Networking for OJS: the German initiative OJS-de.net

PKP Scholarly Publishing Conference 2015
Project OJS-de.net

Sustainable OJS infrastructure for electronic publication of academic journals.
Funded by DFG (German Research Funding) 2014-2016
Carried out in cooperation with PKP.

Project Aims
• Improvement and adjustment of Open Journal Systems software
• Determining further needs of editorial teams and service providers
• Building up an active German OJS community
• Enhancing visibility for German OJS journals (academic community and metadata)

Project Partners
University Konstanz (Kommunikations-, Informations- und Medienzentrum)
Freie Universität Berlin (Center for Digital Systems)
University Library Heidelberg
Software development for OJS

- Multiple languages for the Custom Block Plug-ins (OJS 2.4.6)
- Import/Export of the e-mail templates
- Integration with the print-on-demand provider epubli
- Public files upload, e.g. document templates for authors
- Easier article metadata DOAJ upload (in OJS 2.4.6)
- Rights management
- Versioning
- Shibboleth integration
- Etc.

Developer: Felix Gründer
Community building

User survey:

- Editorial teams and service providers
- Software usability, software demands, workflows, service demands, information and communication demands
- 285 responses (35%, total 810): 154 editors (59%), 52 hosting providers (20%), 47 authors, reviewers, editorial boards (ca.18%)

→ Results available in September 2015

Information supply and support:
Online-hub to connect German OJS users, support services, web-workshops

Network of OJS service providers:
Participation in information supply, workshops, user consulting and support
Know-how transfer and synergies
Sustainable services and infrastructure (beyond the project term)
Working in a multi-institutional project

Challenges
Remote teamwork: communication, scheduling, decision making
Decision loops to higher levels of management
Slower than one-location projects

Benefits
Funding is more easily attained when several institutions join in an application
More heads = more ideas
Broaden perspective by knowing several use cases
Reduced risk of parallel working on the same problems
Potentially greater network
What did we learn?

- Institutions using OJS are used to work by themselves, not in networks (but are grateful for the opportunity).
- Interest in cooperation and know-how transfer exists.
- There is a demand for direct support in addition to the PKP forum:
  - Interactive workshops (instead of online manuals), especially for editors
  - Consultation
  - Meetings (experience exchange)
  - Support.
- The network enables bundling and coordination of user requirements and a better approach to them (especially to the German specific requirements). It serves as a central contact point.

→ Sustainable?
Thank You!

Contact

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