Meeting the Demands of Digital Scholarship: Challenges and Opportunities

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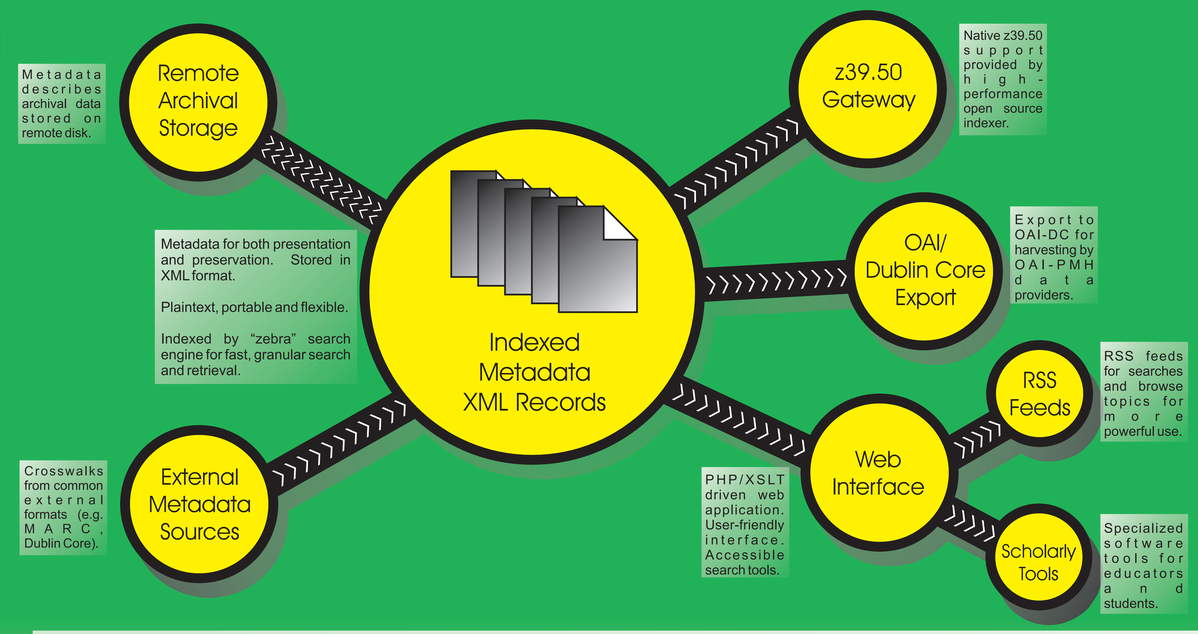
Opportunities

Powered by network capability and fueled by digital developments, research is becoming more data intensive in almost every discipline. The synergies of numerous emerging trends such as:

- advancement in ICT,
- cross discipline collaborations,
- development of open sources,
- geometric growth of social software/tools (blogs, podcasts, etc.)

provide new directions for scholarship.

Likewise, digital libraries and supporting technologies have now matured to the point where their contents are incorporating complex, diverse, dynamic, and previously unavailable resources and services.



Summary

Our entire information landscape continues to change at a breathtaking pace. Any solution will perhaps be as complex as the problem it seeks to solve. This might include unbundling spaces, collections, services, and staff from the physical environment of the library and recombining them with virtual learning and research environments. Even though each and every one of us has a unique perspective on how libraries will adapt to changing times, most agree that 'libraries' continue to be central to our lives. After all, the future of an information society and a knowledge economy will continue to be built around digital forms (e-government, e-commerce, e-health, e-scholarship, e…).

Challenges

The rapid pace of technological advancement poses new threats and problems. Many of these digital innovations, for example, may have come at the expense of:

- simplicity,
- sustainability,
- interoperability and other commonly understood applications in the life cycle management of digital resources.

Building a robust, service-oriented, interoperable digital library is not just a question of scaling existing techniques. It may require a departure from established information systems protocols and procedures.

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