Notes from communications with Laurent Pilet, project leader the GRAAL VRE project

The GRAAL project is an inter-intuition project to create a virtual research environment between several universities in France. Having communicated with Laurent Pilet, project leader, of the *Université d'Auvergne* and the *Université Blaise Pascal*, I have the following additional information about the project:

The systems communicate using web services only within a single geographical region. While the project envisages the possibility of each university having direct access to each of the other universities, this does not yet exist. AMUE (*L'Agence de Mutualisation des Universités et Établissements*, a consortium working on ties between French universities)   is developing a structure for this. There is the possibility that the inter-university communication with HAL and other repositories will follow the OAI-PMH (Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting) standards.

Due to the implementation of *ESUP Portail* [a version of uPortal and selected portlet) at many of the member institutions of the GRAAL project, GRAAL can be used through the ESUP portal.

APOGEE, the most commonly used software used in French universities has web-services already established; however, they were not suitable for this project. Therefore, the GRAAL team developed their own.

In response to a question about the attributes of researchers, Laurent listed the following, which applies to doctoral students:

- Status of the research or thesis (in process, suspended, abandoned, accepted)
- Title of the research or thesis
- Starting Date
- Family and Given name of the supervising professor
- Family and Given name of the co-supervising professor
- Doctoral School (the institution which is directing the study)
- National Code for the doctoral school
- Code for the university
- Statement of joint supervision
- Date of doctoral defense (viva)
- Place of defense
- Acceptance/ Verdict of thesis
- Distinctions or honors of thesis (if accepted)