

Improving Access to European E-Theses: the DART-Europe Programme

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LIBER 37th Annual General Conference, Koç University, Istanbul, 1-5 July 2008



Outline

- □ Background
- ☐ The partnership
- □ Key relationships
- ☐ The DART-Europe Portal
- ☐ Other DART-Europe activities
- ☐ Partnership Agreement
- □ Conclusion





DART-Europe: first phase

- ☐ Began in 2005 as a 18-month project
- ☐ Founding academic partners from UK (UCL, Dartington, Oxford University) and Ireland (Trinity College Dublin)
- ☐ In association with ProQuest (technology partner)
- Working where possible with national libraries and consortia
- ☐ Resourced only through partner contributions





DART-Europe: first phase - aims

- ☐ Creation of an open access Portal for e-theses
- ☐ Creation of a hosted repository service
- □ Collation/creation of general advice and guidance on etheses, including IPR, formats...
- ☐ Demonstrator digital preservation service for e-theses
- ☐ Identification of a business model for sustainability, founded on value-added services
 - □ e.g. sale of bound copies, copyright checking, metadata enrichment



DART-Europe: first phase - successes and...

- ☐ Created a demonstrator Portal for e-theses
- □ Successfully tested a hosted repository service still available through ProQuest
- ☐ Limited work on advice and guidance this was taken on very effectively by other bodies, such as GUIDE
- No digital preservation testing
- ☐ Business model not identified in this period





DART-Europe: second phase, 2007-

- ☐ A fully community-led partnership
- ☐ Administered by UCL; governed by a Board of Partners
- ☐ Resourced entirely through partner contributions
- No longer a 'project'; DART-Europe is ongoing
- ☐ Supporting the management, discovery, usability and preservation of e-theses



Current partners

- ☐ BICfB (Bibliothèque Interuniversitaire de la Communauté française de Belgique), Belgium
- ☐ CBUC (Consorci de Biblioteques Universitàries de Catalunya), Spain
- ☐ University of Debrecen University and National Library, Hungary
- Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, Germany
- ☐ DiVA (Digitala Vetenskapliga Arkive), Sweden and Norway
- Dublin City University, Ireland

- Helsinki University of Technology, Finland
- ☐ Ecoles Polytechniques fédérales de Lausanne, Switzerland
- ☐ Lund University, Sweden
- ☐ University of Nottingham, UK
- Oxford University, UK
- ☐ Tartu University, Estonia
- □ Trinity College Dublin, Ireland
- ☐ UCL (University College London), UK





Prospective partners

- ☐ ABES (France)
- □ Austrian University Libraries
- □ EthosNet (UK)
- NORA (Norwegian Open Research Archive)
- □ PINDAR (Denmark)
- ☐ PLEIADI (Italy)
- Swiss University Libraries





Key relationships

□ LIBER
 □ DART-Europe is endorsed by LIBER as part of the work of the LIBER Access Division
 □ NDLTD (Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations)
 □ DART-Europe is the NDLTD's Working Group for Europe
 □ Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KB), Netherlands
 □ DART and KB are discussing joint work on digital preservation of e-theses
 □ DRIVER
 □ A DART-DRIVER partnership? Exploratory technical work has begun.
 □ DART is also contributing to DRIVER guidelines.



The DART-Europe E-theses Portal

- ☐ Access to 90,000+ full-text e-theses.
- ☐ Thesis records from:
 - > 34 data sources (a mixture of national, consortial and institutional)
 - > 11 countries
 - > 140 institutions
- ☐ Daily updates
- ☐ Data collection using simple OAI Dublin Core
 - MODS, MARC also supported
- □ Off-the-shelf harvesting technology (PKP)
- ☐ Bespoke user interface





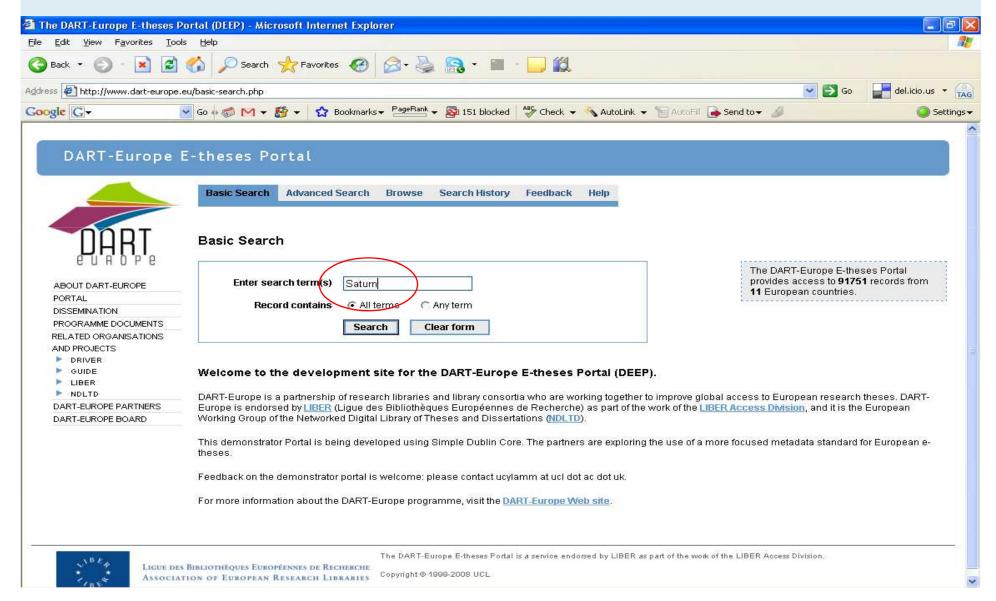
A pragmatic outlook

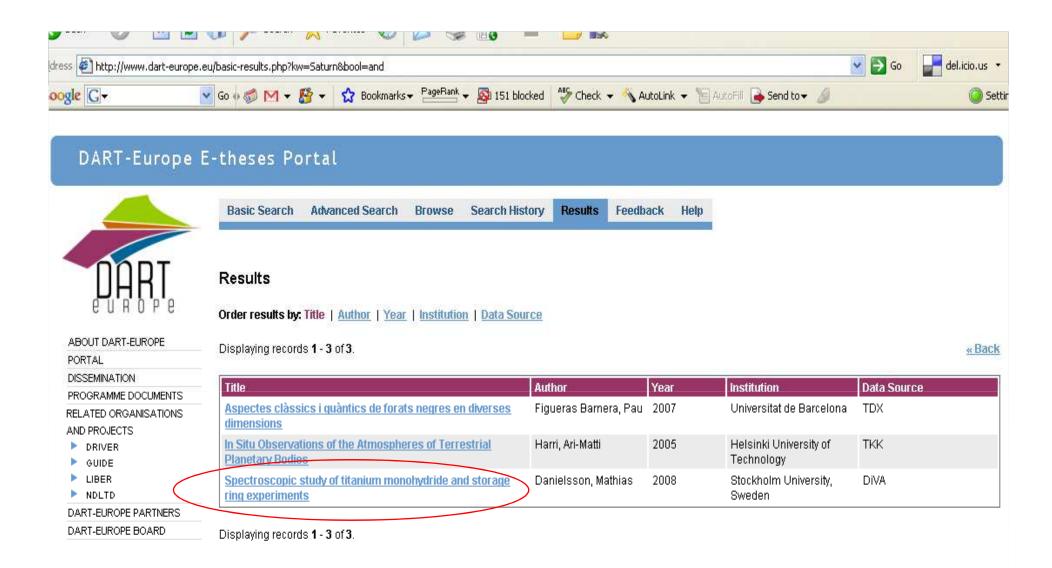
- ☐ Interoperability can be very complex
- ☐ DART-Europe aims to keep things simple
 - ☐ Minimise technical barriers for potential contributors
 - ☐ Focus on supporting discovery by users
- ☐ Realistic metadata guidelines:
 - ☐ Essential: author, title, date, identifier (hyperlink)
 - ☐ Desirable: abstract, institution, language, contributor (supervisor)
- ☐ Portal does not attempt to capture and consolidate every piece of information about every thesis
 - ☐ maintains links to source repositories for full metadata, award details, rights info, supplementary data...

UCL LIBRARY SERVICES



Overview (N.B. this version is due for release July 08 – what you see here is still a work in progress!)







DART-Europe E-theses Portal



ABOUT DART-EUROPE

PORTAL

DISSEMINATION

PROGRAMME DOCUMENTS:

RELATED ORGANISATIONS

AND PROJECTS

- DRIVER
- GUIDE
- ▶ LIBER
- NDLTD

DART-EUROPE PARTNERS

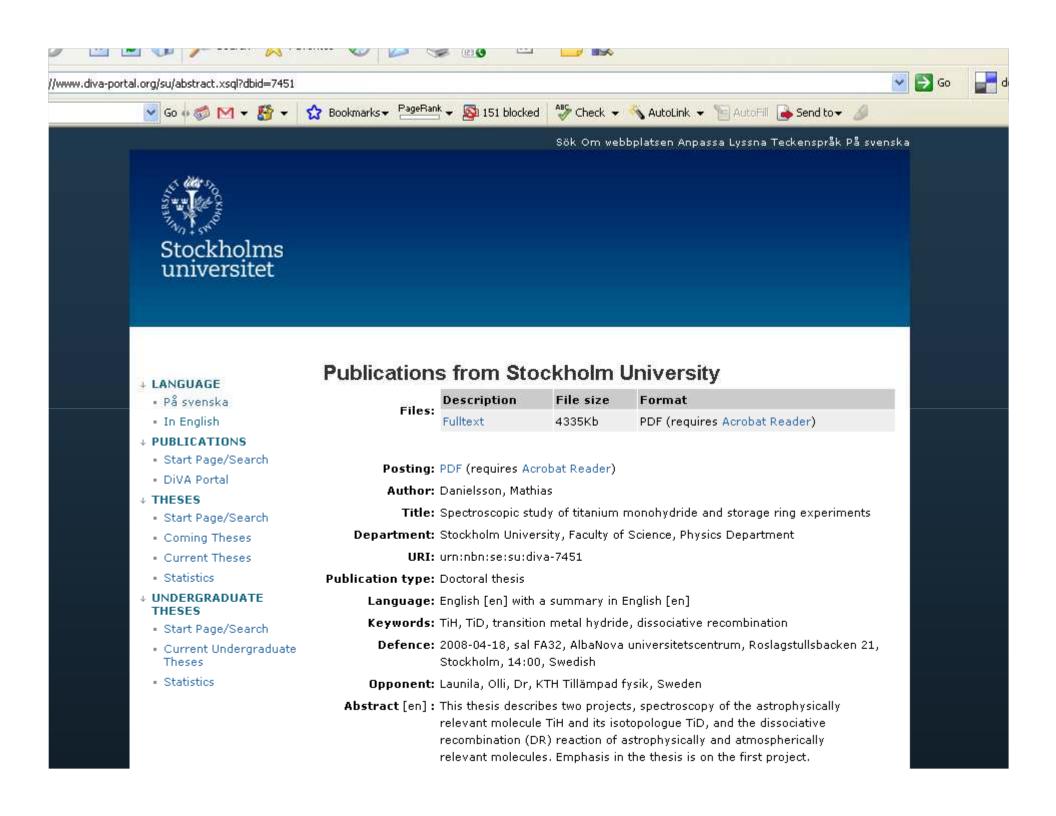
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Basic Search Advanced Search Browse Search History Results Full Record Feedback Help

Full record



Title	Spectroscopic study of titanium monohydride and storage ring experiments
Author(s)	Danielsson, Mathias
Date	2008-03-27
Language	en
Identifier	http://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn:nbn:se:su:diva-7451
Identifier	um. nbn:s ersu:diva-7451
Publisher	Stockholm University, Sweden
Туре	text.thesis.doctoral
Format	text/html
Format	application/pdf
Format	application/xml
Rights	Copyright Mathias Danielsson 2008
Subject	TiH
Subject	TiD
Subject	transition metal hydride
Subject	dissociative recombination
Description	This thesis describes two projects, spectroscopy of the astrophysically relevant molecule TiH and its isotopologue TiD, and the dissociative recombination (DR) reaction of astrophysically and atmospherically relevant molecules. Emphasis in the thesis is on the first project these releases of least older another seriors. By





Spectroscopic study of titanium monohydride and storage ring experiments

Mathias Danielsson

Academic dissertation for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Chemical Physics at Stockholm University to be publicly defended on Friday 18 April 2008 at 14:00 in sal FA32, AlbaNova universitetscentrum, Roslagstullsbacken 21.

Abstract

This thesis describes two projects, spectroscopy of the astrophysically relevant molecule TiH and

DART-Europe E-theses Portal



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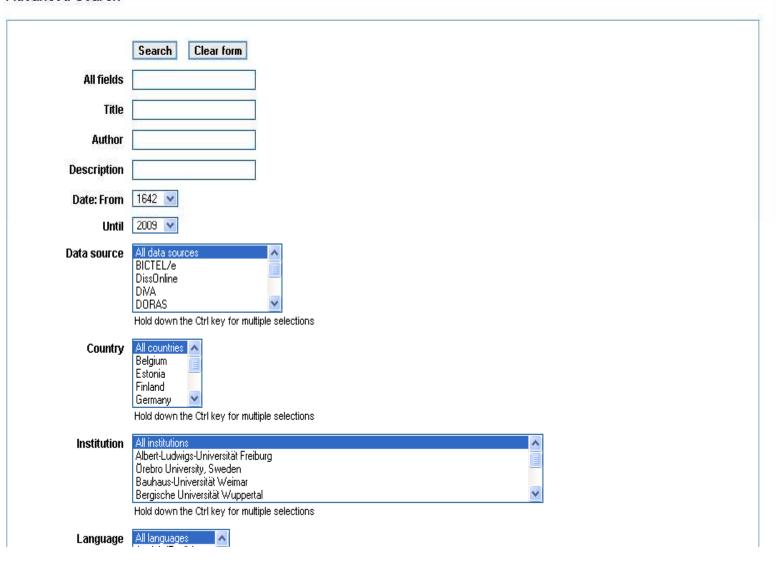
- DRIVER
- ▶ GUIDE
- ► LIBER
- NDLTD

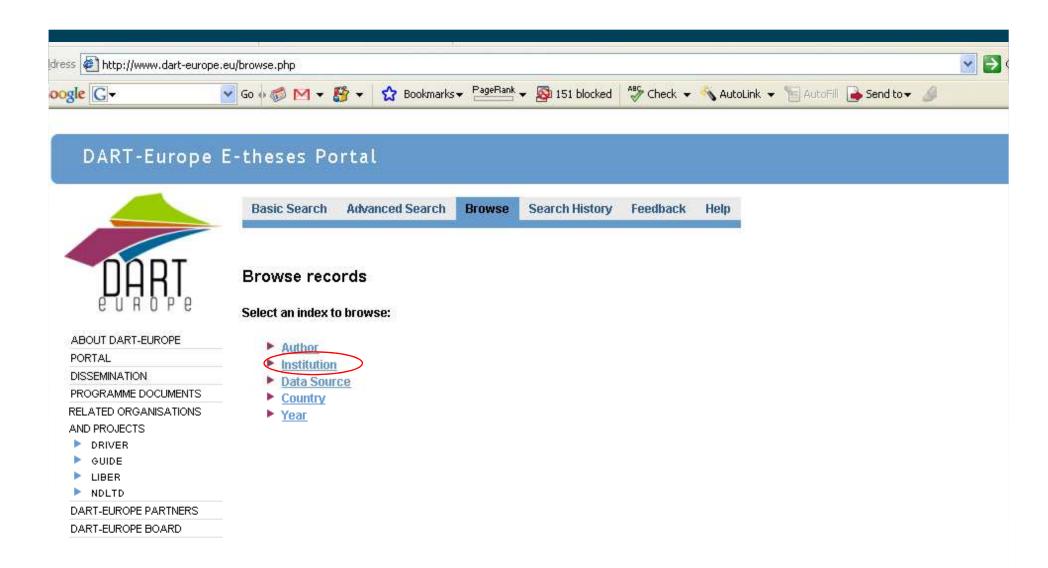
DART-EUROPE PARTNERS

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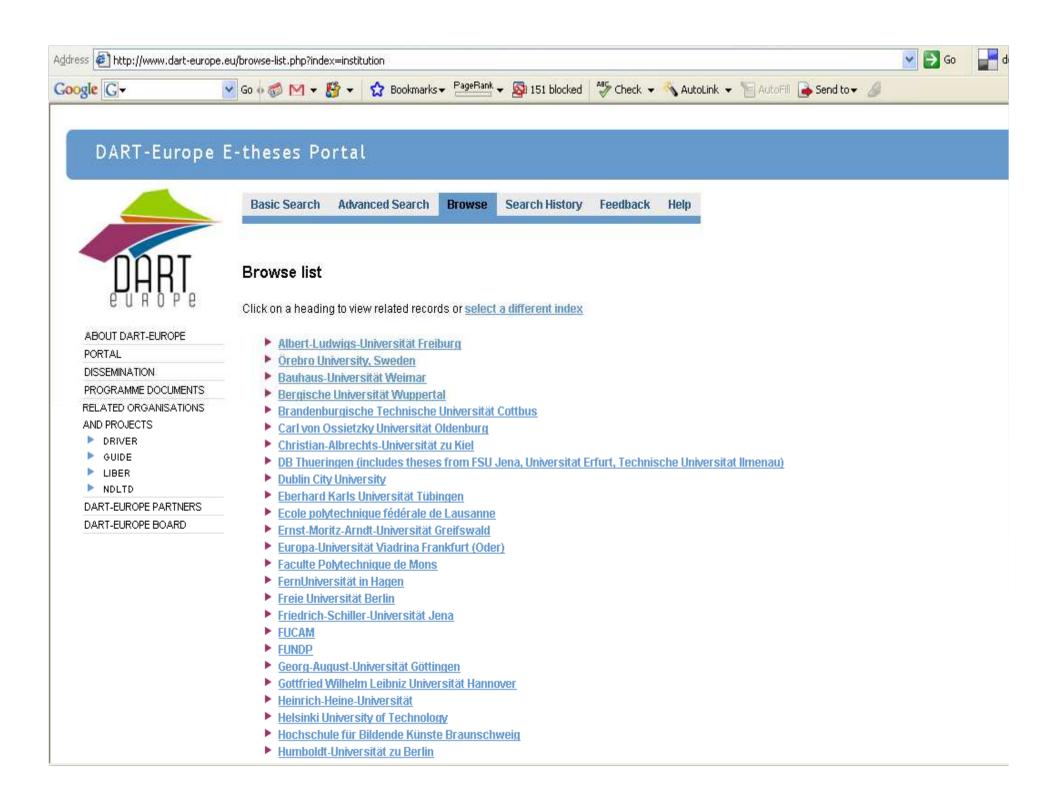
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Advanced Search



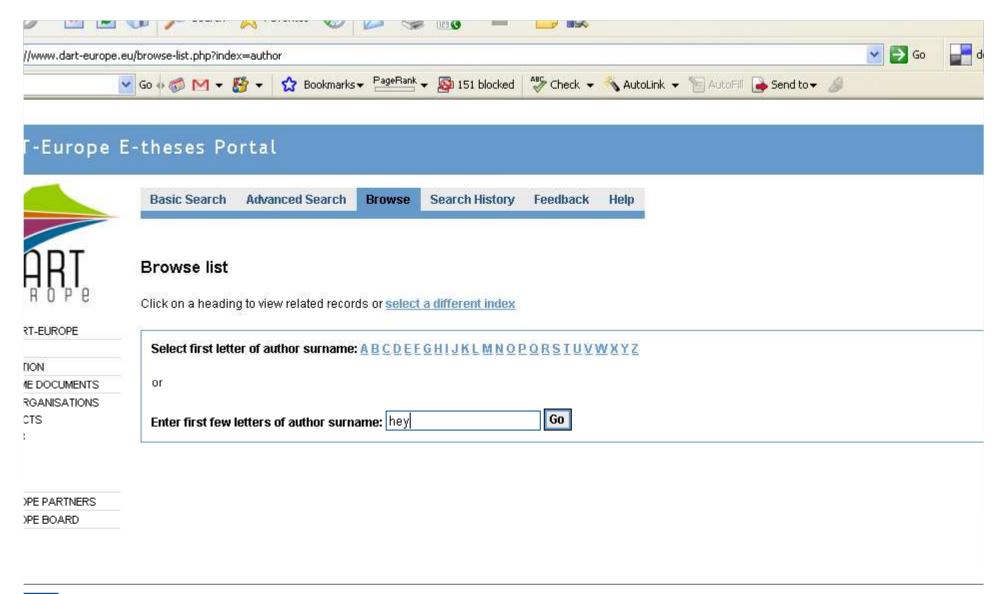




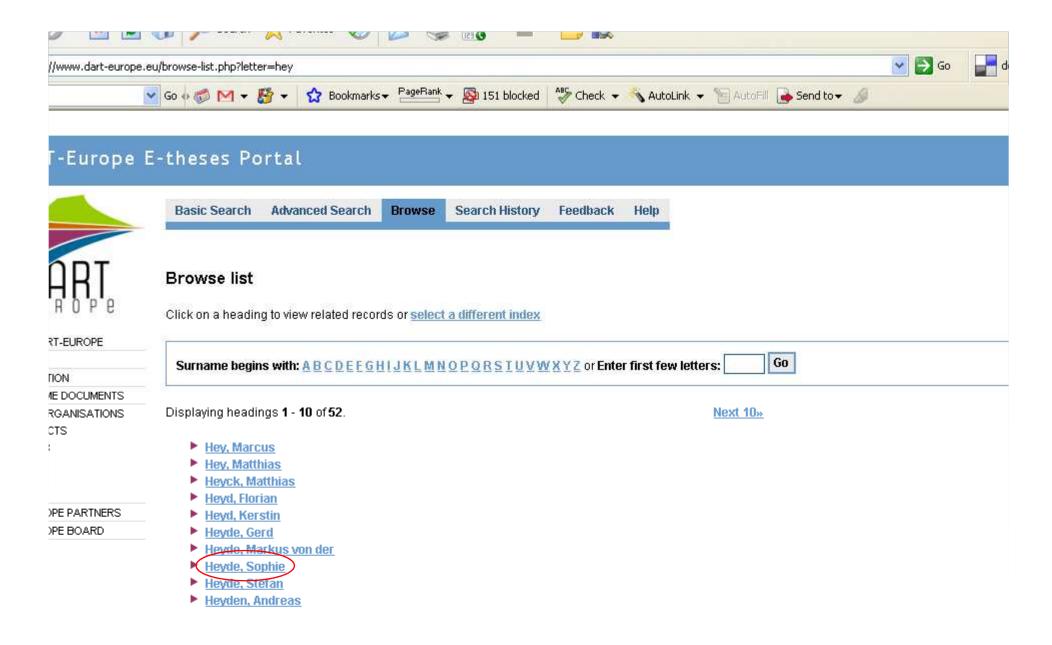


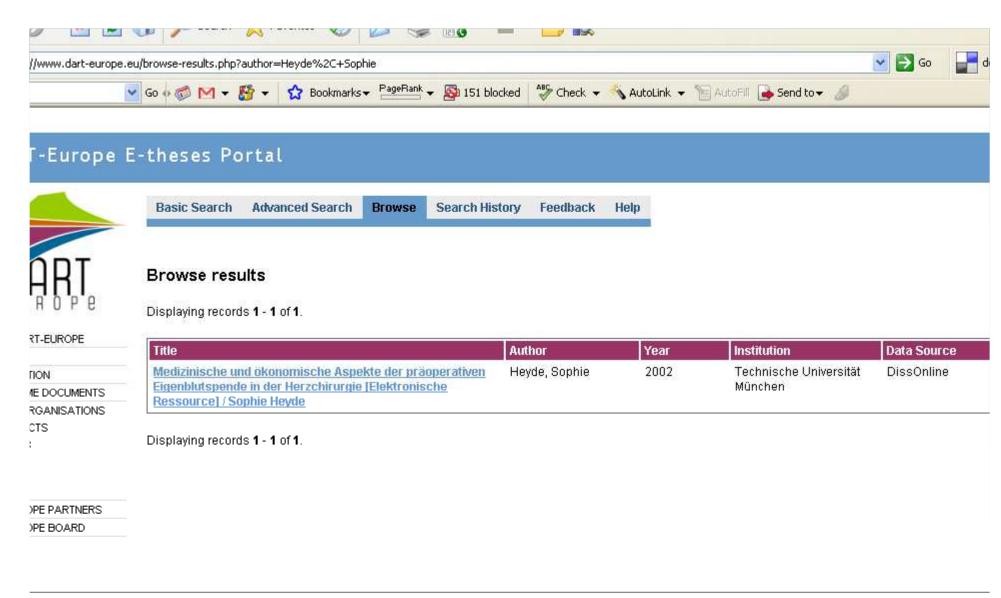




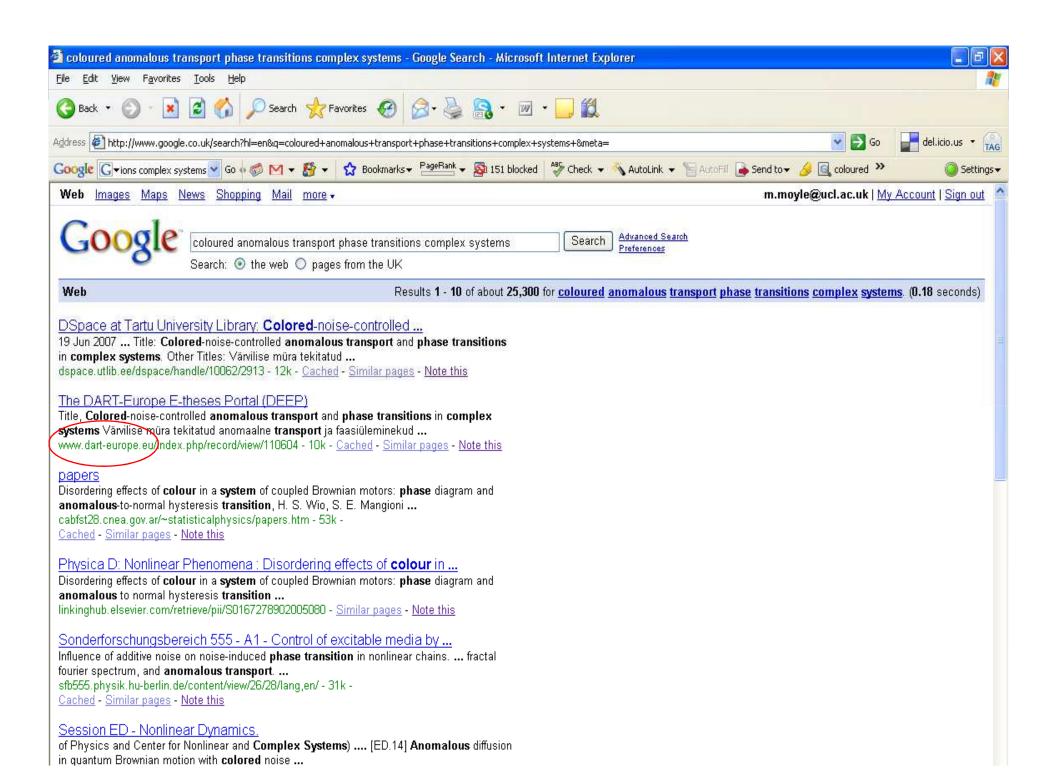






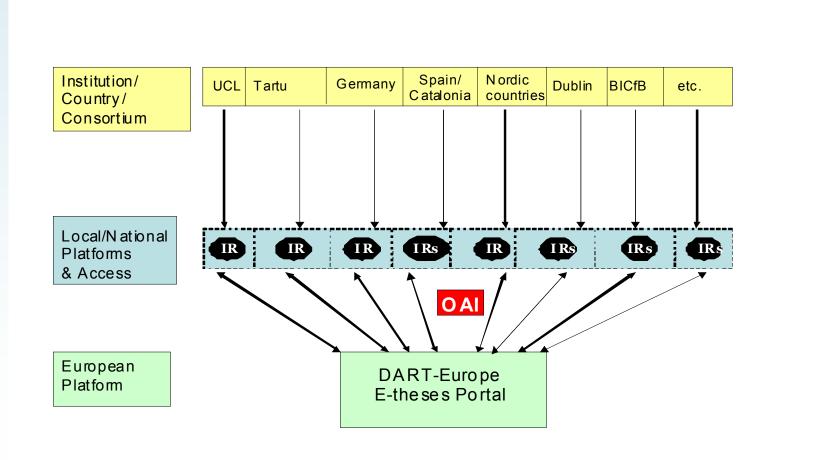








Portal - simple overview





Interoperability in practice

- ☐ Repositories usually have rich, well-organised local metadata
- ☐ However, when exporting records, everybody does things differently
 - ☐ Dublin Core can be interpreted and used in different ways
 - Meaning can be lost (example dates)
 - ☐ Fundamental information not always present, or not helpfully formatted
 - ☐ Many repository managers don't have the technical expertise/support/time to meet even simple guidelines
- ☐ To deliver even a no-frills discovery service like the DART Portal requires additional work on harvested data.





Example: dates



Excerpt from thesis record, as seen by users at source repository

<dc:creator>loffe, M</dc:creator>
<dc:date>2008-06-18T06:10:33Z</dc:date>
<dc:date>2008-06-18T06:10:33Z</dc:date>
<dc:date>1911</dc:date>
<dc:identifier>http://hdl.handle.net/10062/6525</dc:identifier>

A DC harvester's view of the same data...

Ob izmnenijah nervov

Ioffe, M

2008-06-18T06:10:33Z2008-06-18T06:10:33Z1911

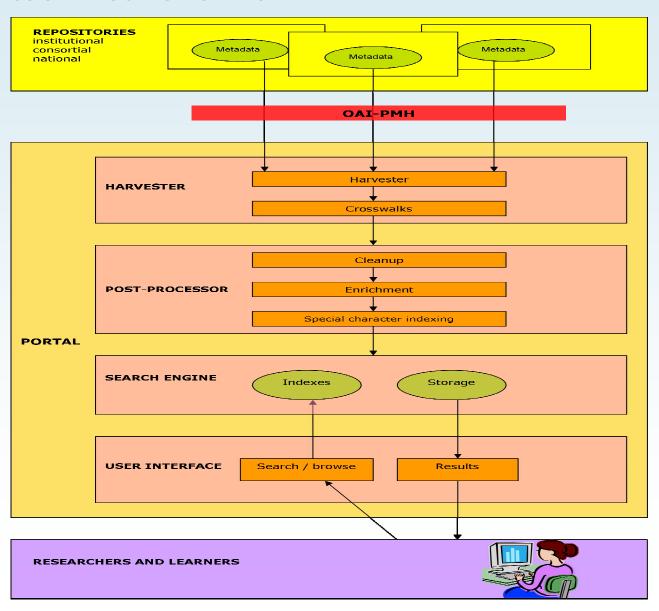
VIEW DEEP RECORD | VIEW ORIGINAL

of 1 Items

Possible outcome for a harvesting-based service...



Portal - technical overview





DART-Europe Portal - future plans

- ☐ Switch to new version of interface (July 2008)
- ☐ Launch the Portal as a service (Q4 2008)
- ☐ Service improvements:
 - ☐ User-oriented: RSS, alerts, refine searches, export results.
 - ☐ Extend multilingual search/retrieval; interface translations.
 - ☐ Usage statistics.
- ☐ Determine running costs.
 - ☐ What do users really want? Is it feasible?
 - ☐ Sustainable cost-recovery plan can then be pursued
 - ☐ Exploratory work with DRIVER under way.





DART-Europe: other activities

- □ DART-Europe has other technical interests...
 - ☐ Digital preservation; retrodigitisation of theses; metadata
- □ ...and non-technical interests. Early in 2008, GUIDE (Guiding Universities In Doctoral Theses) merged into DART-Europe
 - ☐ DART-GUIDE will support advocacy and training
 - ☐ Earlier work by GUIDE is available through the DART Web site
 - ☐ A survey of e-theses developments across Europe, by country
 - ☐ Collation of good practice and toolkits covering advocacy, metadata, legal issues, and lessons learned from major European e-theses projects



Partnership Agreement

- ☐ 'Light-touch'
 - ☐ Places very few obligations on partners
 - ☐ But helps to build a sense of community
- ☐ Partners agree to 7 principles, for example:
 - ☐ Partners are invited to contribute metadata, on their own terms, to the Portal
 - ☐ Partners are invited to contribute resources to support DART-Europe's work
 - ☐ Partners help DART-Europe to be an effective network for e-thesis information, expertise and resources



Conclusion

- □ No dedicated funding means that progress has been incremental, but the Partners have remained enthusiastic, and results are finally becoming tangible.
- ☐ The Portal is potentially a useful scholarly resource, and there is already evidence that it is being used. It is time to start marketing it to the academic community.
- ☐ The Partners benefit from DART-Europe as an effective networking organisation not just for thesis issues.
- ☐ Much to look forward to in the coming months
 - ☐ Collaboration with the KB; co-working with DRIVER; expansion of Partnership; further Portal developments; renewal of GUIDE's work...
 - ☐ Hopefully the LIBER community will benefit!





Further information

□ DART-Europe Web site:

http://www.dart-europe.eu/About

☐ Portal:

http://www.dart-europe.eu

- ☐ Email: m.moyle@ucl.ac.uk
- ☐ Thank you

