## Theses Submission System – iPortal

DSUG, Rome 2007





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#### University of Tromsø Library uit.no/ub

# Munin

- Munin is an open IR at the University of Tromsø, Norway
- Launched 21<sup>st</sup> September 2006
- Deposited items as of 21<sup>st</sup> Sept 2007 :
  - □ 371 Master's theses
  - 34 PhD theses
  - □ 340 Jnl articles + reports + working papers
  - 245 Student papers
  - **D** Total: 1000

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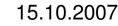
## **Master's theses in Munin**

Spring of 2006:

Lots of efforts put into announcing the option of having one's thesis in Munin

□ Result: 14% of the theses deposited in Munin





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# Master's theses in Munin

- How can we do better? How may we improve this percentage?
  - Extend and improve the information load?
  - Advocate for mandatory depositing?
  - Or maybe just get rid of the extra work and effort for the students:
    - What if Munin is the tool for submitting every single theses?



# **Master's theses in Munin**

Spring of 2007:

- Two faculties adopted Munin as their tool for submitting master's theses:
  - 70% of these theses ended up in Munin
- The other faculties:
  - □ 19% of the theses in Munin



# A clearing-house submission system

- DSpace is not ment to be a system for submission of theses that are not to be published www
- So we decided to:
  - Establish a separate DSpace instance for the general submission purpose: iPortal
  - Customise DSpace to meet the needs of a general submission system
  - Export from iPortal to Munin those theses that may be published online

□ iPortal goes live November 1. 2007

15.10.2007

# **Success factor: The interests of administrative staff**

- Objective for Munin:
- As many theses as possible in Munin
  Objective of the master programs' administrative staff:
  Improve the workflow of the theses
  - Submission
  - Printing service
  - Examination
  - Communication
  - Keeping track
- Both parties' objectives are reached through iPortal
- Selling the iPortal-idea in the administrative part of the University community has been simple



# **Success factor: The interests of students**

#### If

logging in

- filling in the form
- uploading the thesis
- is extra effort = The result is poor
- But if
  - logging in
  - filling in the form
  - uploading the thesis

is part of what students anyway have to do to submit their thesis

### = The result is good

# The opposition

#### Students:

- Very little intrinsic opposition against publishing in Munin
- Less than 2% of the submitted:
  - "I do not want to have my thesis in Munin"
- Some make use of confidential business info
- A few make use of copyrighted materials
  - and thus cannot have their thesis in Munin

#### Supervisors:

- Some opposition plans to modify the thesis into a journal article to be published
  - (Mainly in biology, medicine and psychology)
- -> Afraid that inclusion in Munin will ruin this

# The publishing paranoia

- The thesis (or the results of the thesis)
  *may* be part of a journal article to come
  "Please do not include the thesis in Munin"
- How do we (Munin) act on this?
  - Should we store away the thesis while waiting for the article to be published?
  - Will we be notified when the article is accepted somewhere?
  - Will we be notified if the article is not accepted anywhere?



## **But now**

#### Let us look at what we did in DSpace





Login to the iPortal is done in MuninThe submitter is re-directed to iPortal

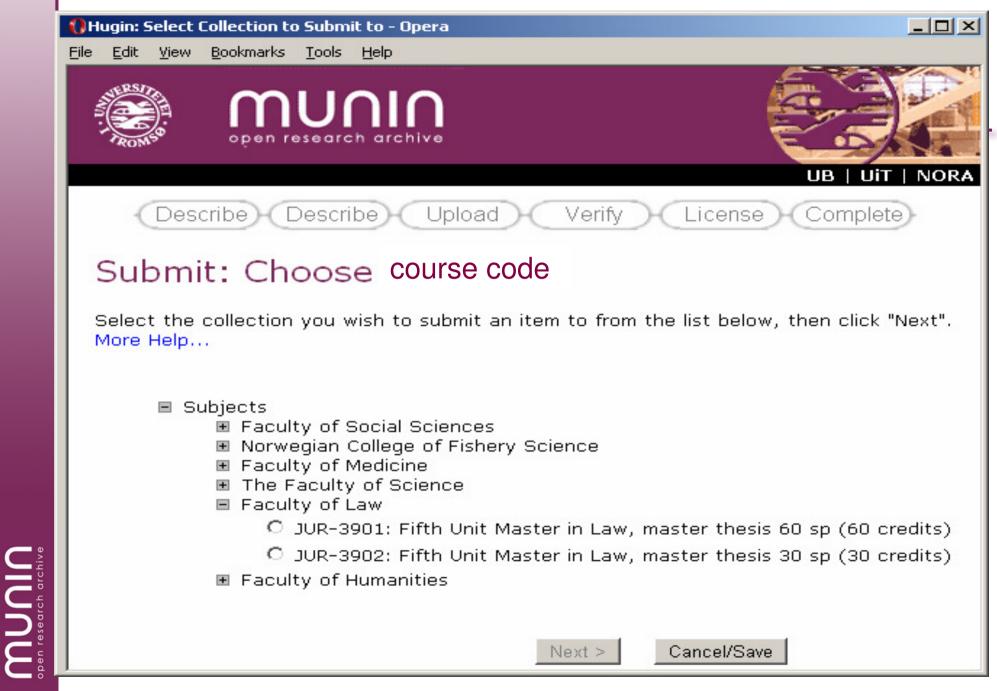
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# **Customising iPortal**

- Submitters/students do not choose the collection to submit to
- Each submitter choose the master's thesis (or master program) course code
- Each course code is mapped/associated to a collection
- The collections are purely for administrative workflow purposes



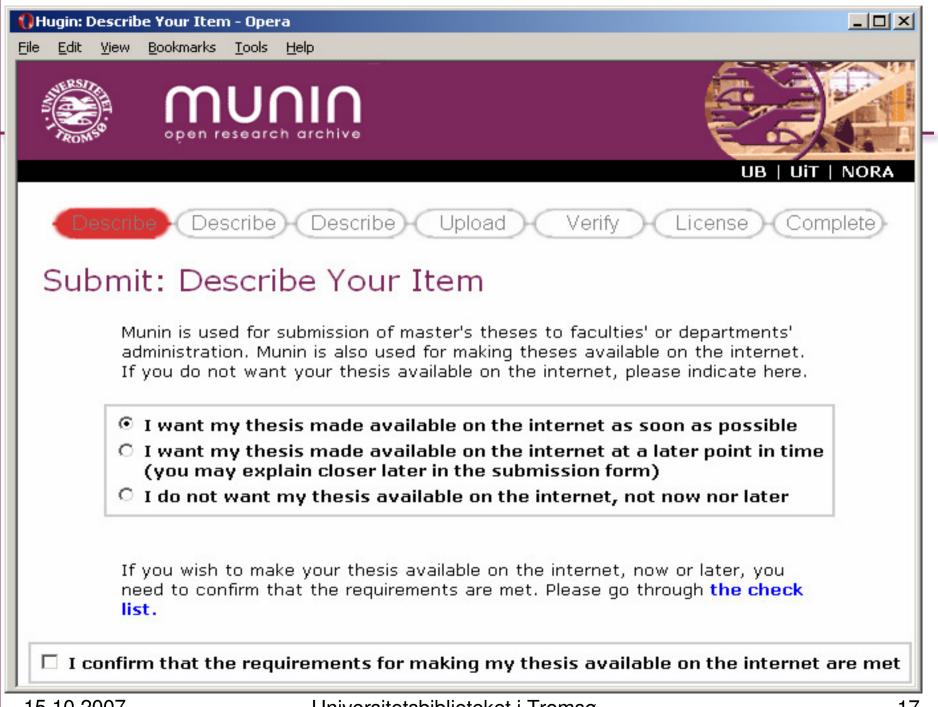


## **Customising** iPortal

-First Describe-page

- "Initial questions" Wish to publish the thesis online in Munin:
  - Now
  - Later on a later date
  - Never
  - Other conditions





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## **Customisation in iPortal**

-Second Describe-page

- "Describe your item". All the information (metadata) the student is required to enter are done here
- They are mostly standard Dspace describe-page



## **Customisation in iPortal**

Third Describe-page

- Used for administrative workflow purpose:
  - The thesis is OK
  - A copy has been sent to a printing press
  - OK to make it available in Munin
  - Has been sent to an examination commission

Etc





### **Exporting to Munin** - Cron job

- Theses to be included in Munin now:
  Are exported from iPortal to Munin
  They are mapped to their respective
  - collections in Munin based on the course code

### Theses to be included in Munin later:

- We store them until a specific date to export them to Munin
- Theses never to be included in Munin:
  - We delete them from iPortal
  - Exporting to a closed archive (restricted access) may be a future option



## **Feature requests**

- What we would like to have in DSpace:
  - Multi-Lingual submission form
  - Possibility to add more "initial questions" without extending the database
  - Administrative page(s) (our Describe #3) should not be visible to the students
  - Sorting options for "task list"
  - Alerting service: Theses that may be included in our IR sometimes in the future – An alert service for the IR administrator?



## Feature requests cont.

Changing the list of "Authorization Groups I am a Member of" to an understandable names

Example: Collection\_01\_SUBMIT to Master's thesis in TeleMedicine\_01\_SUBMIT



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# **Our future plans**

- Cooperation with a closed archive (restricted access) at the University
  - Munin is primarily for making the documents available
    not for restricted access safekeeping
- A similar submission platform for PhD theses
  - Challenge: Published journal articles and submitted articles – what may be included in Munin
- A similar submission platform for bachelor theses
  - Purely for administrative purpose not to be included in Munin



# Conclusions

- We look forward to go live with iPortal
- We believe the iPortal submission system will be a success
- We look forward to keep working with the iPortal:
  - Extending to other uses
  - Further developments



# Thank you and enjoy the rest of DSUG 2007



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# Questions!!!!!



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