



**Organic
eprints**

an open archive for papers related to
research in organic agriculture

Hugo F. Alrøe

<<http://hugo.alroe.dk>>

Danish Research Centre for Organic Farming

<<http://www.darcof.dk>>

The Organic Eprints archive

<<http://orgprints.org>>

Overview

- 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

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?

- 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?

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

- 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

- 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

- "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

- "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

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)

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/ls/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

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

Perspectives - research development

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

- 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