



## Organic eprints

an open archive for papers related to  
research in organic agriculture

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The Organic Eprints archive

<<http://orgprints.org>>

# Overview

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- The Organic Eprints archive - numbers, goals
- How to create an archive - open source, scalability
- How to fill the archive - motivations and barriers
- Future perspectives - research development and community building

# The Organic Eprints archive - statistics

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Established by the Danish Research Centre for Organic Farming in September 2002

Status February 2004:

- Three countries involved
- Editors: 4
- Eprints in archive: ~ 1200
- Registered users: ~ 1100 from over 60 countries
- Subscriptions: ~ 100
- Visitors per day: ~ 700

# Why press for open access?

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- Open access is a goal in itself - as stated in the Aarhus Convention
  - public access -> dissemination, participation
  - provides better access for educators and students
  - provides better access for low-income countries
  - resolves some of the budgetary problems for libraries
- Open access leads to earlier and larger research impact (impact on other research)
  - which can promote research progress, generate future funding, support researcher careers

# Why make this archive?

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The main objectives of the Organic Eprints archive are:

- to facilitate the communication of research papers and research proposals
- to improve the dissemination and impact of research findings
- to document the research effort

In accordance with these goals, the archive accepts many kinds of papers, not just journal articles

More on the policy of Organic Eprints at <http://orgprints.org/about.html>

# How to create an archive - open source software

- Open source archive creating software is available from:
  - GNU Eprints, Un. of Southampton, UK <<http://eprints.org>>
  - Dspace, MIT and HP, USA <<http://dspace.org>>
- GNU Eprints runs on other open source software:
  - Linux, Apache web server, MySQL database, etc.
- Open source software is:
  - basically free
  - allows for modifications and developments
  - usually has technical support lists with developers and users

# Workload and scalability

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- The EPrints software enables self-archiving and decentralized work:
  - it utilizes the work of many
  - hence, it is scalable to large size and growth
- Authors archive their papers themselves (often someone else does some of work for them)
  - they do the work in gathering metadata and preparing document files
  - they take the responsibility for copyrights, etc.
- Editors can be selected for particular areas
  - e.g. subject areas, countries/organizations, eprint types
  - they get notice of deposits within their area

# How to fill the archives

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- It is "easy" to create an archive, but to fill it you need authors with the intent and consent to archive their products - and the resources to do so
- There are motivating factors that encourage authors to self-archive and give open access - and barriers that discourage authors from doing so
- If the open archives are going to be filled, we need to work with these issues

# Motivating factors

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- "Culture"
  - traditions for publishing or circulating "preliminary versions" such as working papers and preprints for scholarly reasons
- "Carrots"
  - informing researchers about the potential benefits of open access and self-archiving
- "Sticks"
  - mandatory self-archiving as a condition for funding ("publicly funded research should be publicly available")

# Barriers to self-archiving and open access

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- "Culture"
  - lack of traditions for publishing or circulating "preliminary versions" such as working papers and preprints
- Copyrights issues
  - there is a tradition for transferring all copyrights for scientific articles to the publishers
  - there is a great diversity of copyright policies
  - it is difficult to get information on them
  - and sometimes quite difficult to get permission to self-archive even when the publisher has a policy of doing this

# Handling the copyrights issues

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Researchers usually have all copyrights for their preprints (and original work in general)

- unless they have explicitly transferred those rights

When we use the "stick" and demand that researchers self-archive, we cannot demand that they give open access

- if they do not have the right to do so
- or if they are uncertain whether they can do so

# Handling the copyrights issues (2)

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We therefore have to try to

- clarify the different copyright policies
- work to change those policies towards more open access

The UK-funded RoMEO project has provided an overview of publisher's copyright policies in 2003

<<http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/lis/disresearch/romeo/>>

Organic Eprints has made an inquiry concerning submission and copyright policies in this research area

<<http://orgprints.org/openaccess.html>>

# Inquiry on Submission and Copyright policies

<b>Publisher / journal</b>	<b>Submission policy:</b> OK to deposit preprint	<b>Copyright policy:</b> OK to deposit refereed postprint or reprint	<b>Notes</b>
<a href="#">AAAS</a>	(yes)	(no)	No reply
<a href="#">A B Academic Publishers</a>			Will answer later
<a href="#">Blackwell Publishing</a>	(yes)	(no)	No reply
<a href="#">CABI Publishing</a>	yes	yes, postprint	Preprint must state which journal it is submitted to, see also " <a href="#">Copyright Transfer</a> ".
<a href="#">Cambridge University Press</a>	(yes)	(yes, postprint)	Will answer April 2003
<a href="#">Environmental Ethics</a>		yes, postprint	(Not inquired, no transferral of copyright)
<a href="#">Elsevier Science</a>	yes	yes, postprint	Requires permission, which is given routinely - use <a href="#">online form</a> .
<a href="#">Haworth Press</a>	yes	yes, postprint and reprint	Must link to Haworth site, see also " <a href="#">Author Re-Use of Work</a> ".
<a href="#">Imprint Academic</a>	yes	yes, postprint and reprint	
<a href="#">Int. J. of Sociology of Agriculture and Food</a>		yes, postprint	(Not inquired, no transferral of copyright)
<a href="#">Kluwer</a>		(no)	No reply
<a href="#">Nature Publishing Group</a>	(yes)	(yes, postprint)	No reply
<a href="#">SAGE Publications</a>		(no)	Unsatisfying reply
<a href="#">Springer</a>	(yes)	(yes, postprint)	Unclear reply
<a href="#">Taylor &amp; Francis Group</a>		(no)	No reply
<a href="#">The journal of agricultural education and extension</a>		yes, postprint	(Not inquired, no transferral)
<a href="#">Wageningen Academic Publishers</a>	yes	no	Permission needed, will probably be granted for older articles.
<a href="#">Wiley</a>	(yes)	(yes, postprint)	Unsatisfying reply
<a href="#">World Food RD Publisher</a>			No reply

# Perspectives - research development

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Creating an overview of a field by way of an open archive (and more) within a field or research area, can provide:

- better communication and scholarly identity within the field, which can lead to better research
- better access for the public, students, and researchers in other fields, which can facilitate participation and cross-disciplinary work
- an overview of the research effort in different countries, organizations and projects, which can again lead to more cooperation and better utilisation of research output

# Perspectives - community building

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- Community building is an important perspective for the Organic Eprints archive (and similar archives).
- The archive was established as a community service and designed to facilitate international use and cooperation.
- There is a standing invitation to partners that are willing to take on a responsibility for managing and developing this service.
- Today, Germany, Switzerland and Denmark have taken on such responsibility.
- A European-wide initiative is underway, which focuses on research planning, funding and coordination