

The Digital Repository – Stirling leading the way

Clare Allan, Subject Librarian: Natural Sciences

Earlier this year Stirling University updated its regulations regarding research theses. Starting from September 2006 theses are stored in the University's Digital Research Repository and made freely available on the web: <http://dspace.stir.ac.uk>. There is already a small collection of our aquaculture theses available at: <http://dspace.stir.ac.uk/dspace/handle/1893/13/browse-title>. The collection will continue to grow as any newly awarded PhDs are added.

The Repository is a great way to make some of the excellent research work from the Institute of Aquaculture available to the global community of researchers and practitioners. Studies have shown there are also significant benefits for the author and their research. For example, a survey at Virginia Tech in the United States found that:

- 68% of students felt it had advanced their research
- 40% thought it helped them find a job

Benefits include:

- a free thesis deposit service available via the web

- increased impact and citation of the work
- the thesis is included in Google and other web search services
- students can request not to make their thesis available, for example, if it contains commercially sensitive information
- students can choose to delay the date the thesis is made available if they would like time to publish articles first

Stirling is one of the first Universities in the UK to change its regulations in this way, and it is a very positive step for our students and their work. The British Library is investigating a national service for electronic theses, and our Repository is designed to integrate with their developments. We hope this will ensure that the Institute of Aquaculture theses will have a strong presence in any national collections.

If you are a graduate from Stirling with your PhD in an electronic format and would like to add it to the University's Repository please contact me for more information. c.m.allan@stir.ac.uk



The 2007 Fish Health Course held 9-11th January included participants from Scottish Sea Farms, EC Food and Veterinary Office, West Minch Salmon, Loch Duart Ltd, NAFC Marine Centre Shetland and Royal Sun Alliance. If you are interested in attending the 2008 course please contact Beatrice Campbell 01786 467870 or bamc1@stir.ac.uk

First Latin American & Third Mexican Conference on Culture of Native Fish Species continued from page 10



Lindsay introduces the background to CBD and culture of native species.



Dr Herve Migaud enjoying a taco of fresh, hot, hand-made tortilla



Dr Andrei Sampaio outlining experiences with Paralichthys



Dr Alfonso Mardones receiving his reconocimiento from Dra Mayra Toledo Cuevas who organised the entire event