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Abstract (EN): The paper examines the current state of affairs in the field of Grey Literature at the Charles University in Prague, particularly electronic versions of thesis and dissertations (ETDs) preserved in the institutional repository - The Digital University Repository. For seminar papers and study materials supporting (e-)learning process, the Faculty of Arts, in cooperation with the Computer Centre, have developed a system for submission, preservation and access of these types of grey documents. The web-based system (called Elektra) will keep track students' performance throughout their studies and help teachers during the examination time and finals.

Keywords (EN): grey literature, institutional repository, Digital University Repository, ETDs, seminar papers, study materials, Elektra

Abstrakt (CZ): Příspěvek objasňuje současný stav uchovávání a zpřístupňování šedé literatury na Univerzitě Karlově v Praze, zejména elektronických verzí vysokoškolských kvalifikačních prací, které jsou uchovávány v institucionálním repozitáři - Digitálním univerzitním repozitáři. Pro další typy těchto specifických dokumentů (seminární práce či studijní materiály) prišla Filosofická fakulta ve spolupráci s Ústavem výpočetní techniky s projektem Elektra. Tento portál nabízí přehled studijních výsledků studentů a je tak vhodným referenčním zdrojem pro učitele při státních závěrečných zkouškách.

Klíčová slova (CZ): šedá literatura, institucionální repozitář, Digitální univerzitní repozitář, eVŠKP, seminární práce, studijní materiály, Elektra

1 Grey Literature

The Grey Literature Network Service defines grey (or gray) literature as *"information produced on all levels of government, academics, business and industry in electronic and print formats not controlled by commercial publishing i.e. where publishing is not the primary activity of the producing body"* [1].

Grey literature has in the past been considered too ephemeral and marginal to spend time collecting it. Although being separate from mainstream publishing (many of these documents are difficult to locate and obtain), it is just as important, seeing that these grey literature resources later move *"into the mainstream of information products"* [3].

The term grey literature is generally, but not solely, used for scientific research. Examples of grey literature include technical reports from government agencies or scientific research groups, working papers from research groups or committees, white papers, conference proceedings, preprints or even dissertations, thesis, seminar papers and study materials from academic institutions.

Electronic versions of grey literature in relationship with the institutional repository at the Charles University in Prague present the main focus of this paper.

2 Charles University and Institutional Repository

Charles University in Prague (thereinafter CU), founded in 1348, is one of the world's oldest universities. It has 17 faculties, 3 university institutes, 6 further centers for educational, scientific, research, development and other activities or for provision of information services.

Although it is headed by a Rector, **the faculties enjoy a large measure of independence. Such situation already suggest possible difficulties with collection, long-term preservation and access of grey literature at an institutional level.**

Digital University Repository (http://repositar.cuni.cz/) at the Charles University in Prague (thereinafter DUR) is run on a system called DigiTool, developed by Ex Libris. This system enables to create,

manage, preserve and share locally administered digital collections.

One of its collection by **CERGE-EI** makes available scholarly papers and dissertations from the economic sciences field. It presents results of works published at the CERGE and its core represents a set of publications delivered for the Economist Online portal under the Open Access regime.

Collection for the **Department for Science and Research** includes working materials of the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme. These documents are available to the staff only.

The DUR holds not only the grey literature, but also notable collections of private libraries, maps and historic documents.

A modern presentation of great **Czech personalities' private libraries** is the main outcome of the project "Personal libraries information systems - a part of the cultural heritage" and is supported by the Czech Ministry of Culture. The project's objective - unique for Czech as well as global standards - is to inform about great Czech personalities' private libraries preserved at cultural institutions (libraries and museums). These collections represent evidence of life and work of their owners and therefore are a part of the historical cultural heritage. The study of specific private libraries collections mainly focuses on significant properties of holdings, such as signatures, inscriptions, underlining, ex-libris, and marginal notes. The DUR preserves results of this project in a way suitable for their long-term preservation. It is an alternative to the original web site (http://www.osobniknihovny.cz/).

Since 2008 there has been an ongoing digitization of the unique **Map collection from the 'State map collection of the Czechoslovak Republic,**' curated by the Faculty of Science. This cartographic collection belongs to one of the most valuable collections in the Czech Republic. It consists of atlases, globes, map lists, book and journal volumes. Original scans are stored (in an archival mode, not open to the public) in the repository as TIFF. At the present time, forms of display to the general audience are negotiated.
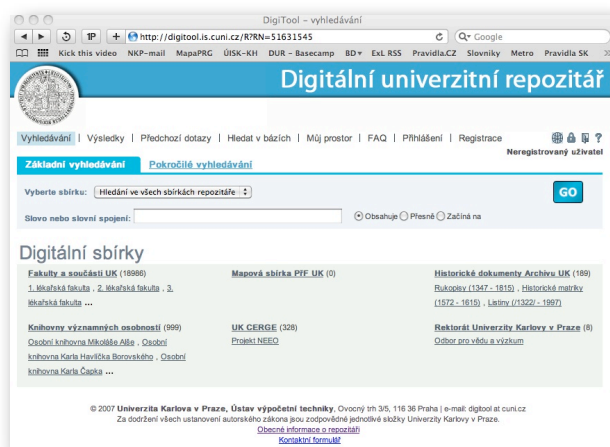

Figure 1: User interface of the Digital University Repository

Digitization of historic documents began in 2004 and continues until today (depending on allocated financial resources). Selection of the historic records is in the responsibility of the **Institute of the History of Charles University and Archive of CU**. It is planned to digitize over 200 deeds, 50 manuscripts and protocols from the 14th-19th century.

Yet, the most significant collection (to the number of documents and users' demand) is the collection of electronic thesis and dissertations (below ETDs).

3 Electronic Thesis and Dissertations

ETDs are an important type of grey literature for a number of reasons. Not only they document the current state of research, but contribute to it. For that reason, the long-term preservation of ETDs is unconditionally important.

Until recently, electronic versions of thesis and dissertations at the CU had been collected on a non-compulsory basis and access to them was regulated by directives at particular faculties.
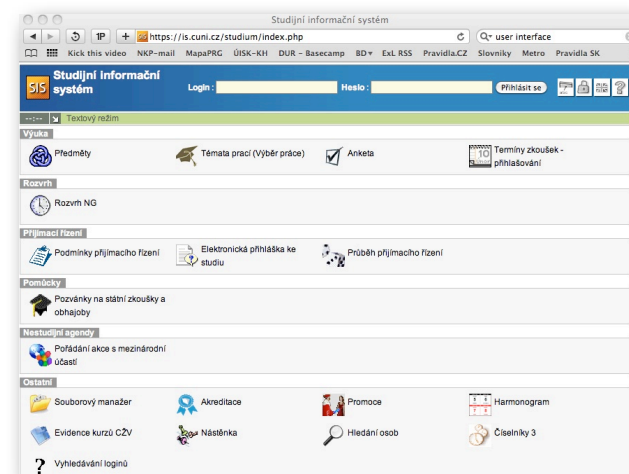

Figure 2: User interface of the Student Information System

However, after the infamous "Pilsen scandal", many universities realized the urgency of transparency, not excepting the Charles University in Prague.

Thence, in May 2010, our rector issued the provision no. 6/2010 "Zpristupneni elektronicke databaze zaverecnych praci," which as from September 2010 orders giving in ETDs through the Student Information System (thereinafter SIS).

Once the ETD is completed in the SIS, full-texts with attachments, evaluation forms and metadata are ingested into the DUR. Then the metadata records, exported from the DUR as Marc21 are sent to the Central Catalog of CU, where they are enriched with the URLs linking to the respective full-text. A system number of the record in the Central Catalog as well as persistent identifier of the ETD in the DUR is sent to the SIS. In case of an update, duplicity may be eliminated.

All information coming from the SIS are of a higher priority, meaning that changes done in the DUR or Central Catalog will be superseded by the updates from the SIS. Nevertheless, this is not the case of metadata fields not present in the SIS (e.g. subject).

During the years 2010-2014, previously defended ETDs (January 2006-September 2010) will be added to the DUR as well as the SIS.

All the previously created metadata records will not be corrected in the near future (due to the lack of personnel), since it is not planned to sent the metadata records to the Union Catalogue of the Czech Republic.

The CU, however, want to submit metadata records **to the National Repository of Grey Literature - NUSL** (http://nusl.techlib.cz/). Therefore, when being addressed by the National Technical Library in Prague (about half a year ago) to **submit our ETDs metadata**, we gladly agreed. We decided for and OAI output in Marc 21.[1]

4 Seminar Papers, Study materials

When it comes to study materials and seminar papers, it usually is teachers' responsibility to store and share them.

The Faculty of Arts, in coordination with the Computer Centre, has recently decided to make things easier and created a common **portal for submitting, sharing and accessing seminar paper as well as study materials** (unpublished materials written by teachers, lecture notes, scanned papers, etc.).
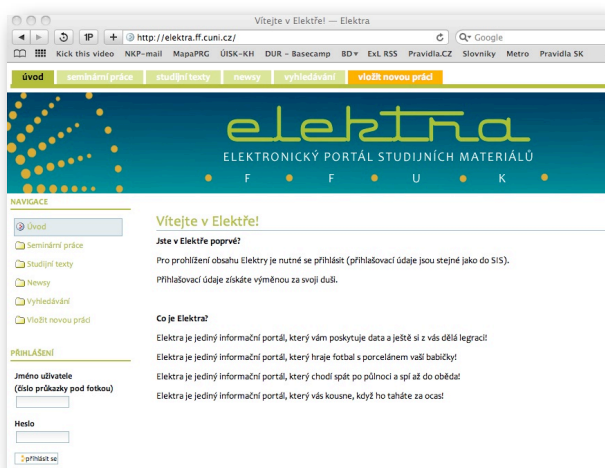

Figure 3: Elektra Homepage

The web-based user interface is run on the open-source content management system Plone. Since submitting seminar papers to Elektra (http://elektra.ff.cuni.cz/) is compulsory at a number of departments, this portal will keep track of students' performance throughout their studies and help teachers during the examination time and finals. Unlike the other systems supporting electronic materials submission (e.g. Moodle), where the submitted homeworks and seminar papers are visible to the teacher only, Elektra gives students an opportunity to compare their work with others.

5 Conclusions

Despite the fact the grey documents are ephemeral and in limited amounts, not distributed or indexed by commercial publishers, one of their greatest advantages is topicality, oftentimes free a charge. Open Access is less common, though not exempt [2], especially in case of dissertations and thesis.

While interconnecting the SIS, DUR and Central Catalog poses a great step forward, new challenges to be solved on a central level appeared, e.g. very disparate forms (layout, structure, fonts) of documents created in different versions of softwares and their releases. These need to be solved on a central level.

When it comes to other types of grey literature at the CU (e.g. grant or technical reports), documents are not available from a single access point. In case of grant reports, researchers are often concerned of disclosing specific information. It would be bold to presume the situation will change any time soon.

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[1] http://dingo.ruk.cuni.cz:8881/OAI-PUB?verb=ListRecords&metadataPrefix=marc21&set=oai_nusl