

Introducing CRIS in Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje

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Abstract: The need of central management repository of research work is emerging in all university that represents multiple functional communities. In this paper, we will provide an overview of the process of implementation and setup of Dspace CRIS as central repository in the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. We will summarize the challenges and difficulties that we overcome in implementation and integration with existing software platforms that are already established in the University and manage research profiles and works.

Keywords: Dspace CRIS, University Ss. Cyril and Methodius, integration, interoperability

Introduction

Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje is the biggest university in Macedonia which represents a functional community with 23 faculties with over 60.000 enrolled students and over than 3100 people working as teaching and research staff. In 2017, University decided to setup a solution for central management of research data produced in the University. The Faculty for Computer Science and Engineering, as its implementor, decided to use DSpace CRIS as open source solution which meets the requirements defined by the University commission and considering the technologies and modules provided by default in the standard DSpace CRIS installation.

In this paper, we will make an overview of the challenges that we had to overcome, considering the general specification and requirements provided by the University landscape. The University already implements a complex central platform for studies management called iKnow which keeps information about the staff and students for most of the faculties that are part of the University. The biggest challenge in the overall implementation was synchronization of the DSpace users with existing profiles provided by the iKnow system, since they should be consistent in the both systems. We created a module that provides periodic synchronization of the CRIS research profiles with the HR module developed in the existing iKnow platform. Also, we enabled optimizations in the user interface and methods in synchronization of the research work among multiple authors of the paper. We disabled the automatic creation of the profiles of non-existent users in the researcher's pool. Also, we changed the default JSP-UI theme by integrating the best practices provided by the Hong-Kong University and Apollo implementation provided by the University of Cambridge.

We implemented an appropriate eco-system for research work submission by using the predefined workflow scenarios. We defined roles for administrators and moderators per institution and created separate profiles which will conduct the process of research submissions. The moderators will be able to control the submitted works from their institution bearing the responsibility for the quality and accuracy of the submitted data.