

Working towards an Open Library for Economics: The RePEc project

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<http://openlib.org/home/krichel>

What this talk is not about

- Not about demand of document
- Not about supply of documents

Scholarly communication in Economics

- Scholarly communication is about
 - dissemination
 - certification
- Economics is highly peer-reviewed with long delays
- Need for informal dissemination channels
- Initial motivation of RePEc to organize informal dissemination of the Internet.

RePEc searches a middle way..

- arXiv.org
 - centralised
 - high requirements on contributors
- web
 - decentralised
 - low requirements on contributors

... via a three-layer model

- Many archives
- One database
- Many services
 - many user interfaces
 - providers of archives offer their data to all interfaces at the same time.

RePEc is based on many archives

- WoPEc
- EconWPA
- DEGREE
- S-WoPEc
- NBER
- CEPR
- US Fed in Print
- IMF
- OECD
- MIT
- University of Surrey
- CO PAH

RePEc is used in many services

- BibEc and WoPEc
- Decomate Z39.50 service
- NEP: New Economics Papers
- Inomics
- IDEAS
- RuPEc
- EDIRC
- HoPEc

... describes documents

Template-Type: ReDIF-Paper 1.0
Title: Dynamic Aspect of Growth and Fiscal Policy
Author-Name: Thomas Krichel
Author-Person: RePEc:per:1965-06-
05:thomas_krichel
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Classification-JEL: C61; E21; E23; E62; O41
File-URL: ftp://www.econ.surrey.ac.uk/
pub/RePEc/sur/surrec/surrec9601.pdf
File-Format: application/pdf
Creation-Date: 199603
Revision-Date: 199711
Handle: RePEc:sur:surrec:9601

... describes persons (HoPEc)

Template-Type: ReDIF-Person 1.0
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Author-Paper: RePEc:sur:surrec:9801
Author-Paper: RePEc:sur:surrec:9601
Author-Paper: RePEc:rpc:rdfdoc:concepts
Author-Paper: RePEc:rpc:rdfdoc:ReDIF
Handle: RePEc:per:1965-06-05:THOMAS_KRICHEL

... describes institutions (EDIRC)

Template-Type: ReDIF-Institution 1.0
Primary-Name: University of Surrey
Primary-Location: Guildford
Secondary-Name: Department of Economics
Secondary-Phone: (01483) 259380
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Secondary-Fax: (01483) 259548
Secondary-Postal: Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XH
Secondary-Homepage:
 <http://www.econ.surrey.ac.uk/>
Handle: RePEc:edi:desuruk

The RePEc vision

- It is a collaborative effort of community wide knowledge sharing by discipline champions and librarians.
- Once a critical mass of data and user services is reached outsiders face strong incentives to contribute.
- The relational features allow to share the burden of cataloguing and reduce the cost of keeping the collection up-to-date.
- RePEc promotes free exchange of data between academics.
- It fights the division of the world in information-rich and information-poor.

The Open Library

- Objects
 - body
 - data
- metadata summarises data aspect of objects
- An open library is a metadata collection with the following requirements

Five requirements

- Every record has a unique identifier
- Records have a homogeneous syntax of field names and values
- There is public access to the documentation of the metadata format
- The library is open for public online access
- No monetary cost to contribute

Other Open Libraries

- Santa Fe compatible Open Archives data for which the OAMS is implemented
- Other libraries to be built using Open Archives
- ReLIS, a RePEc clone for Library and Information Science, lead by José Manuel Barrueco Cruz and others

Issues raised by Open Libraries

- Supply rather than demand of metadata is crucial
- Digital updatability rather than digital preservation
- Metadata quality control is important
- Metadata formats to be designed together with business plan

Open Library and Open Source

- Open Library can be understood as an application of Open Source ideas to bibliographic data
- Same trials & tribulations?
- <http://openlib.org/acmes>

But I can not do all this while being a lecturer in Economics...

Conclusion:

Hire me!