# Forward in time: TARDis and the RAE



The Southampton University Research Repository (e-Prints Soton) was initially implemented as an open access institutional repository for the full text of Southampton University's research output, offering self-archiving and assisted deposit.

Contributions to the EPrints Software, developed by the TARDis Project, addressed multidisciplinary, institutional needs and made the deposit process more logical and intuitive for a wide range of research materials.

Conversation with academics at all levels steered the project towards being a publications database with full text where available. Not only does this mean that Southampton's research output is visible, but this central record can now be used for many purposes – web pages, funding proposals, the annual University

Research Report, CVs, and perhaps most importantly, the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE).

The University has now recommended that e-Prints Soton be used as the central RAE 2008 management tool. New features will offer researchers a selection mechanism for RAE submission, the ability for records to be annotated with RAE ratings at a secure level and provision for the export of data.

Full text deposit is growing because the software invites researchers to

deposit at the same time as they create the metadata for the RAE record, thus encouraging a sustainable culture of open access to develop. Support from the project team includes strong advocacy and value added services like linking to the e-Journal subscription version, as well as enriching the metadata to allow for more effective retrieval.

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For further information please go to:
**http://tardis.eprints.org/**