The RePEc database about Economics

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Structure of this talk

- Theoretical introduction
- Practical demonstration
- Outlook to the future

The non-nature of RePEc

- RePEc is not an e-print archive
- RePEc is not a bibliographic service
- RePEc is not new, goes back to 1993
- RePEc is not a funded project

The nature of RePEc

- RePEc is an academic self-documentation project
- Works in economics but the methods could be used elsewhere. There is a sister project ReLIS for library and information science

RePEc business model 1997

- Many archives
  - archives offer metadata about digital objects (mainly working papers)
- One database
  - The data from all archives forms one single logical database despite the fact that it is held on different servers.
- Many services
  - users can access the data through many interfaces.
  - providers of archives offer their data to all interfaces at the same time. This provides for an optimal distribution.

RePEc is based on 160+ archives

- WoPEc
- EconWPA
- DEGREE
- S-WoPEc
- NBER
- CEPR
- US Fed in Print
- IMF
- OECD
- MIT
- University of Surrey
- CO PAH

Contents forms one dataset

- 85,000 working papers
- 35,000 journal articles
- 650 software components
- 1,300 personal contact details
- 5,700 institutional contact details

RePEc is used in many services

- BibEc and WoPEc
- Decomate Z39.50 service
- NEP: New Economics Papers
- Inomics
- IDEAS
- RuPEc
- EDIRC
- HoPEc

Now for the practical bit

- Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Outlook I

- Emphasis way from the document towards the person/institution who provides the document
- Usage reporting is key for provider satisfaction.
- Citation linking work has started, such work also has great potential to raise provider satisfaction.

Outlook II

- now partially OAI compliant (interface to be published soon)
- full OAI compliance requires more work on metadata
- work on an XML-based “Academic Metadata Format”

Outlook III

- More and more interaction with commercial sector
- Legal status of rights to the data is uncertain