What can a real Research portal offer? Research South Africa

Content:

• eResearch portal as an element of SARIS

• Objective and services of a eResearch portal

• Practical example of such a portal

• Implications for the library and information profession?
Proposed Structure for eResearch Service for SA

**eResearch Development & Innovation**

**SARIMA**

**SARIMA existing activities**

**Future eResearch activities**
- eResearch Portal
- Data Transfer and Sharing (processes and protocols, 3As, helpdesk)
- Open Access (Standards, common software, institutional repositories)
- The eResearch Librarian (Training and re-orientation)
- Digital Curation Services (Standards, software, marketing & training services)

**eResearch Service Delivery**

**eResearch Service Delivery**

**Management Agent for SANReN**

**Immediately**
- ISP functions
- NReN Management & Access Support
- SASLI+

**Ongoing**
- Innovative options

**Developed services move to Service Delivery**

**Function**

**Governance & Management**

**Activities**

Usually sub-contracted to competent agents in the system
eResearch portal definition, objective, advantages

What is a portal: a Web site that offers a broad array of resources and services, such as e-mail, forums and search engines with a high level of personalisation and customization.

Objective: To provide a framework whereby all SA researchers receive support in accessing eResearch components and services; augmenting any services provided institutionally.

Advantages: Provide a national tool for researchers to manage their academic information and knowledge; a way to centralize library information management activities.
eResearch portal services

- Authentication & authorization
- Institutional repository facility
- Access to online commercial & free resources
- A pay for view facility to accommodate isolated researchers
- Global/federated search engine
- Online Communities of Practice facility
- Upload facility to Digital Curation database & other researchers via National Research Network
- Online research support tools eg for reference management
- Research management information
eResearch portal aspects

Clients: all SA researchers

Beneficiaries:

🌟 Researchers and institutions that do not have a portal

🌟 Institutions can incorporate this facility into own portals

Modus operandi:

- Portal could be developed in conjunction with an established portal
- Researchers can access portal directly
- Authentication and authorization in collaboration with institutions
- Open standards
Practical example

infoportal.up.ac.za

UP INFOportal was designed to support academic work: from search and retrieval of information, indexing of personal databases to publishing. The system is supported by communication through virtual groups.
ADVANTAGE-

INFOportal supports personal academic knowledge management for UP academics and students.
**E-resources**
**Resource types:** web sites; e-journals; databases; conferences; e-books
**Subject indexing according to academic départements**

*Alert service* (new relevant electronic resources)

*Search* (internet: google, yahoo, altavista; library catalogue; UP website; e-resources)

*Virtual groups*
*E-mail*

*Electronic publishing:*
**UP e-theses and dissertations**
**Electronic peer evaluation of conference papers**

*Microdatabases*
*Bookmarks:*
internet; electronic resources
*Digital collections*

http://infoportal.up.ac.za
INFOportal main functions

- Login and Customization
- Virtual Groups
- Electronic Resources
- Microdatabases
- Electronic Publishing
Hello,

Welcome to the University of Pretoria's information portal. Please login here to view your email.

**Micro Databases**

Micro Databases is an application which was developed to assist in the management and sharing of small collections of data. It allows users to create an online database, manage its data, and to share the data with other users. 

Please login [here](http://infoportal.up.ac.za) to join Micro Databases!

**Electronic Publishing**

Use Electronic Publishing to publish your thesis or dissertation online or to view work that has already been published online.

Please login [here](http://infoportal.up.ac.za) to use Electronic Publishing.

**Lecturers Online**

Lecturers Online provides you with all the information you need to manage your courses online.

**Virtual Groups**

Virtual Groups provide users of the Portal with the opportunity to create online groups and to collaborate with their peers through a simple to use web interface.

**Virtual Groups Calendar**

Your upcoming Virtual Groups events for this month:

Please login [here](http://infoportal.up.ac.za)!

Please visit the University of Pretoria's official website at [http://infoportal.up.ac.za](http://infoportal.up.ac.za) for more information.
Personal customized portal
Virtual Groups
Advantages-

- Electronic collaboration: research, administration, learning, projects
- Applications: e-mail, bookmarks, uploading of any type of document
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<th>Description</th>
<th>Quick Link</th>
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Dr Heila Pienaar  
26 April 2005 11:45
Electronic Resources
Advantages-

- Information specialists from the AIS organise **Electronic Resources** for every UP department
- New and relevant resources are brought automatically highlighted
- **Search function**: Internet search engines links and university and library catalogue searches (UP Explore).
- Journal, database, web sites, e-book and conferences searches
Visit the Electronic Resources Application for a full list of bookmarks...

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<tr>
<th>Heilas Webindex</th>
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**E-mail**

Please close any other active mail application (Outlook / Netscape) before using this application to read your email.

**Folder**

<table>
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<th>Folder</th>
<th>New</th>
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<td>Inbox</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>94</td>
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Read your email via the web

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**UP digital Collections**

**UP Greenstone Digital Collections**

ArchUP digital collection

**Owner:** Department of Architecture

Build your own digital collection with the Greenstone Software:

www.greenstone.org

Do you have a digital collection that should be on this list?

Click here!

**UP Library Digital Collections**

Van Warmelo Collection

A collection of photographs and documents of the 19th century cultural anthropologist, Dr. van Warmelo.

**Performance Management**

This portlet provides users of the Portal the opportunity to complete performance management online.

**Students Online Services**

Student Online Services provides you with all the information you need for your studies.

Go to Students Online Services

**New Electronic Resources**

A list of the Electronic Resources most recently added to your Favourite Subjects.

No new Electronic Resources

**Electronic Resources**

The Electronic resources portlet provides access to an electronic library.

**Electronic resources**

Browse By All Resource Types

- Journals
- Databases
- Web sites
- Conferences
- E-books
- Courses

Browse By All Subjects

- E-Learning
- Information Science

**My Electronic Resource Bookmarks**

Local intranet
Implications of a national eResearch portal for the library profession?

★ What will the role of research libraries and librarians be in a national academic information environment where researchers can “help themselves”?

★ Will eResearch librarians be necessary and what will they do?

★ Suggestions for new roles:
  - Members of eResearch teams
  - Facilitate virtual Communities of Practice
  - Manage institutional digital repositories
  - Take ownership of certain services of the proposed eResearch portal eg research support tools, digital curation ...
Credits

- Presenter: dr Jakkie Pretorius, Director, Dept IT, UP
- ePortal concept: SARIS team
- Design and development of UP academic portal: Dr Heila Pienaar, Academic Information Service, University of Pretoria
- Development of UP portal software:
  - Frank Conradie, Opticode
  - Leon Messerschmidt, Psybergate