Ten Years of Digital Preservation with EPrints

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2009 represents the 10th birthday of EPrints and, more importantly, the start of the second
decade of EPrints. 10 years of digital preservation is a substantial amount of time and in this
presentation we look back on some of the main successes as well as the key lessons learned
during the development of the EPrints platform. Building on 10 years of experience allows us
to move forward with confidence into new areas of research, adding to, enhancing and refining
the EPrints platform. From the view point of digital preservation we look at the key decisions
made during the development of EPrints and how these are still affecting the development of
the platform even today.

As an intermediary between the individual and the internet, repositories are delivering ser-
vices and capability to the scholarly and scientific community by marshaling and managing
individual resources at the institutional scale and then delivering at the global scale. Assist-
ing the individual in organising, curating and preserving their knowledge resources beyond
project timescales to career-spanning periods is demonstrating the reach of digital libraries. By
providing managed services for digital preservation, repositories are emerging as a significant
component in the international research landscape and the ongoing research communication
lifecycle.

EPrints 3.2 represents a significant step forward to enable both integration with the wider
community as well as the easy addition of services specific to each user’s needs. Central to
this is the ability to add a richer set of preservation services to a repository. These include
enhanced storage flexibility, a greater set of analysis tools and compatibility with external
registries containing preservation specific data. Through the introduction of a richer semantic
data model and a whole new series of plug-in layers, EPrints 3.2 grants access to whole new
levels of control over the objects in a repository without losing the quality assurances needed
to guarantee the next 10 years of digital preservation.