

eprints

Training

The first EPrints training occurred at the end of September 2005. It covered both non-technical issues such as policy and management and technical training in installing, configuration and customising EPrints. More training courses are planned. Siobhain Dales is the training manager.

Community

We feel that it's important that the existing community of users is given a chance to share experiences and to influence our development priorities. The community manager is Steve Hitchcock.

Documentation

A professional documentation writer has begun to produce high quality documentation on aspects of the project. The demonstration site: demoprnts.eprints.org now has an extensive online help. More documentation is in preparation.

Wiki

How-to guides, tips, scripts and other useful information are shared by users of the EPrints software via the EPrints wiki: <http://wiki.eprints.org/>

EPrints Organisation

Many new faces have joined EPrints in various capacities

Management

John Darlington, drawing on experience managing projects at Microsoft and IBM, has taken charge of managing the development of the software and services.

Website

The eprints.org website has been redesigned to better address our goals of promoting open access, making the EPrints software available and bringing together and supporting the community of EPrints users.

Sales

It may sound odd for free software to have a sales manager. To help fund the continuing development of the software we have started offering additional for-fee services, premium community membership and training. Alma Swann is the point of enquiry for these things.

Services

Sometimes it is not cost effective to do things yourself. EPrints services can be hired to produce customisation to the configuration, installation, hosting, and custom utilities. Tim Miles Board manages the EPrints services team.

demoprnts.eprints.org

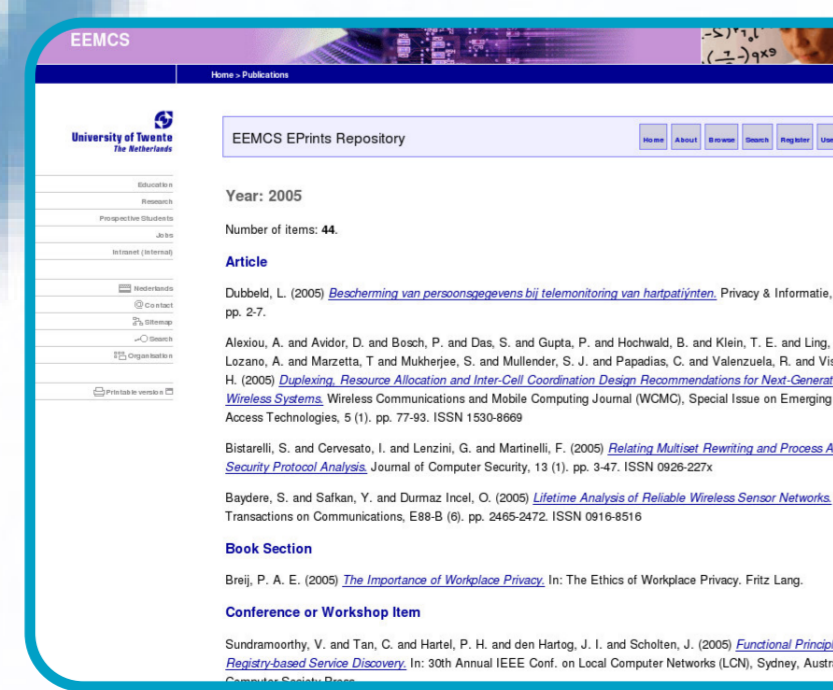
As part of the site redesign we have relaunched our demonstration repository with an improved interface and links into the extensive documentation.

Case Study: Twente

The University of Twente had a number of requirements which we were able to fulfil. These included:

- Applying their university branding.
- Using their University LDAP system to authenticate users.
- Providing ways to export data in a format suitable for the METIS system.

Most of the customisation were made to a local copy of EPrints. The data export system, however, uses the new EPrints export-plugins architecture. This project also helped us define the requirements of the new plugin system which is planned for a future release of EPrints.



Custom Search Forms

Any number of search forms can be created, in addition to the default simple and advanced forms.

Highly Adaptable

Customise metadata fields, website templates, all text used in the interface, citation styles, search forms, metadata rendering.

Multi-Level Browsing

Rather than just browse by a single field (year, record type, etc), it is now possible to create views with sub-pages or sub-sections. For example; browse by record type, and then by year but only within the selected type.

Version 2.3.13 features

Smoother Installation

Improvements have been made to the installation process to make it easier and faster. These include reducing number of dependence and adding helpful warning messages.

Version 2 features

Scripting API

Build custom web features and command-line-utilities using the powerful EPrints scripting tools.

Full Text Search

Index and search the content of PDF, HTML, Text and Microsoft Word documents.

Features under development

RAE Module

Producing data for the Research Assessment Exercise is a major task for every UK university. We are developing a module for EPrints which will automate some of the process.

Web Services Interface

This feature will allow EPrints to be controlled by other tools. This will make it possible to make desktop applications which can upload metadata and documents. Another application is in providing access to EPrints data to web portals.

User Interface Review

The current EPrints user interface is being reviewed and redesigned by HCI experts. A key aim is to make the document submission process easier and faster.

Improved Default Configuration

A default configuration suitable for an Institutional Repository was developed in consultation with the University of Southampton Library as part of the TARDIS project.

Internationalisation

known translations now include French, German, Russian, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Chinese, Hungarian

OAI 2.0

Supplies unqualified Dublin Core by default, and new metadata formats can easily be configured.

RSS

The latest additions to a repository can be made available via an RSS feed.

Output Plugins

This feature consists of a number of small files each of which describes how to output a record in a given format, such as XML, RDF, BibTex, Endnote etc. We are designing it in such a way that people will be able to share plugins they develop. When a plugin is installed it will appear as an export option on the search results page, and it will also then be possible to export data into the new format via a command-line script.

HTTPS Support

This allows secure information (passwords and secured pages) to be sent over a secure connection.

Apache 2 Support

EPrints can now run using Apache 2, and so is IPV6 compliant. There is even an IPV6 related EPrints archive: <http://www.6journal.org/>

EPrints Software

At the time of writing EPrints is on version 2.3.13. Many new features have been added over the past few years.

EPrints is free software used for building and managing Open Archives. There are at least 160 repositories around the world that use EPrints.

Institutional Repositories are the most common application, but are far from the only one. EPrints can be used to create a repository of research literature, images, data, learning objects, or any other kind of digital assets.

Many changes have happened to EPrints since it was first released. We have a growing team working on the software, and providing support and services relating to EPrints.

This poster focuses on what has changed since an overview of the software was presented at OAI2 in October 2002