

EDITORIAL

When drafting the SciX proposal we have not been aware of the full extent of the movement that is trying to bring the scientific publishing back to its origins. With the work that the SciX team was doing before the project - the ITcon Journal, the CUMINCAD digital library and the Web supported conference organisation process, we have been an active part of that movement as well. What we have shown, in contrast to many similar efforts, was sustainability over quite a period of time. The ITcon journal is in its 7th volume.

In this last quarter we have made an extensive review of what is happening in the community, in part through the study of various projects and activities, in part through establishing contacts at dedicated conferences and workshops.

Several reports have been finalised - most importantly the technological state of the art study, including the requirements specification and the report on content acquisition techniques and the draft architecture of the SciX platform. Highlights of these reports are featured in this newsletter. In accordance to the SciX philosophy of open publishing, the reports are public and freely available on the SciX website at <http://www.scix.net/>

TECHNOLOGY IS THERE, ARE WE READY?

Extensive study of related projects, relevant technologies and user requirements showed that technically, there are a few obstacles to setting up various kinds of electronic publications, however, most support rather traditional business models, and not such as envisioned by SciX. Results are presented in deliverable D8 and include:

- Overview of some 25 Scix-related projects and research.
- Market watch of a dozen commercial and free systems.
- A study of business models of the new economy.
- An overview of the core technologies focusing on interoperability support and semantic Web: XML, WSDL, UDDI, SOAP, J@EE, CORBA.
- The report also addresses the metadata standards, and standards for the representation of full text.

- An important part of the deliverable are the user requirements. In SciX we identified the following stakeholders in the scientific information exchange process: authors, readers, industry readers, journal editors, reviewers, librarians and publishers.

It has been generally accepted that the implemented solution should conform to the Open Archives Initiative and specifically to the Dublin Core. As part of the published API there should be a mechanism to enable data to be extracted in ENDNOTE format. This will enable many institutions around the world to have access to the information held within SciX. The final decisions as to design and implementation will be contained in Deliverable 9 and the reader is referred to that document

Based on this corpus of knowledge, the business process analysis (D1) and the content acquisition methods (D5), the system architecture will be proposed in the deliverable D9.

HOW TO ENSURE THE CONTENT FOR YOUR DIGITAL LIBRARY?

The key players in the SciX project are not libraries, publishers or professional societies, but scientists themselves. They are interested in topic related content - engineering and architecture informatics, regardless of the institution or of the society in which this content is created. A study was conducted within the SciX project on how to get the content from individuals, organisations and societies into publicly available digital libraries. The findings are detailed in deliverable D5. Based on extensive experience with the CUMINCAD library, which comprises content originating in several different groups of scientists conclude that the best strategy to create complete and relevant topical digital archives lies with the good relationships with the societies whose members did the research and wrote the materials. It is of utmost importance these societies take such an archive to be "their own" and that are represented in the steering of the archive. Such an approach is also contributing to the reversal of the process that took scientific publishing away from the professional societies in the early 20th century.

HOW DOES YOUR COMMUNITY FEEL ABOUT ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING?

One of the objectives of the SciX project is to "investigate the legal, social and psychological obstacles to using eWork approaches in this area as well; this will include a survey among about 300 of our colleagues on their views on e-publishing". A survey like this was conducted in spring 2002 within the community of IT specialists in civil engineering, construction and architecture (<http://itcon.org/2000/5/>).

In the SciX project we are providing the software under the open source license that allows anyone to repeat such a survey in his/hers own community. We believe it would be interesting to compare the results across the communities. The software runs on the Internet and is very easy to extend with one's own questions. It also provides for some rudimentary statistical analysis and graphing (below).

Base your ratings on how much time you spend on different sources, classified by content. When you learn about what is going on and should be of relevance to you, which paths are dead ends, new methods and tools etc.

1=don't use at all ... 5=use a lot

1.0	scientific journal articles
2.0	reading conference or workshop proceedings
3.0	listening to conference or workshop presentations
3.7	journal or conference articles I review
4.7	books
NA	Ph.D. and Master's theses
3.0	research reports, project plans and presentation

Figure: Survey results.

SCIX ON THE ROAD

eCAADe 2002 (Warsaw, Poland, 18.-21. Sept. 2002). Prof. Martens promoted the SciX project and the exchange of ideas about the future development of the CUMINCAD-repository, born in the ECAADe community. The eCAADe Digital Proceedings (1983-2000) have been entered in form of individual papers, furthermore the 2001 and 2002 conferences have also been recorded. eCAADe takes the lead in this repository with nearly 900 full papers.

ACADIA 2002 (Pomona, USA, 24.-27. Oct. 2002). Prof. Martens tried to ensure digital content from the ACADIA conferences for inclusion in the CUMINCAD digital library. ACADIA has digitised nearly all previous conference papers. The procedure of gathering consents from individual authors has been announced to the membership and forms may possibly sent out together with the next upcoming mail shot (together with the membership update). So far full papers from the 2000 and 2001 proceedings have been entered in the repository and the 2002 materials have been handed over. Furthermore full text pdf-files will be made available from the last 10 issues of the ACADIA Quarterly.

On the occasion of both eCAADe and ACADIA conferences the idea of submission of individual bibliographies was promoted. Also demonstrations of CUMINCAD were given, with a special focus for the newly added extension of references.

2nd Workshop on the Open Archives Initiative (OAI): **Gaining independence with e-prints archives and OAI** (CERN, Geneva, Switzerland, 17.-19. October 2002). Some 140 people, including Prof. Turk (guest speaker) and Prof. Cooper of SciX, discussed the present and future of the Open archive initiative and issues related to electronic publishing in general. A talk on the SciX project - SciX project: Lowering the technical, economic and social barriers to open scientific publishing - was presented. Numerous contacts were established. Ideas on the possible contribution of SciX to the OAI movement were identified. More interesting than the technical issues were the reoccurring technical and social questions and that of the future roles of the main actors - authors, publishers, libraries and research evaluators.

First Nordic Conference on Scholarly Communication (Lund, Copenhagen, 22.-23. October, 2002). Prof. Bjork and Ms. Heglund participated in a three-day conference on different aspects on scholarly communication, organized for the first time in the Nordic countries. Prof. Björk was one of the invited speakers and presented a paper: "SciX - a critical study of the scientific publishing process".

The three days program consisted of 13 invited speakers, all experts in publishing, libraries or scientific research. The program was very interesting and enlightened the role of publications and publishing in the overall framework of scholarly communication. There seems to be a consensus among many that to run a sustained effort in electronic publishing, a professional staff is required and the costs need to be recuperated - with author charges. The same issue was vigorously debated at the OAI meeting in Geneva. Definitely an issue into which SciX could, through business process analysis, shed some light.

Papers or presentations from the above conference are available on the SciX digital library at <http://www.scix.net/db/use/bibliography>

SciX meeting in Helsinki. SciX partners met in Helsinki, Sept. 23.-24., 2002. Pending deliverables and review were discussed.

Project: IST 2001-33127 SciX
Internet: www.scix.net

The sole responsibility for this newsletter is with the authors; the information published does not express the opinions of the Community nor of the project partners.