



# eprints news

News for the EPrints Community

No 1: Spring 2006

## Introducing EPrints v3.0

Welcome to the first issue of the EPrints Community Newsletter, in which we introduce you to the soon-to-be-released major new version of EPrints software. We'll be highlighting a few of the new features, and showing Community members how to get involved in requesting and testing features.

With EPrints 3.0 we have released an alpha version first to Community members, and we will be providing members with forums to provide feedback, influence the feature list and rank development priorities on an ongoing basis, starting with an online questionnaire. Although the full release will be available to all users simultaneously, leading up to release we will be running a series of features for Community members to help you get the most from EPrints 3.0.

While the Newsletter is aimed at Community members, this first issue is being circulated to as many EPrints users as possible to raise awareness of this new initiative and to highlight the benefits of joining the Community.

### In this issue

- An exclusive preview of the major new release of EPrints
- Understand the Community
- Find out how to join if you haven't joined already

## EPrints Community View

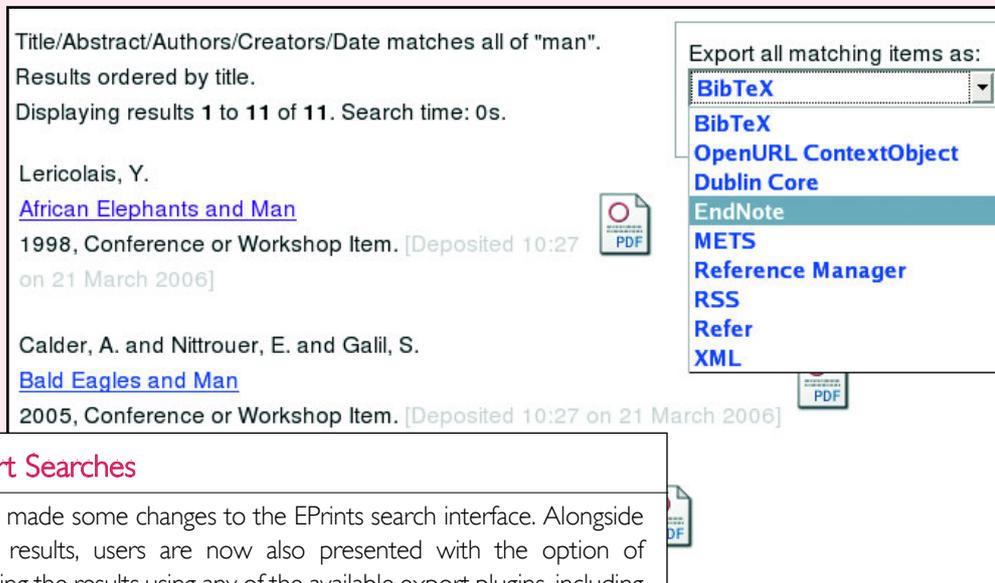
There are some pretty strange things going on at EPrints at the moment. First, for a service with a focus on supporting Open Access, we introduce a feature - the Eprint Request Button (see inside) - that gives authors the option *not* to provide open access for a deposited item. Then, for a service dedicated to supporting electronic information management, we produce this newsletter on paper. For good measure, for a service committed to providing free open source software, we offer a range of paid-for services, including the EPrints Community, which we hope all serious users of the software will want to join.

What is going on? (cont. back page)

# What's new in EPrints 3.0

## Get out what you put in

A new plugin architecture makes it possible get data in and out of your repository quickly and easily



The screenshot shows a search results page with the following text: "Title/Abstract/Authors/Creators/Date matches all of 'man'. Results ordered by title. Displaying results 1 to 11 of 11. Search time: 0s." Below this, two search results are listed. The first result is by Lericolais, Y. for "African Elephants and Man" (1998, Conference or Workshop Item, Deposited 10:27 on 21 March 2006) with a PDF icon. The second result is by Calder, A. and Nittrouer, E. and Galil, S. for "Bald Eagles and Man" (2005, Conference or Workshop Item, Deposited 10:27 on 21 March 2006) with a PDF icon. An "Export all matching items as:" dropdown menu is open, showing options: BibTeX, BibTeX, OpenURL ContextObject, Dublin Core, EndNote (highlighted), METS, Reference Manager, RSS, Refer, and XML.

### Export Searches

We've made some changes to the EPrints search interface. Alongside search results, users are now also presented with the option of exporting the results using any of the available export plugins, including EndNote, BibTeX, Reference Manager, XML and DIDL.

### Smart RSS

As well as converting the list of search results to the RSS format, this plugin re-sorts the items according to the date they were deposited. Enter the URL of the RSS output into an RSS reader to automatically see updates as new items matching the search criteria are deposited in the repository.

### Bulk Imports

We've also added an import tool which allows administrators to import bibliographic data in bulk using any of the available import plugins, including EndNote and XML.

### New XML Format

The EPrints XML format has also been improved: the format is more intuitive and in-line documents (base64 encoded) are supported. This means that you can effectively export your entire archive into a single XML file, and makes bulk importing of items with full texts much easier.

### Easy to write, easy to share

Behind the scenes, a drop-in architecture makes it easy to create import and export plugins for new formats, or to override the behaviour of an existing plugin. Each plugin is self-contained in a single file and so can easily be shared with other users.

### Under the Hood

#### Technical notes

#### Improved API

Based on what we've learned from our training courses we've made programming with EPrints even easier (and better documented!)

#### Reclaim your cycles

The indexer now runs on-demand, using much less processing power for the same results.

#### Rationalised database

inbox, buffer, archive and deletion have been merged into a single dataset.

#### Easy Upgrade

Convert your EPrints 2 system to EPrints 3.

## Time savers

We've squeezed in several new time saving features

<b>Description:</b>	Brazilian Rainbow Boas and Man
<b>Item Status:</b>	Repository
<b>Depositing User:</b>	<a href="#">User admin</a>
<b>Date Deposited:</b>	10:28 on 21 March 2006
<b>Last Status Change:</b>	11:17 on 21 March 2006
<b>Last Modified:</b>	11:17 on 21 March 2006
<b>Actions:</b>	<a href="#">Move Item to Editorial Review</a>   <a href="#">Move Item to Deleted</a>   <a href="#">New Version</a>   <a href="#">Use as Template</a>   <a href="#">View Records awaiting Editorial Review</a>
<b>Edit:</b>	<a href="#">Item Type</a>   <a href="#">Core Bibliographic Information</a>   <a href="#">Publication Information</a>   <a href="#">Status of Item</a>

### Improved staff interface

The page editors use for approving and modifying records has been completely redesigned to make the job quicker and easier. Actions are now linked from the top of the page (no need to scroll down every time) and shortcuts to every step of the edit process make it easy to edit a single field, even if it's five steps in!

<b>Embargo expiry date</b>
The date that a publisher- or funder-imposed embargo expires. On and after this date the associated with this deposit will be made publically accessible. For more information on requirements, please contact the repository administrator. Example: <b>2006 - all documents made publically accessible on 1st June</b> Example: <b>2006 June - all documents made publically accessible on 1st June</b> Only "Year" is necessary. Year: <input type="text" value="2007"/> Month: <input type="text" value="June"/> Day: <input type="text" value="?"/>

### Embargo support

Sometimes an item can't be Open Access until a certain date. We've added support for publisher- and funder-imposed embargoes. The restrictions are automatically removed when the embargo date passes.

Full text available as:
 <a href="#">PDF</a> - Registered users only - Requires a PDF viewer such as <a href="#">Gnupdf Reader</a> 102Kb
These documents will be made publically accessible from June 2007.
<a href="#">Request Item(s)</a>

### Request eprint button

Route requests for non-OA documents directly to the authors - requests can be accepted or rejected with a single click. Documents may be restricted-access due to copyright concerns or embargoes. This simple feature mediates access, and can increase rates of deposit.

Brazilian Rainbow Boas and Man ( <a href="#">eprint 102</a> )										
<b>Email sent to depositor of record by Adam Davis at 14:02:32 on 21 March 2006</b>										
Unfortunately your eprint: Brazilian Rainbow Boas and Man could not be accepted into the repository as-is. Please enter the Journal number and volume, and ISSN if possible. The eprint has been returned to your workspace. If you visit your item depositing page you will be able to edit your eprint, fix the problem and redeposit.										
Brazilian Rainbow Boas and Man ( <a href="#">eprint 102</a> )										
<b>Moved from Editorial Review to Work Area by Adam Davis at 14:02:32 on 21 March 2006</b>										
Brazilian Rainbow Boas and Man ( <a href="#">eprint 102</a> )										
<b>Modified by Adam Davis at 14:02:32 on 21 March 2006</b>										
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### Audit Trail

All changes to all eprints are now logged - editors can view the audit trail including all related correspondence.

## EPrints Community or community

EPrints software has always had an enthusiastic, dedicated and informal community of users, mostly mediated through the ad hoc eprints\_tech mailing list. Everyone who uses EPrints can consider themselves a member of this community. Just as EPrints software remains free, open source software, this informal support network will be there for those that want to be part of it.

For many institutions using EPrints, however, where EPrints is increasingly embedded in institutional policy, workflow and practices, the demands are too great to leave support to chance. EPrints Community is a first step towards formalising and addressing that need, by giving members forums to influence the development of EPrints, to obtain critical and timely information, and to interact with each other.

Yes, there is a charge to join the Community, and for that you want to know how it will help you. You can find out what you need to know about the Community from our website <http://www.eprints.org/community/>. There is another reason to join too. It's great that software is free, but serious users share the responsibility for maintaining that status.

We are preparing for when funding streams from generous sponsors run out, by identifying new income streams that will support and enhance the free software. **Community and the associated Services will help to serve EPrints' modest but essential needs, and maintain EPrints as viable free software.**

Any community is as strong as its members make it. To borrow from American President John F. Kennedy's rallying call in 1961, ask not what EPrints and the Community can do for you, but what you can do for EPrints and the Community. **If you value EPrints, please join the Community.**



### EPrints Community and Services team

**Steve Hitchcock**  
EPrints Community Manager

**Tim Miles-Board**  
EPrints Services Manager

**Christopher Gutteridge**  
EPrints Lead Developer

#### Join the Community

To join the Community, for sales enquiries or to find out more about the Community, contact **Steve Hitchcock**  
[sh94r@ecs.soton.ac.uk](mailto:sh94r@ecs.soton.ac.uk)

## EPrints Community View *(cont. from front)*

In the first case, perverse as it may seem, we believe the ability to hide papers from Open Access may be the way to close the content gap - the gap between the number of published papers produced at an institution and the number of papers that can be accessed in the EPrints repository - by persuading more authors to at least key in a record of their papers. That's the first step to persuading them to provide open access. This is one of the new features in EPrints v3.0, which will be at the centre of much of our work in the Community.

Why is this newsletter on paper? Simply, we are all deluged with electronic information, and even when we actually read selected bits we may not appreciate the significance. Sometimes, putting information in a different format gives us the space and slows things

down sufficiently for a different perspective on developments that may be hard to appreciate at first.

Introducing a Community service that members are asked to pay for is a major step in a free software community, and who can see the difference between the Community and the community anyway?

The accompanying box explains the Community, and why it's important for all institutional adopters of EPrints to be members.

In the next issue, we will look more closely at the forums that are emerging to support Community activities.

**Steve Hitchcock**, EPrints Community Manager