Library and Information Science Publishing: Global Open Access

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Background

Open Access publishing is a topical and fast-moving area deemed to advance the mechanisms for, and rate of, scholarly communication. Recent proliferation of the Open Access movement has resulted in the growth of a number of online repositories. The success of an open access repository, in terms of effective archival procedures and subsequent efficient retrieval, depends on the successful implementation of many traditional library-based skills so it seems fitting that the Library and Information Science community are leading the way with an e-prints repository operating on an international basis.

E-LIS initiative

E-LIS was set up in 2003 with initial funding from the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports, in line with the Free Online Scholarship (FOS) and Eprints movements, and based on Open Archive Initiative (OAI) standards. The central E-LIS server is based in Italy, at the Italian Consorzio Interuniversitario Lombardo per Elaborazione Automatica (CILEA). Around 15 partners and editors located in 30+ countries throughout the world support this non-commercial venture, with staff working on a voluntary basis to promote and help populate the repository.

The service aims to develop the nature of information exchange within the LIS domain, encouraging the deposit of all LIS material in a range of formats and languages. E-LIS is therefore a valuable storage medium for, and source of, journal articles, conference papers, presentations, books and book chapters, posters, technical reports, departmental working papers, theses, and newspaper and magazine articles.

Authors are invited to submit their materials to E-LIS, completing appropriate metadata fields including format, title, author, subject, language and so on. Entries are then placed into a buffer from where an appropriate editor checks the metadata, edits it where necessary, and uploads material into the live archive.
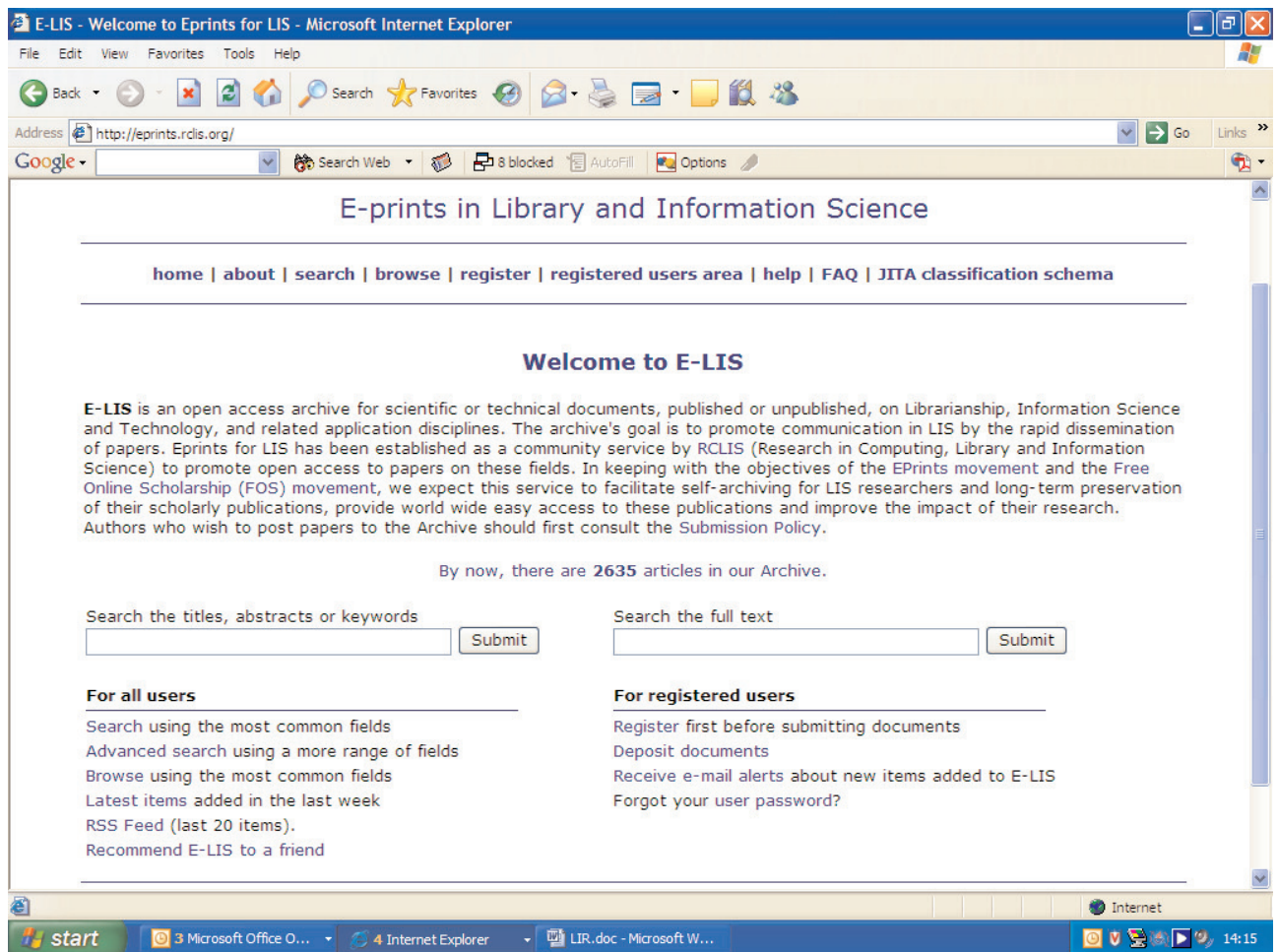
Figure 1: Screenshot of the E-LIS homepage

Purpose

The E-LIS repository aims to:

- Promote open access
- Promote global cooperation
- Increase the visibility, accessibility and availability of full text documents in the LIS field
- Greatly increase the potential for research dissemination and scholarly communication

The latter of these aims is aided by the repository's acceptance of published and unpublished material, refereed and unrefereed resources, as well as pre and post prints.

E-LIS Features

Users can browse and search the repository. Browse categories include author/editor name, book/journal title, subject, country and year, whilst quick, simple or advanced search options can be selected. Obviously the effectiveness of these features relies heavily upon consistent metadata entry and strict quality control throughout the repository. The involvement of country-specific editors ensures that standard practices are followed and the metadata is controlled throughout.

Although international in scope all metadata is entered in English and E-LIS insists that foreign language papers be accompanied by English language abstracts. Similarly, keywords must be entered in English.

To help authors abide by copyright restrictions created by publisher agreements, users can deposit material with different levels of access. A facility has been incorporated whereby users can restrict access where not permissible.

Get involved!

Please visit http://eprints.rclis.org/ , complete the brief registration procedure, and begin to deposit your material. Simply follow the submission procedure outlined, completing the necessary metadata as prompted. Full text papers should then be uploaded to accompany the metadata record. Once submitted by individual authors, the country-specific editor will approve the metadata record and check the full text version of the publication before uploading the material into the live archive. Your material is then available free of charge to a global audience.

For further information on E-LIS please see http://eprints.rclis.org/