



1. The Thresher periodically sends out Open Archives Initiatives (OAI) Protocol compliant HTTP requests requesting metadata updates to the Reapers running on the web servers of the BEN partners.
2. The Reaper application, a Perl script running on the web servers of BEN Partner Society, will access recently added or modified metadata records of the Partner Society from SQL database and will convert these records into BEN OAI XML data.
3. Reaper returns XML data in OAI-compliant form through HTTP request to the Thresher on the BEN Server.
4. Thresher parses the OAI XML making sure it is well-formatted and valid, strips out any unneeded information and sends raw BEN Resource Metadata XML to Metadata Class.
5. Metadata Class converts received XML into object and sends it to PHPLib.
6. PHPLib handles DB connection, as well as permissions and authentication. It receives an object and recreates the metadata record in the central BEN database.
7. Record can also be submitted through the sequence of PHP pages that take an input data and then send it to Metadata Class that takes care of putting record into the DB.
8. Admin pages, User Registration & Profile, and Browse all use PHPLib to get data from BEN's Database
9. Search uses ColdFusion/Verity search engine to index and search the collection.

References:

OAI Protocol for Metadata Harvesting:
<http://www.openarchives.org/OAI/openarchivesprotocol.html>
 Note: BEN currently uses OAI v1.1

PHPLib:
<http://phplib.sourceforge.net/>