Open access institutional repositories: the case study of Spain

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The open access movement, which is spread all over the world, is still emerging in Spain, but it has advanced in the past three or four years with more frequent initiatives related to repositories and open/free journals. The 227 registered signatories of the Berlin Declaration include 21 Spanish institutions, which mostly signed it during year 2006, that awareness commitment to open access. The Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROAR) and the Directory of Open Access Repositories (OpenDOAR) have in their records 26 and 12 open access repositories from Spain, respectively, which represent still less than 2 % of the whole repositories in those directories. The oldest one is Tesis Doctorals en Xarxa (‘Networked Doctoral Theses’) created in year 2001, however most of Spanish institutional repositories emerged at the end of year 2004 or the beginning of 2005. Nevertheless, there is evidence that exist more than those which have been created and announced during last months.

Based on OpenDOAR records, Dspace and ePrints are the most used software for their implementation, 42 and 17 % respectively of a total of 12 repositories. Among them 67 % are institutional, 25% aggregating and 8 % disciplinary repositories. The most frequent types of repositories are those archiving conference and workshop papers, thesis and dissertations, and research papers (pre and post prints). The growth of Spanish repositories as a function of time, from data provided by ROAR, might fell into three types: plateau, stairstep and steady growth. The most clear growth behaviour is the one of TDX sorted into the steady pattern.