Your voice

ALIA e-prints

I am pleased to see that the papers from the recent ALIA conference were loaded to the ALIA website in a timely manner, but I wondered if there had been any consideration to loading a copy of all of the 2004 ALIA conference papers into the ALIA e-prints repository?

Furthermore, I wondered whether it would be useful to retrospectively populate ALIA e-prints with copies of past ALIA conference papers and to encourage all Groups to deposit copies of suitable papers and presentations delivered at our smaller local gatherings. Perhaps the conference committees of other Australian information professional conferences such as Information Online, VALA, Library Technicians and the New Librarian Symposium would consider depositing their papers into ALIA e-prints rather than establishing individual conference proceeding web pages.

About 14 months ago I deposited a pre-print of a paper from the 2003 Educause conference and have been able to direct colleagues to it in ALIA e-prints a number of times since then. I recently did the same with a pre-print of a paper delivered at this year's ALIA conference (in accordance with the permission granted in the 'Copyright Release Form' of the Paper Presenter Agreement).

The concept of institutional repositories is a popular topic amongst academic libraries currently and I assume I am not the only one using ALIA e-prints (amongst others) and OAI-harvested Google results as examples to 'sell' the concept. I would encourage any efforts to make our ALIA e-prints a more valuable resource for our profession and as a shining example of a collaborative archive at a professional, rather than institutional, level.

Deidre Lowe, Toowoomba Qld

Lodging papers she has prepared for conferences in the ALIA e-print archive has helped Deirdre's work become more accessible to her colleagues.

ALIA has established REAP (Research Exchange and Partnership) and the e-print archive for this very purpose. by joining the REAP e-list and lodging the output of your research or project work in ALIA e-prints you have the opportunity to share with LIS colleagues, information and experiences and even discuss the future directions of your work.

Perhaps you have presented a paper at a conference and would like to develop your project further. Subscribe to the REAP e-list and set up a discussion about your work. Who knows what great ideas will be born.

It is easy to join ReAP and it is free — go to http://alia.org.au/research/ and follow the links to subscribe to the e-list and to find out more about ALIA e-prints. For more information, contact Marie Murphy (marie.murphy@alia.org.au).

To be successful, REAP relies on the willingness of individuals to share their work. For the time being, ALIA will continue to load conference papers on to the website so that members can access them via the conference name.

Marie Murphy,
Manager, policy, projects, research