The open access movement is an emerging issue in Spain, but it is becoming a familiar term within the scientific community. It has advanced in the past three or four years with more frequent initiatives related to repositories and open/free journals. The 246 registered signatories of the Berlin Declaration include 21 Spanish institutions, most of which signed it in 2006. The Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROAR) and the Directory of Open Access Repositories (OpenDOAR) have in their records 32 and 22 open access repositories from Spain, respectively, but these figures do not represent the real ones, since there are more that have not registered yet (see BUSCA REPOSITORIOS ), and others that are listed in those directories which are not repositories but journals or aggregators The oldest repository in Spain Tesis Doctorals en Xarxa (‘Networked Doctoral Theses’) was created in year 2001, but most of the Spanish institutional repositories emerged at the end of 2004 or the beginning of 2005 (Melero, 2006). Nevertheless, there is evidence that more have been created and announced in recent months (Melero, 2007). These data do not correlate with the DRIVER I inventory study in which the response of the 12 invited (those registered at that time in OpenDOAR) was very low (3 answers). However, the international presence of our repositories, measured as participations in OA initiatives, is increasing as described below. Respect to Spanish forums, related to repositories and in general to the OA movement, at least there are 3 very active: the OS-Repositorios (= Open Science-Repositories), GUDE (Dspace Spanish users group) Open Access Madrimasd (A. Lopez’s blog supported by Madrid Regional Government and ). The first two groups hold meetings and workshops periodically about hot topics related to repository issues.

Based on OpenDOAR records, Dspace and ePrints are the software used most to implement repositories. Most Spanish repositories (78 %) are institutional, mainly created by universities. The commonest types of repositories are those archiving conference and workshop papers, theses and dissertations, and research papers (pre and post prints). The growth of Spanish repositories with time, from data provided by ROAR, seems to fall into three types: plateau, stairstep and steady growth. The clearest growth behaviour is the one of TDX, which has followed the steady pattern. The first model responds to repositories in which digital objects are deposited regularly along the time, the second and the third ones are those in which uploads are done by batches of different size at different intervals of time, as has been observed previously in other repositories (Davis and Connolly, 2007).

In Spain there are different initiatives, at regional and national level, to develop services on top of the existing repositories. At the regional level, the Autonomous Communities of Catalonia and Madrid are the most active, because their respective territories account for most of the existing institutional repositories in Spain. The services are implemented through the Library Consortia of each Autonomous Community.
The Autonomous Community of Madrid and the “Consortio Madrőño” (Libraries of the public Universities of Madrid and UNED) have created a regional scientific portal, “e-ciencia”, which gives free access to academic research output in the Region of Madrid from the 7 participant universities and the Spanish National Research Council. Currently the portal contains about 19,000 documents, 100% open access. The documents are mostly textual (except from a collection of about 8,000 audio/video documents from the UNED library) and only academic and scientific in scope. The portal offers a central search service but is also developing such other services as a regional citation service, metadata export, and statistics. The repositories have created sets by type of document and subject to offer; in the near future there will be thematic search engines and gateways. It also offers copyright issues advice to libraries and researchers. It has translated the “licence to publish” from the Zwolle Project. The portal is also helping the participant institutions to work together with common standards; the participants’ repositories are already working in compliance with the Driver guidelines. This project is strongly supported by the Government of the Autonomous Community of Madrid, that as a funding agency it has implemented the first and the only “open access” policy in Spain: it is only a recommendation to the researchers it funds to self-archive in the Institutional repositories harvested by the portal, but it is a promising step that opens up the way to other agencies and organizations in Spain.

The Catalan Consortia, CBUC, from the Autonomous Community of Catalonia, works with a slightly different model: it has created two aggregating or inter-institutional repositories: “Recercat”, a cooperative repository of digital documents, works as a common institutional repository for the universities in Catalonia that do not have their own local institutional repository and at the same time it harvests the content of the universities that do have their own institutional repository. It contains research literature from universities and researching centres of Catalonia, like preprints, communications in congress, research reports, working papers, university final projects, technical reports, etc. (2,778 documents). TDX is also a cooperative repository of theses from different universities of Spain (19 universities are currently participating, 5,240 thesis). It does not work as a service provider (it does not harvest other repositories) but as a common data repository where different universities of Spain deposit their thesis. Both repositories are 100% open access.

At the national level the initiative is leaded by the Network of Academic and Research University Libraries of Spain, REBIUN. Co-funded by the Minister of Education, REBIUN has created the national open access research portal, “Recolecta”, just released in February, 2008. The portal has been inspired by DareNet in the Netherlands, the information platform open-access.net in Germany, and DRIVER. The portal wants to be not only the central access and dissemination point of Spanish research, but to give the development of institutional repositories in Spain a sense of a national endeavour, to make the diverse landscape of Spanish repositories a true infrastructure, and to increase capacity of influence in terms of open access policies. The portal will establish some recommendations in order to be harvested and some specifications to participate in the services which will be implemented; and these specifications will be based on the DRIVER guidelines and the DINI Certificate. For this reason, the project has translated both documents. At the same time, copyright issues remain a key problem for the success of the population of our repositories, and the portal will offer advice on the matter. It has translated the Sherpa/ROMEO interface (thanks to the kind help of Frank Schulz).
References

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GUDE:  Dspace Users in Spain http://www.rediris.es/list/info/gude.es.html

Inventory study into the present type and level of OAI compliant Digital Repository activities in the EU.  http://www.driver-support.eu/documents/DRIVER%20Inventory%20study%202007.pdf

Open Access Madrimasd. ( http://weblogs.madrimasd.org/openaccess/ )

OS-REPOSITORIOS: Working group for OA repositories implementation (http://www.rediris.es/list/info/os-repositorios.es.html)


