyo Takahashi (Niigata Univ.) IR advocacy, together with insisting on the raison d’etre of libraries and their need at the same time, raises their visibility and value.

5. “Survey on Researchers’ Deposit Rate: How many deposited / Author Identification: Integrating the Author’s Name” Shun Morimoto (Kanazawa Univ.) Counting the effects of the emails sent to researchers to ask for their articles revealed; - about 65% (Green approx. 85%, Super Green approx. 15%) allowed depositing in IR, - about 20% triggered target deposition attempts.

6. “Case Report of JAIST Repository” Miki Terada (JAIST) Opt-out deposit system in collaboration with the JAIST Faculty Profiles Database, made in 2008 and approved by the board of research and education trustee, raised the rate of IR-depositing researchers from 25% to 70%.

7. “Two IRs” Mitsuo Mizukami (Fukuoka Univ.) Fukui IR’s metadata were merged into the Community Repository of Fukui and linked back to Fukui IR for access to full text.

8. “Regional, Broad Collaboration of University Libraries and Information Provision: Repositories and Digital Archives” Sumio Kamoto (Shimane Univ.) SWAN aiming at true self archiving / Use of external databases for adding metadata to IRs / Digital archives as a regional hub / Connecting & organizing a research and its targeted objects.

9. “Kyushu University Institutional Repository” Naomi Yoshimatsu (Kyushu Univ.) IR Staff training course was held for sustainable IR development. Full of practical sessions started with joining hands altogether in a circle every day.

February 19, Nagasaki International University IR Training Session

On February 19, a snowy day unusual for Kyushu, the IR training session “IR Overview” was held at Nagasaki International University, where we could enjoy the street view of Huis Ten Bosch next to the campus, in Sasebo, Nagasaki. Ms. Yaeko Takeuchi from the DRF and Chiba University gave the introductory lecture to the participants most of who were not yet familiar to IRs. Dr. Eisuke Ito and Ms. Naomi Yoshimatsu from Kyushu University, Ms. Saori Kubo from Sasebo Campus, the University of Nagasaki, and Mr. Yoshinori Iijima from Nagasaki International University delivered the talks on their case reports and activities.

Ms. Kubo is a graduate from Nagasaki International University and the talk at her alma mater was on the IR of the University of Nagasaki released last October. The episode of her everyday effort to achieve “less budget, more results” was impressive. More than 30 researchers also attended this one day session and it became quite lively with various questions from them, ranging from the issues of IRs and copyright to the future scholarly information.
Case Reports from Shikoku Region
“The Case of Tokushima Univ.” Yoshihiko Orihara
“Situation Report from Naruto Univ. of Education” Takeshi Yamamoto
“XooNIps Setup at Ehime Univ.” Yukishige Senba
“The Case of Kagawa Univ.” Naoko Iwasawa
“Installation Steps of Kochi Univ. Repository” Yuri Koyoshi

Each repository manager reported their situation ranging from the stage of preparing installation to the post-setup advocacy. These included the episodes of their challenges, try-and-errors and failures. “Open provision of research and education outputs is even possible from the middle and small sized universities in rural areas. Every university can have the different IR suitable for it. Let’s move one step forward, first!”

March 2, REFORM Reporting Conference (Report from a Correspondent)

Program Overview
* 13:00 - 13:40 “The Picture of University Libraries in 2020 Proposed by REFORM” Syun Tutiya
* 13:40 - 15:00 Lecture “The Future of Libraries and Scholarly Communication” Dr.David Shulenburger
* 15:10 - 16:40 Discussion

“The Picture of University Libraries in 2020 Proposed by REFORM” Dr.David Shulenburger

1. Libraries will irrevocably continue to collect more and more digital resources. Preservation of their collections will not mean preservation of these contents, but preservation just as physical objects. Under this changing environment, universities will find it more important to digitize their own research outputs for themselves.

2. Today, researchers at many universities are obliged to register their research outputs to the university they work for, which is the decision made by researchers or universities themselves. Universities, therefore, believe raising the visibility of these research outputs will benefit themselves.

3. In the future, universities will pursue more visibility of these outputs and will want to use their libraries to realize their pursuit. University libraries will then be evaluated based on their contribution to providing the access and raising the visibility of the universities’ research outputs. Therefore, university libraries will be able to become an entity to affect their universities’ reputation, which really depends on how high they can raise the visibility.

4. For this reason, university libraries will have a bright future!
18 subway stations in Madrid have their “Bibliometro” like this. Its streamlined design is beautifully characteristic. The small black part on the left curving wall is a checkout counter.

Here is the photo of the inside. If you have a chance to go to Spain, you should never miss it!