

EDITORIAL

In this newsletter we are presenting a few SciX pilots that have been in the process of setting up in the last couple of months. Some are related to the digital libraries managed by the members of the SciX consortium and handling the works from their domains - architecture and engineering. Others are a result of the dissemination of SciX. We are particularly proud that the ELPUB community, that has been staging conferences and workshops on Electronic Publishing since 1997 chose the emerging SciX platform to publish their heritage on the Internet.

These on-line libraries, of course, do not mean, that the project work is over. On the contrary. The development cycle in SciX is incremental; Web applications are set up with some basic functionality and then advanced features are being added gradually. Also, the underlying code is being reworked to comply with a modern Web services architecture. This is essential, because at the time of writing, the re-engineering of the publishing process has not been completed. We believe, however, that a set of Web services will be created, which can be used in a thin application layer to provide the functionality of the re-engineered publication process. The code of the services and of the applications will be placed under an open source license.

SCIX AND THE ITCON JOURNAL

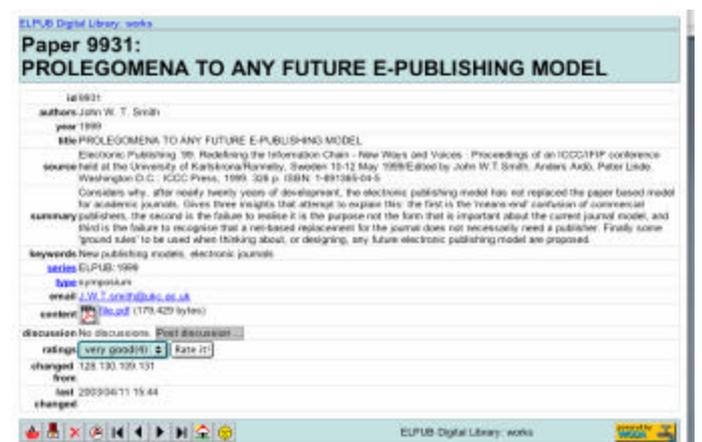
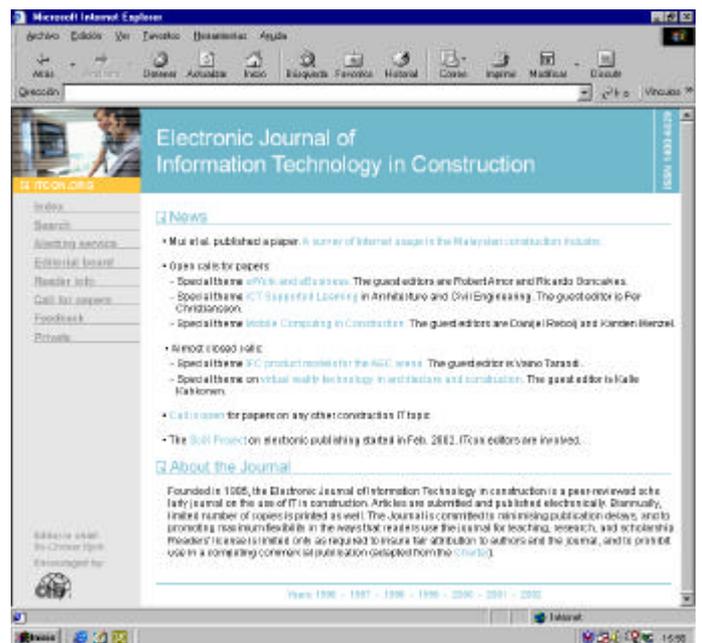
Indra has setup a complete design line as well as a layout guideline for the web site provided to the Electronic Journal of Information Technology in construction (http://www.itcon.org).

ITcon will soon upgrade the internal process towards a database service driven procedure by means of using the SciX technology. The Electronic Journal of Information Technology in construction is a peer-reviewed scholarly journal on the use of IT in construction, founded in 1995, where its articles are submitted and published electronically.

NEWS ABOUT SCIX PILOTS

Several academic communities are using the SciX platform to implement their digital archives. Ironically spoken, as **ELPUB** stands for Electronic Pub-

lishing, the tangible output in terms of ELPUB-proceedings was not made available to the audience by electronic means. There are clear reasons, such as the clarification of copyright issues, why this did not happen so far. The "history" of ELPUB started in 1997 with an initial conference in Canterbury. Nearly all data from the early days of ELPUB has been archived and minimal investments were as a matter of principle necessary to produce e-prints. Generally spoke it can be said, that backdigitisation from paper-based materials by means of scanning and OCR is much more labour intensive as the "reuse" of archived digital data sources, which leads to a better result concerning the quality of reproduction. In some cases original color image which were printed in black and white can now be displayed in color without additional costs.



Entering metadata did not cause major problems at all and it is planned to have the digital archive completed in the course of spring this year (<http://elpub.scix.net/>).

The **International Association for People-Environment Studies** has a much longer history than ELPUB as activities started more than three decades ago. IAPS is aware of the fact that their presence in especially Eastern-Europe could be improved, whereas a digital library could serve as strong accompanying measure. A start with a self-organizing repository has been made in the meanwhile (<http://iaps.scix.net/>) and issues concerning full (back-) digitization are currently being investigated. In a first round scientific contributions from 1996 on have been recorded, as data in an electronic format could be gathered. Instead of searching individual proceedings one by one, an overview search can more conveniently be performed by the end-user.



An extension with theses and dissertations has therefore been realized within the **cumincad-repository**. In this respect the support of the CAAD-community - both authors and supervisors - worked out well. Some scientists were even willing to recreate an electronic version of their previous work. By its very nature a thesis or a dissertation is produced in limited quantities and in many cases the only copy available is the archival copy deposited in the library. In the course of a request, cost and delay factors are a significant deterrent. The lack of usage is attributed to a number of factors, such as knowledge that the thesis exists, the contents of the thesis or dissertation availability. The relatively restricted access to print theses is the predominant reason for their under-utilization. Making the full-text available from any computer desktop across the web would greatly increase knowledge, access and availability of such a significant resource (<http://cumincad.scix.net>).

Furthermore, the procedure for setting up a keywording system for automated classification of entries has been studied, as this is planned to be another milestone in the near future. cumin-

cad.scix.net consists of a couple of thousand records and still growth can be envisioned. Accounting for the fact that thousands of printed pages are archived in cumincad.scix.net one can hardly expect that the documented scientific knowledge can be handled manually. Using advanced search possibilities will make for a pretty sound result, as various fields of the database entries can be investigated simultaneously. The above specified reasons encouraged us to take a closer look at the possibilities of a keywording system. The range of tasks was limited to two major measures: compilation of a list of no more than 30 keywords with hierarchic ranking so required and definition of 5-10 subtopics each per keyword and selection of up to 10 relevant entries from the database. Naturally a specialized field like CAAD does not consist of cemented topics and thus the systematics introduced above is to be adjusted in line with current developments. On completion of "Beta-version 1.0" tests with clustering processes are being initiated.

SCIX ON THE ROAD

This winter the Swedish School of Economics and Business Administration has organized two successful workshops to disseminate SciX results to colleagues from the publishing and university library communities. The first workshop in January (below 20 Centigrade outside!) included delegates from Holland, Denmark, Sweden and Slovenia and run for two days. The process model and cost analysis work being done in SciX was discussed during the two-day seminar and the other delegates also presented interesting on-going work in their organizations, for instance the work being undertaken in the fifth framework FIGARO project and work at the Lund University library to launch an Open Access Journal Directory. In the latter results from the survey undertaken by HANKE provide an important input.

The second workshop was shorter and attracted an attendance of some twenty experts from university libraries in Finland. Institutional repositories run by universities for the scholarly output of their faculty is a topic receiving increasing attention. The workshop proved to be very timely and agreement was reached to continue activities to raise the awareness of the Finnish academic community (authors, libraries, university administration, funding organizations) of the possibilities of Open Access publishing.

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