

An Implementation of a National Portal to University Institutional Repositories : a Case of Japan's NII

<http://ju.nii.ac.jp/>

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experimental installation of GNU EPrints and DSpace to
inspect their CJK compatibility and OAI-PMH linking to JuNii

NII assists institutional repositories in Japanese universities to gain greater visibility by providing a "portal" for the contents on their institutional repositories. The service described here is one of the very few real-world implementations of collaboration between distributed university repositories and a country's central bibliographic utility in the digital environment.

Aware of the increase in networked information resources, the National Institute of Informatics (NII), Japan's national bibliographical utility since 1986, launched a project with university libraries in October 2002 to build an academic networked resource database called "JuNii", and the project now encompasses 263 institutions as of October 2004. Libraries are eager to extend their service by providing customers with seamless online navigation through purchased, licensed, endogenous and openly accessible scholarly networked information resources. JuNii is mainly a database of metadata for networked resources residing in universities supplemented with a user-friendly interface, and is intended to provide a portal to academic networked resources in Japan.

The cataloging and registration procedure is by one of two methods: either librarians manually catalog their web contents endogenous in their universities directly into JuNii or NII manually load the CSV files of metadata from their digital library systems (the manual method), or the metadata created in each library are harvested by NII's OAI-PMH compliant harvester (the automated method). The latter is already preferred to the manual method given the power of the protocol. JuNii began to harvest metadata of RoMEO-defined green papers from Chiba University's repository in May 2003. This initiative is being followed by a project sponsored by NII for libraries to implement GNU EPrints and DSpace for their repository systems. The project is keenly interested in inspecting the softwares' CJK compatibility and OAI-PMH linking to JuNii with a view to enhancing JuNii's international accessibility and consistency with other navigational tools or search engines.

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