# Designing AGRIS 2010
Information Linking and Agricultural Research

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Abstract

This poster presents recent work on the redesign of a bibliographic database of research literature (AGRIS) to emphasise the interconnected, relational nature of modern Web metadata. The distributed nature of the world described by AGRIS naturally fits a "linked data" deployment model, in which AGRIS becomes an entry point and map of the entire research landscape around some topic or theme.
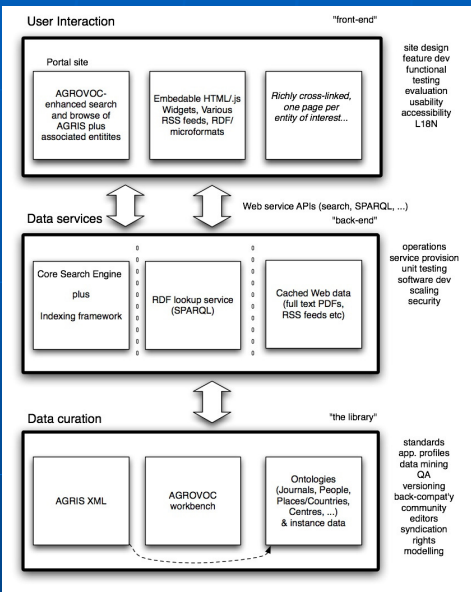
AGRIS 2010 architecture

Introduction

Classic bibliographic metadata is often understood in an overly-simplistic fashion: users are seeking some documents from amongst a larger set, they search against a system populated with metadata, which provides a metadata-driven interface through which users find their way to their target documents. With the rise of fulltext search and online availability of more research material, such a role for metadata can appear redundant. When considered instead as a form of modeling that emphasises relationships, connections and links, bibliographic metadata grows in value as the Web grows in connectivity, and can provide researchers with a map of the global research community, linking formal outputs (papers, data) with a wider grey literature (preprints, drafts) and with communication platforms (blogs, forums) that help researchers put formal findings into a wider context.

Methods

In the AGRIS 2010 work, we have been prototyping a redesign for AGRIS that brings these concerns to the core of the system: both in our data modeling, and in the Web presence, AGRIS will emphasise the networked, linked nature of the things it describes. AGRIS has for many years provided a huge database of bibliographic references, such as research papers and thesis, each including metadata such as conferences, researchers, institutions, and keywords from different thesauri as AGROVOC.

Results

The new AGRIS portal not only gives the researchers access to this information, but it also provides data services to extend their knowledge, accessing cached Web data such as full text documents and news related to the specific keyword entered in the search box. This latter was made possible using the Drupal RSS aggregator modules, and creating an RSS channel on Agrifeeds (http://www.agrifeeds.org/), an agricultural news and events aggregator.
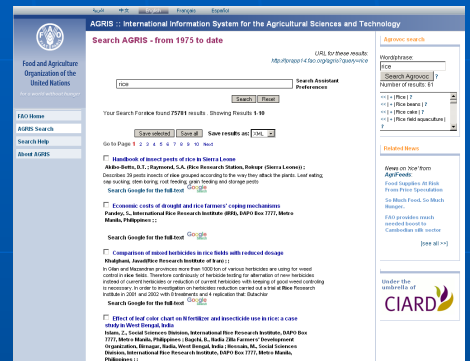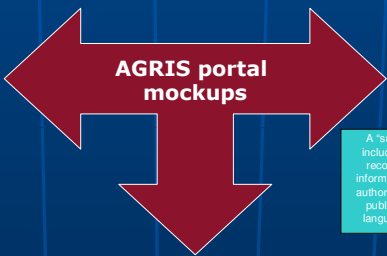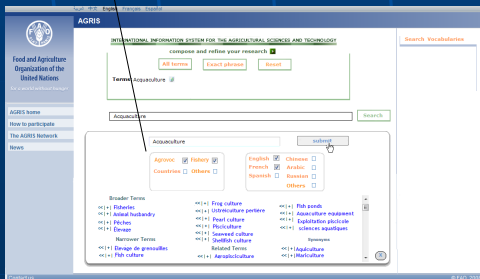

The current AGRIS Portal

Conclusions

In our current work we are exploiting this rich dataset to show how every new resource added to AGRIS can provide information about places, people and topics. By doing so, we hope to show how each resource centre participating in the agricultural research Web can also publish information (e.g. blog feeds) that interconnects with the hub of linked data managed through AGRIS.

AGRIS portal mockups

1. user types "rice"
2. result set
3. thesaurus enhanced search
4. news related to "rice"

Search "aquaculture" in different thesauri and domain vocabularies

A "snippet" including the record and information on: authors, dates, publishers, languages ..

...expanding information on the author from Wikipedia