

REVUES.ORG: A COMPLETE PLATFORM FOR ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING[†]

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ABSTRACT

The paper intends to provide the open access publishing market in France highlighting the oldest portal Reveus.org that represents open scholarly content in Humanities and Social Sciences. Various services and prominent features of the portal are highlighted that make it the best choice, not only in France but at the global level.

KEYWORDS

Electronic Publishing; Open Access- France, Social Sciences & Humanities-Portal

INTRODUCTION

Revues .org is the oldest Social Sciences and Humanities (journal and reviews) portal of France initiated in 1999. Although its main aim is to promote the scholarly literature in French, it welcomes articles in English, Spanish, Russian and Basque and has achieved a standing recognition at national and international level. It is being nurtured by Center for the Open Electronic Publishing (CLEO) - an associated unit of National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales

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(EHESS), University of Provence and the University of Avignon, for providing access to the scholarly content. It is an active member of a large network ADONIS (TGE-ADONIS). The CLEO team, set up at Marseille and Paris (France) constitute editors, publishers, professionals of scientific information and computer scientists etc specialized in the web technologies.

CLEO extends its offer to players of publishing in the Humanities and Social Sciences around the portal of Revues.org and Calenda, which is the heart of its business. CLEO is also developing new tools that accompany the process of research and editing, from writing of books to research seminars and allows researchers to reap the benefits right from the selection to the publishing of the texts through digital innovations. The objective is to provide researchers with tools to support the production and dissemination of scientific documents. The mechanism designed by Revues.org are powered by the scientific community and validated by teams of Revues.org and its partners (journals, laboratories, schools). It has emerged as a shared information system, which links the research with the scientific publishing with around 10, 000 documents published through the tools of scientific communication.

CALENDA: SOCIAL SCIENCES CALENDAR

Calenda is the largest online francophone calendar in Humanities and Social Sciences since 2000, offering a panorama of activities in Humanities and Social Sciences in France and abroad. It alerts students, teachers and researchers of the latest research on free access. The scientific community fuels information to Calenda following the model of ownership updated by filling up a simple online form and validated by the Calenda publication team. Calenda primarily publishes announcements of seminars, programs, job offers and fellowships as well as calls for

contributions to conferences, seminars or special issues of journals. Calenda publishes about 150 ads per month and nearly 10, 000 ads have been online since its inception. Ads are ranked according to four major themes: corporate language, mind, periods and spaces. Information published by Calenda is available on the site based on a thematic and chronological classification, in the form of a calendar, easily accessible from the home page with multiple search criteria: news, category, type and date of the event. Each publicized event can be integrated with an electronic diary, La Lettre de Revues.org, which stores advertisements reflected by Calenda. It also allows subscription to dozens of RSS feeds. Each type and category, listing primary or secondary of calenda Thema, has its own RSS feed. Revues.org partners can pass on their site a selection of published thematic information archiving Social Science scholarly content since eight years.

PLATFORM OF RESEARCH

Publication of research books is open to the community in all disciplines of the Humanities and Social Sciences. A book of research can be a book of archaeological excavation, scientific review on specific theme, the log book of a collective being, journal or blog of books, field notebook, science newsletter, etc. It is a mode of express and lightweight publication, to make regular ongoing research available. A book of research often takes the form of a log book. It allows the "creator of information" to interact with readers through comments. It is based on the use of a simple tool, requiring no special computer knowledge. The platform offers features specific to the needs of researchers in Social Sciences and Humanities. For example, it facilitates archiving and bibliographic citation. Hypothesis can accompany the work of formatting and editorial development of projects by providing teams with flexible features of a blog.

MANUSCRIPTS SUBMISSION

CLEO will open in 2009, as experimental platform, the electronic management of manuscripts to the editorial boards of journals. The monitoring of manuscripts will be facilitated and monitored in a unified framework through an online interface. The submission of the article will pass through all the stages of expertise and correction of texts. The manuscripts will be accepted in an online mode granting authors the independence to publish their work from any geographical location. This service will work through a so-called editorial workflow, which allows the establishment of genuine editorial boards online. It will have the advantage to adapt the evaluation process of the review, allow the establishment of archives, and respect the confidentiality in the procedure and simultaneously allow a high level of transparency, both internal and external.

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE DISSEMINATION

Revues.org is open to all Humanities and Social Sciences audience. In order to form a coherent whole, selection of journals is made according to scientific policy of electronic publishing. Revues.org welcomes peer scientific journals besides its cultural field journals, with procedures that guarantee the quality of the contributions published. While maintaining the economic balance, the portal promotes the dissemination of open access scientific literature. However, the adoption of a 'moving barrier' is sometimes required to maintain an exclusivity period for a paper. The online publication of full text open access is only the deadline restriction defined by each journal (e.g. two years). The documents under this "embargo" could not therefore be available, but only against payment. A restricted access system is proposed to journals that follow such policy. It allows access to individuals

or institutions that have paid a subscription to the electronic access to documents. In addition, collaboration between Revues.org and Cairn, initiated by the TGE Adonis has led to overcome the problem of access restrictions.

IDENTITY AND INDEPENDENCE

Model of Editorial Appropriation

Revues.org proposes a model based on the concept of ownership. It gives editors the skills to carry out the electronic edition of their intellectual project believing on the promise that journals have an identity that their electronic version must be able to reflect what they want to convey. Giving the periodic opportunity to take them online is to make them masters of their fate and their calendar, independent of the turbulence and the vagaries of funding. It is promoting the development of a free edition and/ or low cost, capable of renewal by the emergence of new titles by institutions and disciplines mounted. This gives them the opportunity to participate to design new ways for writing and reading, while adopting electronic publications.

AUTONOMY

Journals are responsible for putting the scholarly work online. Revues.org implements and manages software solutions, tools and servers that simplify this work. Revues.org form editors supports assist in making this work easier. But the online is not neutral, when publication is the sole responsibility of journal publishers. The technical and legal agreement between both the parties makes the work publishable.

THE PERSONALITY

Revues.org suggests that each member reviews a model for his personal site, which reflects its editorial policy. This forms a

generic model to incorporate the logo of the journal, its editor, to apply a range of colours appropriate to the elements that must be put in front page or home page, etc. Thus, each magazine is highlighted and identified in an original graphic design.

VALUE ADDED SERVICES

The main objective of Revues.org is to enable the journal to practice the most of its editorial work, offering a range of services and tools to assist its online project. By using these tools, journals can devote to the entire publishing process.

ELECTRONIC ARCHITECTURE

Revues.org provides review of software, "Lodel", specially designed for electronic publishing. It provides advice on implementing electronic supplements. Finally, it administers and manages all servers, software and databases used. It provides data backup, maintenance and also looks over the security.

ONLINE PAPER ADVICE

Revues.org offers help and advises about journals wishing to add additional papers which exceed their limits. Electronic publishing has become an ally of the paper edition, giving it a new dimension, i.e. by breaking the boundaries of materiality existing in the paper counterparts.

PUBLISHING TOOLS AND SCIENTIFIC STANDARDS

Revues.org provides various tools of communication and promotion. Newsletters to the readers are created at request which inform readers of news or new releases. Over two dozen journals have their own newsletters managed independently. Letters for internal use and discussion lists can also be created to facilitate the dissemination of information within the journal or the discussions

in the governing bodies which revolve round the publication. The statistical measure of the visit of a site is also conducted for each journal. These statistics are voluntarily placed in open access so that journals can better understand the turnout of their site. The adoption of a unified statistical methodology provides comparable measures certified by Revues.org. It also invites journals to enrich their sites through the use of the syndication of content. Revues.org and journal portal are adhering and implementing some simple scientific editorial principles.

PUBLIC ACCESS

Free Text is the only future of electronic publishing. Web has provided potential ability to participate in scientific exchange and the democratization of knowledge globally. Being financed by public funds, research in the Humanities and Social Sciences must be accessible to a broader audience. The evidence of the use statistics sites provide that full text is consulted more widely than those who restrict the full text. Revues.org combines free access and restricted access. This preserves the interests of commercial publishing (on paper or in electronic format), while offering free access in a large quantity of full text beyond the period of restriction. Thus, it ensures wider dissemination of research beyond the university campus and borders. The access to documents is a major criterion. However, it is not possible to act quickly on the connectivity, or speed of Internet users around the world. Considering the users with slow connections or older browsers, it makes it less embellishment and technology circumvented, i.e. refuse in most cases that access to the text must include plug -ins (QuickTime, Flash, etc) and proprietary formats producing heavy documents (which do not use them for other uses). All this calls for a simple electronic edition technologically and that is why the features that require complex technologies or

important system resources are performed by the server, Revues.org and not by the visitor's browser who consults the pages.

USE AND CITATION

To add fidelity and reliability to the scientific practice, it requires that each item has an Internet address (URL) relatively simple, unique, and possibly immutable. Thus, it is likely to cite, a publication of a paper, with clear reference to all information available on the Web. Revues.org however rejects the immoderation that mask URLs, either outdated or artificially prolonged and complex.

Each document carries structured content with title, author, summary, publication date, etc. identified as "metadata", which not only provides a reasoned formatting of the page, but better indexing of content by search engines for each journal.

Citation difficulties in electronic publishing, particularly related to the lack of pagination, are subject to special attention from Revues.org, with the gradual establishment of citation practices and structuring of documents. For example, the paragraphs of the articles are numbered, allowing the precise quote from the document. Thus, the practices of citation of electronic documents can be normalized while responding to the precision necessary for scientific writing.

SITES ON THE WEB

The sites reviewed by Revues.org members are referenced in an optimal manner by the main scientific search engines such as Google Scholar, Base, Ojos, OAster and Scirus. They are also indexed by the general bibliographic databases (SUDOC, or World Cat, EZB) and the major publishers of databases for libraries (in Europe, USA, etc.). Thus, students and researchers

worldwide can access the documents online in Revues.Org through their usual search tools.

The member journals are also indexed by the specialized directories such as Intute and Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). CLEO team also provides integration of the contents of journals to specialized databases. These may be disciplinary, as ABC Clío for History, or thematic, such as HAPI or LATINDEX for Latin America.

The CLEO team aims to optimize the integration of content produced by Revues.org in content aggregators and search engines dominating the market for scientific and technical information and tools in the universities. This requires the development of specific technologies and the adoption of industry standards in use on this segment of information (OAI, Open URL and XML-TEI).

LODEL: TOOL OF ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING

Lodel is free software developed for electronic publishing and used by Revues.org. In accordance with the principle of ownership, the software allows a sub-editor to make the online release of its review, without turning into a computer. It adheres to the rules in force in the profession, particularly as regards compliance with W3C standards and other standards for interoperability (Open Archives Initiative). Lodel helps to publish electronic journal articles by importing style on a word processor or from desktop publishing software. This is online software designed to allow for electronic publishing of scientific quality research undertaken by editorial team working on their regular job (Macintosh, Windows and Linux). Particular care has been taken to optimize the time necessary to obtain an online edition.

Lodel is particularly compatible to the conventions of scholarly publishing, such as footnotes, the structure of the text, the various character sets for non-Latin languages, diacritics, small capitals,

the spaces, etc. The software also supports the development of a collaborative online drafting and simplifies procedures for evaluation of articles. Lodel helps to meet dispersed teams at international level also. The software has postponed the publication of articles. The system makes it possible to publish the full text of an article on a date set by the publisher. Lodel publishing allows teams to focus on their specific work without wasting time on unique formatting in electronic publishing.

CURRENT EVENTS

CLEO offers several ways to keep abreast, its members of the latest news.

THE BLOG

The blog of the Center for Electronic Publishing deals with the open activity of the CLEO team, its projects and work. It is designed as a tool for dissemination of information on electronic publishing in Humanities and Social Sciences, on scientific and technical information on developments and latest news. Furthermore, it also acts as a transmission tool of skills on electronic publishing. It reflects the editorial technology conducted by the various professions of the CLEO team.

THE ELECTRONIC LETTER

The electronic letter of de Revues.org informs its subscribers of the news portal and news magazines. It is free and sent by e-mail on demand. It includes announcements of events reported in Revues.org (new accessions of online magazines, and new issues), of its editorials and a summary of the news published by Calenda-the calendar of Social Sciences. Till date, over 30,000 subscribers, whose origin is mostly French, are benefitted from this service.

Users throughout Europe and rest of world are also intimated of the latest advancements in Revues.org.

THE SYNDICATION

Letter mail supplemented with the syndication like RSS allows the user to be informed about news on his favourite sites without having to refer to it constantly. This monitoring system saves a considerable amount of time of researchers and students. The search engine allows one to create RSS feeds directly from the list of query results making it more finer and sophisticated organizer tool. Revues.org also offers the option to subscribe instantly to all syndication portal journals (issues and articles), with the line of an OPML file.

THE BOOKS

CLEO will continue the deployment of its offer in 2009 editorial by establishing a platform for online monographs: the books of Revues.org. Publishers wishing to publish in full text some of their works may provide a site for their own electronic collections, with links to an online bookseller, the facsimile accompanying PDF version available online. This service will provide more visibility and all value-added services to the portal. The electronic publishing platform will be complemented by the provision of public books in full text.

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