

Rights, Restrictions and Access

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May 31, 2003

OAlster Overview

- One-year Mellon grant project (one of 7)
- Launched as search service (www.oaister.org) in June 2002
- 1,183,995 records from 167 institutions (as of May 1, 2003)
- 11,101 search sessions and 32,878 searches (through April 30, 2003)

Rights

- Rights information is generally contained in the oai_dc <rights> element
- Free text, so metadata inconsistency problems
 - “Open, subject to signature of reader's undertaking form.”
 - “These documents can be used freely according to copyright laws.”
 - “...I hereby certify that, where appropriate, I have obtained written permission statement from the owner(s) of each third party...”

Restrictions

- Does the <rights> element give enough information on whether resource is restricted?
- Are users informed or frustrated by encountering restricted objects?
- Potential need for an OAI-PMH access flag

Access

- With the new flag, harvesters could gather only those records useful to their communities
- Would flag need to be toggle (free/restricted) or more varied (free/CIC/Umich...)?
- Potential for increased usability