Documents in Information Science [DoIS]: A Distributed Library and Information Science Catalogue on the Internet

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Abstract

Distributed catalogues and archives of scholarly literature are part of Internet. Literature published in various scholarly publications can be searched from a single search window. DoIS is one such effort, which provides bibliographic access to LIS literature with links to full text, wherever possible. This paper discusses about DoIS, resources covered in it and how one can contribute data to DoIS.

Keywords: Distributed Catalog, Library Science Literature, DoIS

1.   Introduction

Internet apart from its commercial usage is also being used for free distribution of scholarly communication. The scholarly communication could be a journal, working paper, article, etc. This led to the creation of Open Access/Archives Initiatives [OAI], wherein researches will get access to scholarly information free of cost. Documents in Information Science [DoIS] is one such initiative to create a public-access database to promote scholarly communication in library and information science. In this paper, an attempt has been made to explain what is DoIS and how professionals can contribute to this service. This paper is also a case study of India's contribution to DOIS.

2.   What is DoIS?

DoIS [Documents in Information Science] is a service for finding and downloading the latest research results in Library and Information Science. DoIS is a volunteer effort to create a free bibliographic resource of scientific texts specialized in Library and Information Science. DoIS is part of broader initiative called RcLIS stands for Research in Computing, Library and Information Science. DoIS has been established in 1999[1].

RcLIS is an international co-operative effort to build a database about all current and past research in computing and library and information science. It has been managed by an international team of volunteers from different fields viz. librarians, computer scientists and economists. The members come from different countries viz. Spain, Italy, USA and Bosnia.

The main objectives of RcLIS are[2]:

◆   Attempts to compile and place in the pubic domain metadata about research documents. The metadata will be freely available for public and private, commercial and non-commercial purposes. Also envisaged that it will serve as a test bed for digital library research

◆   To facilitate access to documents available on the Internet, thus increasing their visibility. By the same time it also, aims to give metadata access to off-line or toll-gated resources.

RcLIS is based on the model defined by RePEc (Research Papers in Economics) a highly successful distributed catalogue on the Internet. RePEc provides metadata for more than 558,000 research documents[3]. Both RePEc and RcLIS are based on a distributed architecture in which the work of description of documents is distributed between a set of institutions. Participants in these services can be classified as data providers and service providers. While data providers or archivists hold metadata about documents, service providers take such data and make value addition to increase usefulness of the resources for the end user. The interchange of metadata from providers to services is done using a basic set of rules specified in the Guildford Protocol[4]. Metadata is encoded using a bibliographic format called ReDIF (Research Documents Information Format)[5].

DoIS plays the role of service provider for all RcLIS archives. As on Jan 2008, it held metadata about more than 19680 documents, of which 15183 articles and 4500 conference proceedings, 14070 of them are downloadable from the site[6]. In recent times in addition to database of documents, it is providing other services like news related to LIS, online reference service and RSS feeds for selected LIS journals.

3.   Resources Covered In DoIS

The journals covered in DoIS include the most important publications in the field of library and information science such as Library Trends (1995-), Journal of Documentation (1991-), Journal of the American Society for Information Science (1986-), etc. In addition to these it also includes good number of electronic journals viz. D-Lib magazine, Ariadne, IFLA Journal, etc.

The coverage of conference proceedings mainly confined to Spanish world, however few international conferences have also been included. Such congresses include IFLA General conference, International Symposium on Research, Development and Practice in Digital Libraries, etc.

4.   How to Access DoIS?

Users can access contents of DoIS in two ways viz. browsing and searching at http://wotan.liu.edu/dois/

The documents can be browsed by type of publication i.e. journals or conference proceedings. After initial selection, a list of journal or conference titles is presented in alphabetical order. For each title an icon indicates whether the publication has electronic contents. The number of items (articles) available for each title is also presented. Once the user chooses the title, they are presented with brief information for each article. The user may browse the articles and upon selection they get full bibliographic information, including link for full text paper, if available.

Similarly the documents in DoIS can be searched using a search engine, which searches for documents containing the particular words. Search allows both Boolean and field searches. The fields, which are available for searches are title, author and abstract/description. Search can also be restricted only to freely downloadable articles.

5. How to Participate in DoIS?

DoIS is a unique initiative undertaken by volunteers with different backgrounds and from various countries. This project is run with no funding and also on the basis of not for profit. It works on the spirit of open source software movement in computing.

As DoIS is not for profit initiative, it needs support and contributions for its regular operation. Library professionals can participate by providing data about a series. Series refers to a journal or conference. Any number of series can be contributed to DoIS.

For contribution one has to first write to DoIS mentioning their interest in contributing a series to DoIS. DoIS developers will assign a three letter 'archive code' for the archives. Each participating data provider has to create the following files and host on http or ftp server. Archive code 'xxx' form the first three letters of the archive and series.

(i)   xxxarch.rdf [Contains the details of data provider, who maintains the archive]

(ii)   xxxseri.rdf [Contains data about the series and details of   contributor]

(iii) xxxxx.rdf [Contains actual data for articles/papers]

The data need to be provided in ReDIF format [Research Documentation Information Format]. The data will be in simple ASCII mode. Fields varies depending upon the type of documents. The step-by-step instructions for contribution are available on DoIS website at: http://wotan.liu.edu/dois/participate.html.

6. Conclusion

DoIS is a free online database in the field of LIS. Its goal is to make it an exhaustive database with full bibliographic control on all published material in the area of LIS. We librarians have to contribute our bit to make this database an authoritative and exhaustive. A small contribution from each one of us goes a long way in its growth. LIS schools may utilize the services of their students in contributing metadata for few LIS journals/conference proceedings. The great advantage of DoIS is that credit is given to a person, who has contributed the data. Contributors get an international recognition for contributing to this service.

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