

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 services 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. Assisting 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.