Title Author(s)

A profile of Italian Working papers in RePEc

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RePEc (Research Papers in Economic) is one of most important disciplinary repositories, which covers different aspects of research in Economics, and gathers the largest collection of working papers. Founded in 1997, it provides users with a variety of services, ranging from searching facilities for document (IDEA database) as well as research institutions profiles (EDIRC, Economics Departments, Institutes and Research Centers) to a provision of access statistics for items and authors (LogEC) as well as citation analysis of RePEc items (CItEc). This decentralized repository is primarily based on an interconnected network of over 1000 interoperable archives supported by an eclectic mix of participants, from the major commercial publishers, university presses, research centres, central banks to university departments in 70 countries worldwide.

These features make RePEc a comprehensive archive for the variety of participants, contents and service provided, which have been the object of different types of analysis. In our perspective, the active collaboration among different research institutions makes it possible to analyse RePEc also from the point of view of the propensity of institutions to make their research results freely available, their commitment in preserving them as well as giving visibility and value in particular to their GL collections. This represents one of the central issues to identify policies carried out by research institution in promoting the open access availability of research results, building their own Institutional Repository and/or diffusing their scientific contents within larger disciplinary contexts.

The large collection of RePEc working papers (more than 340.000 at the time of this writing), its provision of data organised by countries, participating institutions as well as GL collections gave us the possibility to carry out analysis on the Italian working papers. The paper intends to provide first an overview of the Italian participations in RePEc in terms of number of working papers produced by the different institutions and subject covered according to RePEc categories, comparing this data with those submitted by other European countries. Afterwards, a selection of institutions taken from the list of RePEc "Top 25% Institutions in Italy" is analysed in order to describe and compare RePEc collections with the ones currently available on their institutions' websites, in terms of:

- Types of collections;
- Temporal coverage;
- Disciplinary coverage;
- Access modes.

This analysis allows us to have important indications on the strategies adopted by the different Italian research institutions in making their scientific production freely available in order to outline best practices that can promote Open Access in Italy.

Bionote(s)

Rosa Di Cesare was born in Civita d'Antino (AQ) in 1952 and graduated from "La Sapienza" University in Rome in 1982. She received her diploma in Librarianship from the Vatican Library in 1996. She worked in the Central Library of National research council (CNR), where she started to become involved in research activity in the field of Grey literature (GL). Member of the Technical Committee for the SIGLE database from 1995 to 2001, she is presently responsible for the Library at the Institute of research on population and social policies (IRPPS) of the National research council. Her studies have focused on citation analysis and on the use of GL in scientific publications. Email: biblio.irpps@irpps.cnr.it

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