

Strategies for Innovation and Sustainability:
Insights from Leaders of Open Source Repository Organizations

This panel convenes leaders of organizations that provide the major open repository software platforms featured at OR09. This session provides an opportunity to learn about the strategic processes behind the software – both from a technical and business perspective. The panelists will each provide an overview of their strategic approach open source and open repositories. Specific attention will be paid to strategies for promoting innovation, governance and organization models, and revenue and business models. The area of sustainability and business models for open source software is active and evolving and there is no one-size-fits-all solution. The panelists will discuss their views on ensuring the health and vitality of their platforms, addressing challenges such as: ensuring stability while promoting innovation; generating revenue; enabling community process, governance, and organizational development.

DSpace Foundation and Fedora Commons
Michele Kimpton and Sandy Payette

The DSpace Foundation and Fedora Commons are working in unison to develop strategies for innovation and sustainability. Through their combined expertise, both organizations intend to make important contributions to advancing the state of open technologies that support scholarship, science, and cultural heritage. As non-profit organizations, there are opportunities to achieve economies of scale, to create synergies in developing open technologies, and to align on models for non-profit business sustainability. Sandy and Michele will focus on several dimensions of sustainability, including: (1) mission, (2) markets and communities, (3) funding and revenue, (4) governance, (5) advocacy, and (6) efficiencies. They will discuss their joint strategies framed within a mission-centric approach that includes sustaining the DSpace and Fedora platforms while also developing new joint services such as DuraSpace. A brief review of what's in the news about open source business models will be provided with a discussion of implications for the non-profit organizations.

EPrints

Les Carr

The repository community does not have sufficient resources to devote to development of the platform as well as its deployment. Any development effort that is expended is necessarily local, aimed at meeting the needs or solving the problems of the hosting institution. Repositories are a means to an end, but software-oriented organisations risk sapping the energy and resources of the community, diverting attention from the "ends" back to the "means". EPrints was developed at the University of Southampton to facilitate Open Access to research outputs and to promote the wider impact of the Web on scholarly and scientific institutions - research, teaching, administration and management. Software development is undertaken principally at Southampton. The EPrints team takes part in funded projects to develop the capabilities of the software. In addition, EPrints Services is the commercial arm of the EPrints team that provides for-pay repository hosting, training and bespoke development services that finance the continued development of the EPrints open source platform. These mechanisms allow the EPrints team to stay in touch with the needs of the wider community, but frees up the team to spend its time promoting Open Access, Open Educational Resources and other developments inspired by the Web.

Microsoft Research

Lee Dirks

Over the past ~3 years, Microsoft Research has been focusing on the need for interoperability for its tools across the entire information lifecycle – from authoring through archiving. Lee will discuss how Microsoft Research came to be interested in the repository space and the development of Zentity, the Microsoft Research Output Platform. From a sustainability standpoint, Lee will discuss of the business justifications and longer-term plans for engagement with the community. He will also cover how Microsoft is incorporating key protocols such as SWORD and ORE into its tool-set. The audience will gain insight into how Microsoft

is focusing beyond the repository, as well as the specific decision to open source their repository platform.