

EdShare: Towards sharing resources for learning and teaching at the University of Southampton



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Core Challenges:

What strategies and policies do we need to put in place so that academics share resources for learning and teaching?
What changes to our culture will encourage collaboration in the academy?

APPROACH:

At the University of Southampton, in the UK, we have been developing our Research Repository (e-Prints Soton) since 2005, both to **showcase the research output** and to **make it more accessible**.

As a **significant next step**, the University has taken the strategic decision to develop a **repository for educational resources**. We are using the well-established EPrints repository software currently deployed worldwide by over 200 repository applications.



This initiative contributes to the University's **overarching vision for repositories to link more deeply the products and activities of both scholarship and research**.

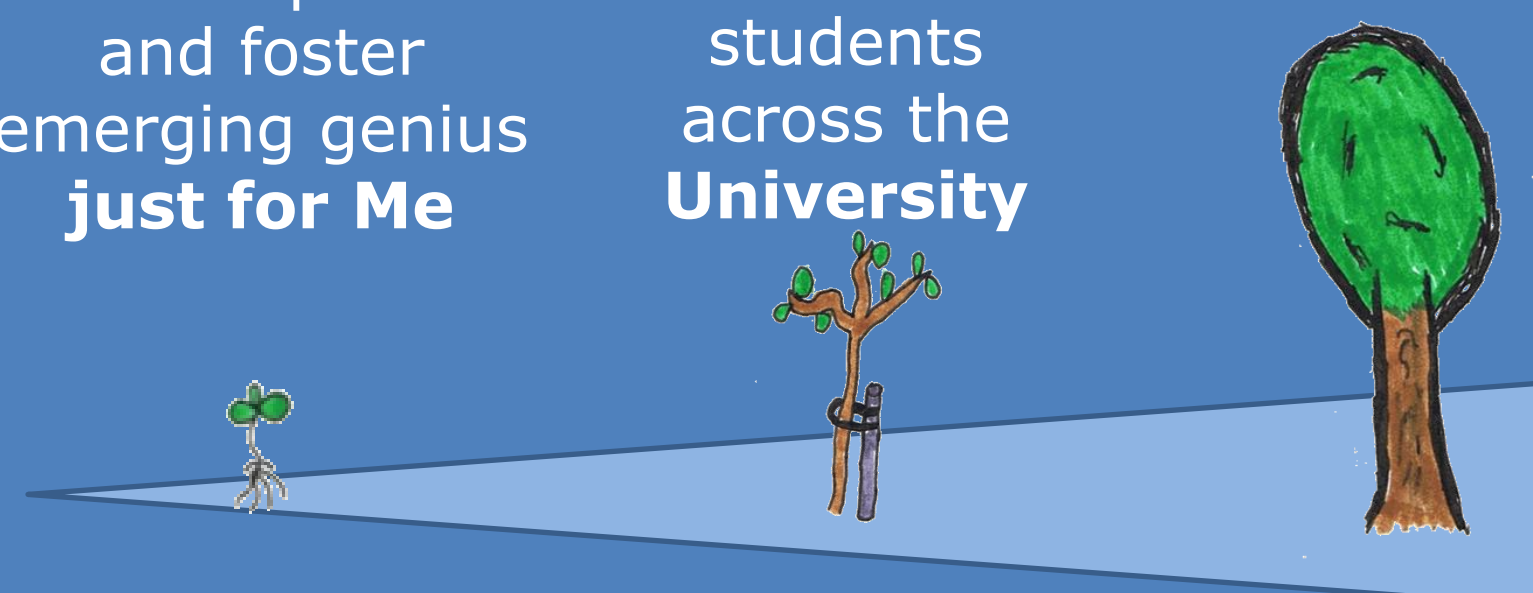
We are developing EdShare, intended to be **easy to use, lightweight, nimble and sustainable, with a simple interface for adding and managing content**.

Sharing through EdShare:

I want a personal place to develop initial sparks and foster emerging genius **just for Me**

I want to share with my colleagues and students across the **University**

I want to share with the **World**



MOTIVATIONS:

To enable people:

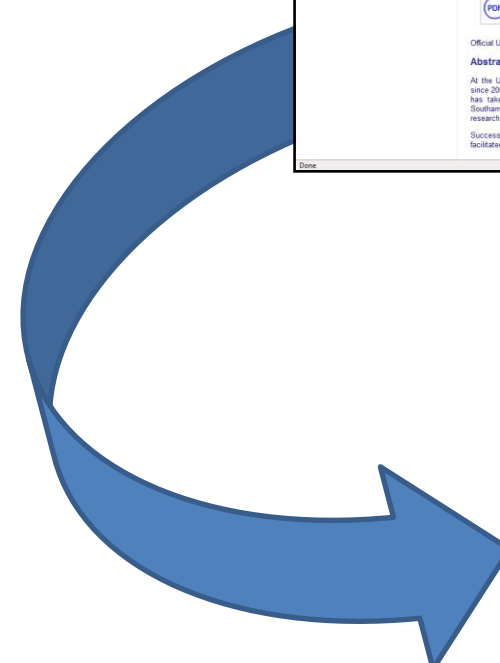
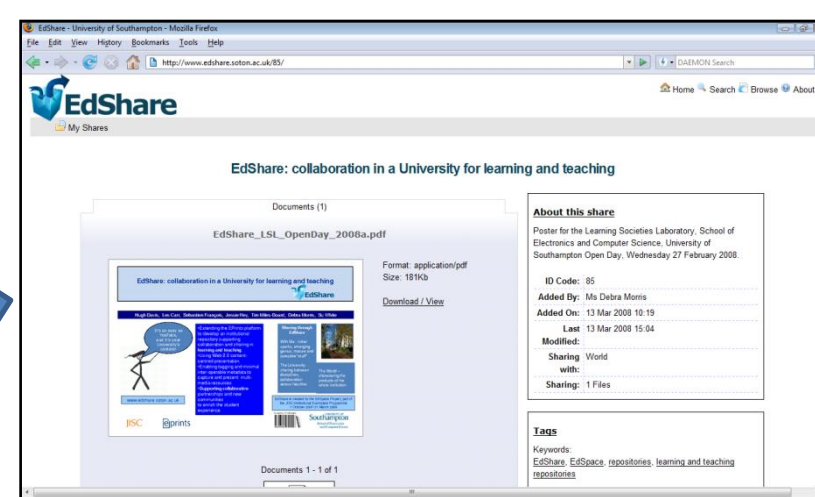
- in different faculties,
- from across the institution,

Who are:

- developing,
- designing,
- delivering,
- supporting educational materials, resources and processes,

To be able to:

- view,
- comment on,
- re-use,
- tailor,
- contribute to development of the content.



BENEFITS:

From these activities there may emerge:

- new collaborations,
- new groups,
- new interests to enrich the student experience even further.

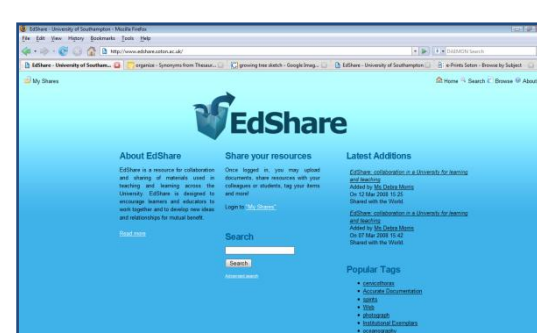
Developing inter-operability between this new repository and other institutional systems, which support learning and teaching (e.g. VLEs and portals).

Taking advantage of key Web 2.0 developments since the research repository was conceived:

- ease of deposit of content,
- auto-complete tagging options - which guide as well as facilitate selection of tags,
- metrics on viewing and downloading as encouragement for people to add content,
- minimal barriers to sharing,
- browsing, searching and tag cloud presentation.

NEXT STEPS:

We now need to develop a better understanding of the institutional processes relating to the teaching agenda. We anticipate that there will be finer gradations of openness in this domain than in the research arena, from the individual to the global academic community. In developing EdShare at Southampton, we are promoting a shift to a more outward-looking, open, and collaborative approach to scholarship.



www.edshare.soton.ac.uk

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