

InterPARES 3 Project

International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems

TEAM Brasil



The view of the InterPARES Project on digital libraries of theses: the experience of the University of Campinas – UNICAMP

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Abstract

As one of InterPARES 3 / TEAM Brazil's test-bed partner, the University of Campinas (UNICAMP) is developing six case studies. The research is based on InterPARES methodology and theory on digital preservation aiming at the adoption of procedures to guarantee records' reliability and authenticity for long term. Digital master's dissertations and PhD theses by graduate students that are included in the Digital Library of UNICAMP's Library Network are the digital entities under study in one of those case studies.

Introduction

UNICAMP Library Network keeps the digital theses and dissertations of graduate students, which are maintained in the Digital Library. Theses and dissertations are considered as potential digital records and therefore must be kept reliable, authentic and accessible for a long term.

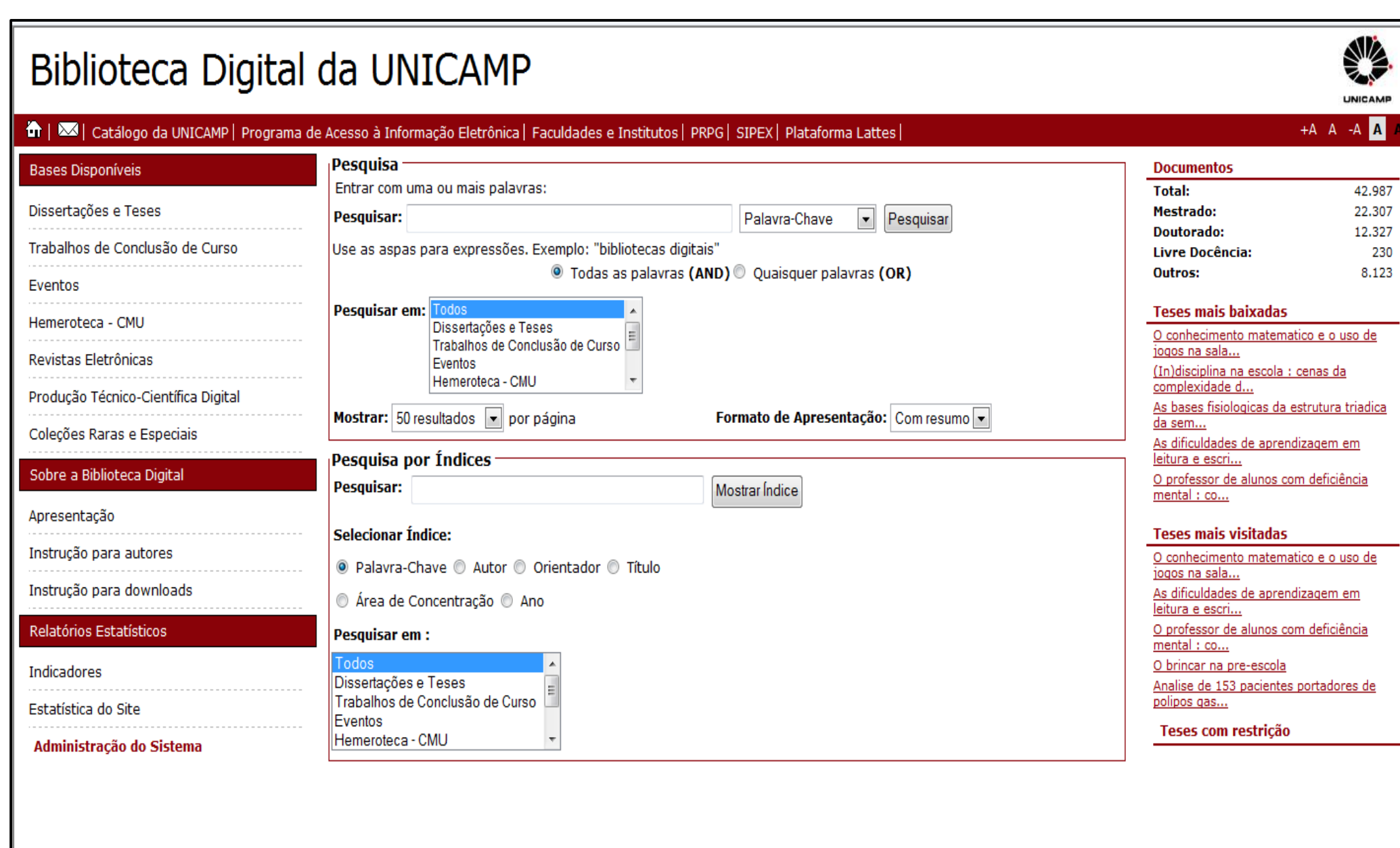


Image 1: New layout of UNICAMP's Digital Library web portal

Methodology

- Data collection based on InterPARES templates aiming at the identification of the contextual information and characteristics of the digital entity under study;
- Proposition of action plans with possible solutions to be tested and implemented.

Findings

In the context of the InterPARES 3 Project, researchers verified that the digital theses and dissertations of graduate students maintained in the Digital Library present problems related to integrity and completeness, as some appendixes are not kept or accessed together with the main text of the work. Besides, their archival bond with other records that support the action is not explicit.

Regarding the repository where the Digital Library is stored, researchers also identified the need to implement an audit trail and to define a strategy for monitoring file formats and migration actions.

Accordingly, the Digital Library's system is being remodeled. The Library's new portal will provide access to all appendixes, regardless of their file format, together with the PDF file containing the main text of the theses and dissertations.

The registration of the student's number as a metadata of their thesis and/or dissertation is also under way, as well as the implementation of an audit trail and a strategy for monitoring file formats and migration actions.

Conclusion

The findings resulting from this case study supported the elaboration of a preservation plan for the university's Library Network and will also serve as basis for the definition of a corporate digital preservation plan for UNICAMP.

Currently, almost 35,000 theses and dissertations are available at the Digital Library, which means 100 percent of the graduation courses' academic production. Up to March 2011, a total of 6,889,591 downloads had already been registered; this intensive use justifies the adoption of digital preservation strategies to guarantee the long-term maintenance of reliable, authentic and accessible records.