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Digital Libraries: Supporting Open Science

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Proceedings

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Preface

The Italian Research Conference on Digital Libraries (IRCDL) is an annual forum for the Italian research community to discuss the research topics pertaining to digital libraries and related technical, practical, and social issues. Since 2005, it has served as a key meeting for the Italian digital library community. During these years, IRCDL has touched upon many of the facets underlying the term "digital library," adapting the solicited research topics to the evolution of the issues in this domain and to the evolution of the whole process of scholarly communication. Today, the term digital library is associated with theory and practices that go well beyond its original meaning, de facto reflecting the evolution of the role of libraries in the scholarly communication domain, and of late embracing the latest questions and desiderata posed by open science.

The theme of the 2019 edition of the conference was "Digital Libraries: On Supporting Open Science." This was motivated by several reasons. The results of research are no longer just scientific publications, of which libraries have always been the custodians. Science is increasingly and rapidly becoming digital, in the sense that more and more research is performed using data services and tools available online or on desktop computers, and the products and outcome of science are increasingly encompassing also datasets, software, and experiments. Being digital, such products can be shared and re-used together with the article, thus enabling comprehensive research assessment and various degrees of reproducibility of science. Positive consequences of this shift toward open science are: accelerating science, optimizing cost of research, fraud detection, and fully-fledged scientific reward.

Digital libraries are therefore facing new challenges of supporting the digital scientific process and becoming an important element in the evolution of research outputs. Firstly, by targeting deposition, findability, preservation, interlinking, and re-use of any kind of research product, ranging from publications, to research data, to software and others. Secondly, by becoming a pro-active and integrated component of the scholarly communication process as a whole; for example, by providing support to researchers in the preparation of datasets suitable for subsequent deposition, or by enriching and linking the deposited content with data from other sources, such as other repositories, ORCID, organization IDs, recommender systems, distributed annotations, aggregated statistics, etc. Finally, by integrating with research infrastructures and e-infrastructures to serve specific research community publishing needs or to benefit from economy-of-scale provision of storage and computing capacities.

This volume contains the revised accepted papers from among those presented at the 15th Italian Research Conference on Digital Libraries (IRCDL 2019), which was held at the Italian National Research Council, Research Area of Pisa (Italy) from January 31 to February 1, 2019. Contributions touched a rich array of topics ranging from citation, provenance, and curation of scientific datasets to interlinking of research products and novel peer review practices.

To conclude, we would like to express our gratitude to all our colleagues for submitting papers to the IRCDL and for helping to finalize this volume in due time. We would like to thank those institutions and individuals who made this conference possible: the Program Committee members and the Steering Committee members who took part in the evaluation of manuscripts and provided insights helping to shape a valuable conference program; the OpenAIRE-Advance project (European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program, grant agreement No. 777541) for sponsoring the event; the Organizing Committee for professionally organizing the event.

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