Contributing to the global knowledge pool

Worldwide, the research paradigm is in the process of expanding into e-research and open scholarship. This implies new ways of collaboration, dissemination and re-use of research results, specifically via the web. Online research output repositories – although not yet fully networked in a coordinated way – have become an important vehicle through which South African collections could be made accessible to the rest of Africa and ultimately, the rest of the world.

The CSIR’s institutional repository of research publications – Research Space launched in August 2007 – remains the only open access, online repository by a South African research council.

Highlights during the past financial year include an increase in the number of research items accessible from the repository to 2 424, the introduction of a structured quality control system and requests for the CSIR to supply case study information for conferences locally and in New Zealand.

In a quest to disseminate its output as wide as is possible, the CSIR contributes its repository content to a variety of international harvesting services. As a result, the CSIR currently serves on the Board of the WorldWideScience.org initiative – an international science gateway (see http://worldwidescience.org/).

Furthermore, the organisation has contributed to institutional repository training to some 120 South African librarians.

Because of this exposure, the CSIR was invited to co-present a seminar and deliver a conference paper on the challenges of adhering to copyright requirements when managing an institutional repository at an agricultural information conference in Accra, Ghana, in July 2009.

The number of items downloaded from Research Space increased from 113 327 in 2007/08 to 340 616 in 2008/09. A monthly comparable usage pattern for the past two financial years (since June 2007) follows below. On average, 20 000 articles are downloaded from the repository per month.

The CSIR’s publication equivalents also increased significantly from the previous financial years, demonstrated by the table below. The following pages list research published in 2008.

View http://researchspace.csir.co.za/dspace

Publication equivalent data

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
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<th>Other external publications</th>
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<td>Articles in accredited journals</td>
<td>Conference papers (Peer reviewed)</td>
<td>Books</td>
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Books and book chapters

A


B


P


Journal articles

A


R


S


V


H


I


J


K


L


Conference papers


Butgereit IL. 2008. Using instant messaging over GPRS to help with school work. 2nd IFIP International Symposium on Wireless Communications and Information Technology in Developing Countries, Pretoria, South Africa, 6-7 October 2008.


