TropMed Central Antwerp: moving towards 'access for all'

Since late 2007 the library has been working on TropMed Central Antwerp (TMCA), a digital archive in which we collect, preserve and disseminate the ITM research output. As part of the global movement towards Open Access (OA), the TMCA project aims to:

- improve the visibility of the Institute's scholarly publications
- centralise its content and metadata
- self-archive research output and provide open access to it
- preserve digital grey literature

Reduced accessibility of scientific information

For several reasons journal subscription prices have been increasing at an prohibitive rate for the last decades. In fact, they have been growing so much faster than the annual inflation one can speak of a 'serials crisis'. Libraries have trouble keeping pace with the yearly increase of serials prices and risk having to cancel subscriptions and online access. This may leave them with a collection that does not entirely fit the needs of scientists anymore.

With the accessibility of scientific literature at stake, the principle of OA is one of the possible solutions to this dilemma. OA means basically the worldwide electronic dissemination of peer-reviewed, scientific literature without cost or copyright limitations. There are two ways to comply with this: publishing in OA journals or self-archiving in a digital archive or 'institutional repository'.

Conference declarations in Budapest (2002), Berlin (2003) and Bethesda (2003) made statements in favour of OA. The main idea behind OA is that research, funded by public means, is a public good and the results should therefore be freely accessible to the public. Over the last 6 years OA mandates have been endorsed by more than 260 universities, research and government institutes and resulted in about 1300 repositories in 77 countries.

TropMed Central Antwerp

TMCA stores every department's research output published since 2000, as well as all ITGPress items, using the open-source software DSpace.

The digital archive is divided in communities (departments, ITGPress) and collections (articles published in international peer-reviewed journals, books, chapters and other non-journal literature). TMCA currently holds 2,366 items and is maintained by the library staff.
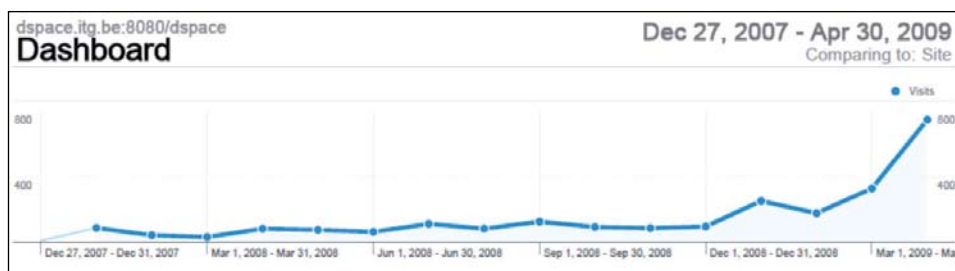
The repository uses a qualified Dublin Core Schema as the standard to organise and retrieve metadata records. Whenever available, extra metadata (DOI, URL, Pubmed ID) is added. A unique and permanent link, the uniform resource identifier or URI, identifies each record.

TMCA, as well as over a thousand other repositories, contributes to 'service providers' such as DRIVER, OAISTER and BASE (see table) by having the full text and metadata 'harvested'. These portals aim to become universal single access points for retrieval of full-text scientific information.

after peer-review. If the archiving policy is not known or publishers do not accept it, the full text can not be attached (yet). 777 articles remain to be added to the archive. **To achieve full coverage we would like authors of a published ITM publication to supply the author version (not the publisher PDF!) of their paper. Please send them to dspace@itg.be.**

We cordially invite every ITM author to attend the seminar entitled: "TropMed Central Antwerp: ITM research output available to all?" on June 10 from 12:30 pm to 2 pm in Auditorium Rochus.

On this occasion an elaborate presentation of the repository will be given, in which the use of the digital archive for ITM researchers will be dealt with, as well as its role in the Open Access movement.

■ **Figure - TMCA website usage statistics**

To be harvested, repositories must contain the full-text document linked to every corresponding metadata record. 27.5% of all publications are linked to full text, ITGPress publications being the group with the highest coverage (93.5%). 40% of the 1,821 peer-reviewed articles in the repository that can be archived have some version of the full text attached.

Because of publishers' archiving policies, not all articles may be self-archived. Some accept the publisher PDF to be put in, while most accept only pre- or postprint author versions, i.e. before or

Even though TMCA is still not officially 'released', it has been visited 2,560 times by 1,203 unique visitors in 86 countries (1). Half of the visits were made in the last 4 months. Detailed monitoring of the repository shows the records have been viewed more than 100,000 times. For the last 4 months, the 650 available full text documents were downloaded over 7,600 times.

(1) Period: 27/12/07 –30/4/09

Kris Didden

TROPMED CENTRAL ANTWERP			dspace.itg.be
OPEN ACCESS			
Berlin Declaration on Open access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities			oa.mpg.de/openaccess-berlin/berlindeclaration.html
HARVESTERS	**CONTRIBUTORS**	**# DOCS**	
DRIVER (European Commission)	>200 European repositories	>1 mio docs	www.driver-repository.eu/
DRIVER Belgium (EC + University of Gent)	8 Belgian repositories	>24,000 docs	www.driver-repository.be/default.aspx
OAISTER (University of Michigan)	>1,090 international repositories, OA publishers etc.	>20 mio docs	www.oaister.org
BASE (Bielefeld University Library)	>1,190 international repositories, OA publishers etc.	appr. 19 mio docs	www.base-search.net/