

# Exploring overlay journals: the RIOJA project

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# RIOJA

- ❑ RIOJA - *Repository Interface for Overlaid Journal Archives*
  - ❑ Exploring aspects of overlay journals
  - ❑ Some technical, some social/economic
- ❑ 1-year project, from March 2007
- ❑ Partnership:
  - ❑ Researchers from UCL, Cambridge, Glasgow and Imperial
  - ❑ UCL Library Services
  - ❑ Technical staff from Cornell University
- ❑ Working within the Astrophysics and Cosmology subject domain, but outputs will be reusable in other disciplines

# Overlay journals

- For our purposes: journals built on content deposited to and stored in one or more repositories
  - Quality-assured
  - E-only
  - Open access
  - Sustainable
- As a service layer over repository content, could provide a cost-effective solution to making research outcomes publicly available
- Some examples of journal-repository interaction
  - Annals of Mathematics, Perspectives in Electronic Publishing...
- None in Astrophysics

# RIOJA - origins

- ❑ Impetus came from academic researchers in Astrophysics and Cosmology
- ❑ CosmoCoffee discussions, 2005
  - ❑ arXiv subject repository is of everyday importance
  - ❑ whereas journals are little-used
    - ❑ *"Journals are already redundant as a way of distributing research results [in this discipline]"*
  - ❑ Peer review is valued
  - ❑ but impatience with machinery of formal publication
    - ❑ *"Ultimately a 'journal' should just be a quality mark that appears with a particular version of an article in an online repository"*
  - ❑ Subscription costs seem disproportionately high
    - ❑ *"How can it cost this much to publish papers in journals?"*

## RIOJA - origins (continued)

- ❑ Adding a quality stamp to arXiv deposits could cut out the need for formal publication in journals
- ❑ Although...
  - ❑ need for Editors (paid?)
  - ❑ career concerns (recognition by funders, RAE, promotion boards)
  - ❑ there must be some costs we haven't thought of...?
  - ❑ *"the hard part will be getting people involved – as authors, referees and editors – not the technical issues"*
- ❑ RIOJA!

# RIOJA - aims...

- ❑ Build the RIOJA toolkit
  - ❑ A set of APIs
    - ❑ some for implementation by a repository, some by a journal
    - ❑ some required (eg author validation, metadata extraction); others optional (eg trackback support)
- ❑ Construct a demonstrator overlay journal
  - ❑ An implementation of the RIOJA toolkit
    - ❑ arXiv repository
    - ❑ PKP journal software
      - may also produce a DPubS implementation

## RIOJA - aims...

- ❑ Survey: from anecdote to fact!
- ❑ Questionnaire survey to 6,000+ researchers
  - ❑ Selected from top 100 universities and other institutions (THES World Rankings 2006)
- ❑ Explore the views of editorial board members - both academic editors and managing editors
- ❑ What does this community really want from a journal?
  - Which "value-added" publisher services are really valued?
  - Which desirable features are missing from existing offers?
- ❑ What factors are critical to the successful academic take-up of an arXiv-overlay journal?

# RIOJA - aims...

- ❑ Recommend a Digital Preservation strategy for content accepted by an arXiv-overlay journal
- ❑ Supported by life-cycle costing techniques developed by the UCL/BL LIFE Project
  - <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/life/>

## RIOJA - aims...

- Sustainability
- Estimate the running costs for an arXiv-overlay journal
  - taking into account the journal features valued by this community; also including preservation costs
- Identify and appraise cost-recovery options for an arXiv-overlay journal
- Could an arXiv-overlay journal be sustained, post-project?

# RIOJA and other disciplines

- ❑ Astrophysics is an extreme example of the integration of a repository in day-to-day research workflow
- ❑ Some RIOJA outputs will be reusable in other contexts
  - ❑ Toolkit is intended to be generic
  - ❑ Survey content and methodology will be repeatable
- ❑ Others may be helpful indirectly
  - ❑ Survey results will provide a snapshot of the research practices, wants and needs of one academic community
  - ❑ Costings for the Astrophysics-arXiv overlay scenario may help to inform similar ventures in other disciplines

# Progress

- Toolkit specified
- Technical work at arXiv completed
- Demonstrator construction under way
  - Final version due October 2007
- Survey will run 8th June - 2nd July 2007
  - Preliminary results will be reported in August 2007

# Further information

- Project team: [lib-rioja@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:lib-rioja@ucl.ac.uk)
- Web site: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ls/rioja>
- N.B. End-of-project conference, March/April 2008?
  
- Thank you