

The DELILA Makeover

Changes to the UBIRA ePrints Repository.

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Home Page

A dedicated DELILA Home Page has been created within the UBIRA ePapers repository to highlight the content produced by this project :

<http://epapers.bham.ac.uk/DELILA/>

Font Sizes

By keeping all the font sizes proportional (ie. `font-size:80%` rather than `font-size:10px`), it is simple to add icons to increase and decrease the size of displayed text. Repeatedly clicking the icon continues to increase or decrease the size. The JavaScript code for this came from Eric Wendelin [<http://bit.ly/ivliv2>].

User Login

The high visibility of the 'Login/Create Account' links on the navigation bar was leading casual users to register unnecessarily. To combat this, login and registration have been moved to a "Registered Users' Area" accessible from the repository home page.

Preview Pane

Thanks to the collaborative nature of user community of ePrints (the software behind UBIRA) an archive of 'plugin' enhancements is available under GPL licence. This display of preview images of files is adapted from the PreviewPlus plugin by McSweeney, Francois and Ramsden. [<http://files.eprints.org/473/>]

Icons

Use of the PreviewPlus plugin (see above) means that thumbnail images for videos and MSOffice files are now created. This was adapted in house to also produce file lists for the contents of zip files and the first page of XML files. For items where thumbnails cannot be shown - either for technical reasons or access restrictions - new generic icons were designed :



UKPSF / SCONUL

Metadata added as part of the DELILA project includes which UKPSF codes and SCONUL 7 Pillars apply to this learning object. Due to their size, including these in the general metadata made them difficult to read. Providing them in a separate area (that only appears if these fields are set) overcomes this and highlights DELILA content.

Social Networking

With the proliferation of social networking sites it is difficult knowing which to choose to support. However by using a third party aggregator (in this case "AddThis" [<http://bit.ly/r6L6lj>]) users can share the item via over 300 sites as well as having icons for printing, downloading and a record of how often the item has been shared.

Background

The scope of the JISC/HEA funded DELILA Project [<http://delilaopen.wordpress.com/>] includes improving the hosting of Learning Objects in the University of Birmingham's UBIRA Institutional Repositories.

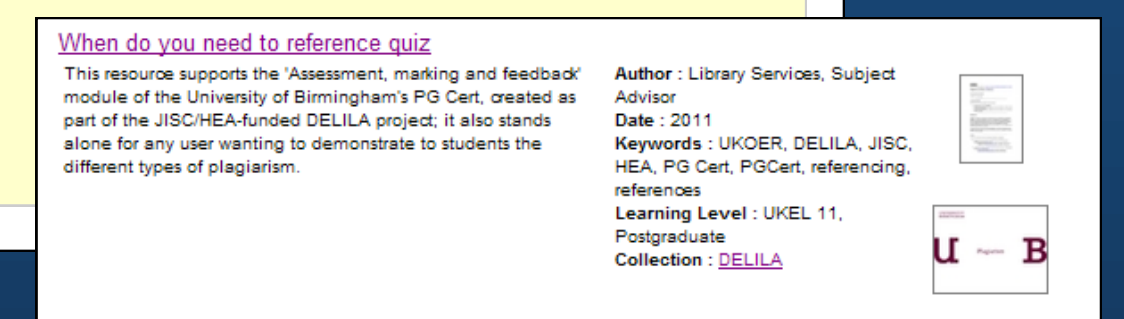
This has led to a number of improvements in the display of repository items inspired in part by the design of the HumBox Project [<http://humbox.ac.uk/>].

Metadata Layout

The two-column layout of the files and abstract/metadata was inspired by a similar design in HumBox. There, the file contents can be fully read from within the preview box rather than the single page 'taster' provided here. This means we have a more accurate record of which files have been downloaded (by users rather than by default) and avoids potential browser incompatibilities that we have seen on other services.

Behind the Scenes

- Code was added to allow Google Analytics [<http://bit.ly/po1Hca>] to provide usage data for both the whole repository and individual pages.
- ePrints software can accommodate web server redirections so even when (very few) page names have changed, their previous URLs redirect to the correct location.
- Metadata can be harvested or exported in a range of standards-based formats.
- When browsing and searching in UBIRA, items' citations are now shown in a HumBox-inspired design :



QR Codes

As items in an ePrints repository have a persistent URL, it is possible to generate QR codes for each page using Google Charts [<http://bit.ly/mdHVme>]. These can be copied and pasted by users or can be useful when an item's page is printed.

