Development of a Digital Repository Prototype applied to Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Lisbon

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Abstract

The university libraries have played a key role in scientific research as well as in the support of education-related activities. It has as main objectives to provide its users immediate access to relevant information through updated information sources. The science evolves rapidly and so the daily needs of information on health matter are large and require rapid access to information. One of the problems that currently stands at university libraries is the access and processing of information in digital format. The digital objects are technologically diverse and there is not enough technical information about its proper handling.

In the paper that we propose to submit, to disclose the research done on the master's thesis in Information Studies and Digital Libraries, we present the tools and methodologies that should be used to provide, in an organized and validated way, the wide range of existing information in digital format.

This research's aim is to find practical solutions for the processing and offer of information in digital format in the context of pharmaceutical sciences. For this, a prototype of a digital repository on Pharmaceutical Sciences, applied to the reality of the "Faculdade de Farmácia da Universidade de Lisboa" was created. Firstly, research work was developed on the reality of digital libraries and digital repositories in an university context and on the advantages, the problems and the main challenges that information professionals and institutions have to overcome. Secondly, issues about the quality of the information sources available on the Web were analyzed and a study on the quality of university digital libraries and digital repositories at a national and international level was made. Finally, having in mind the work that was developed and after the analysis of different platforms available in open source for the creation and implementation of digital repositories, the choice of a platform and the construction of the prototype of a digital repository was made. This construction involved the installation and configuration of adequate software and the establishment of parameters of the system, according to the previously identified needs.

In this paper, we attempt to obtain the reliable benchmarking of best practices to implement and evaluate a prototype applied to the Pharmaceutical Sciences, in order to satisfy the user's needs.