

Openarchives.eu

A new multimedia engine to search digital content from the most prestigious cultural institutions of the world

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Openarchives.eu (<http://www.openarchives.eu>) is a new multimedia search engine that facilitates access to open access documents provided by universities, museums, libraries, archives and institutions all over the world. The new system was designed by **Horizons Unlimited** srl (Bologna), in collaboration with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Openarchives.eu indexes digital collections of every kind (text documents, images, audio, video, animation, software, digitized manuscripts, etc..) distributed by institutions that respect the OAI-PMH protocol (Open Archives Initiative - Protocol for Metadata Harvesting), the emerging standard in the digital library world (for more information, please visit <http://www.openarchives.org>).

Documents published in the world using this protocol reach over 10 million and include digital archives of prestigious institutions such as the Library of Congress, MIT, Yale, Harvard and more than 1000 international academic institutions, museums, and libraries.

Openarchives.eu offers two fundamental services:

- **Digital Collection:** to find digital collections that use the OAI-PMH standard around the world
- **Digital Object:** to find digital resources (texts, video, audio, images, etc..) through the most important OAI-PMH service providers in the world. Our goal is to connect to most of the service providers listed by the University of Illinois Service Providers Register

The specific goal of Openarchives.eu is to facilitate the individuation of open access digital resources.

More generalist search engines like "Google Scholar" index a much bigger number of digital documents independently from their provenance and from the possibility for the user to access them free of charge. Openarchives.eu restricts its searches only to the institutions (above all, academic institutions and libraries) that offer free access to high quality scientific content.

Search examples at Openarchives.eu

Contents accessible through Openarchives.eu are very rich with a huge variety of subjects and media type, this search engine needs a careful explorations to understand its full potentiality. Here are some examples.

To find a digital collection, use the 'Digital Repositories' section:

1. Type 'Library of Congress': in this way you will access almost 300,000 digital objects from the historic Library of Congress collections.
2. Use the advanced search feature to look for specific types of media that you may find of interest (texts, audio, video, photographs, etc..)

To find single open access digital resources use the section titled 'Digital Objects'.

1. Select the service provider 'Repec' for example, and type 'marketing': you will find more than 2,300 scientific articles on this;
2. Use the search form on Google Co-op and type 'video' : you will find all the video resources from the sites indexed by Openarchives.eu.

The Open Access community in Italy

The OAI-PMH standard and the logic of open access are rapidly gaining acceptance in Italy where 77 universities have already signed the 'Berlin Declaration' for the promotion of open access digital archives, and where the OAI-PMH standard is used by portals such as 'Internetculturale' (from the Minister of Cultural Heritage) to aggregate digital collections produced from various cultural institutions in Italy.

Until today, the support for the creation of the new digital archives with the OAI-PMH standard in Italy was provided almost exclusively by a workgroup of CILEA who created the portal PLEIADI (<http://www.openarchives.it/pleiadi>), a portal that aggregates open access scientific literature from Italian Universities.

Horizons Unlimited is the first Italian private company that provides 360 degrees support and services for all the institutions planning to create or use OAI-PMH compliant digital archives.

In particular, our mission is to extend the application of these standards to the world of Public Administration that would enormously benefit from the open and interoperable architecture of OAI-PMH digital archives.

The main services that Horizons offers its customers are the following:

- the creation of new digital repositories (document or multimedia collections, open access scientific magazines, open access conference proceedings, document and multimedia archives for public administration, digital collections of museums, libraries and archives)
- the creation of personalized thematic search engines for the access of global open access resources (this service is mainly targeted to those in the university domain who want to provide their users with ad hoc search services from selected OAI-PMH data providers)
- migration of pre-existing data in OAI- PMH compatible archives
- websites and CMS systems for the publication of OAI- PMH compatible web content

For further information, please visit the section of our site (<http://www.horizons.it>) dedicated to our OAI-PMH solutions.