Research Assessment: A Diverse Role for Repositories

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Decades of Achievement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Internet (packets)</th>
<th>Web (documents)</th>
<th>Repository (preservation)</th>
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What have we achieved with this multilayered platform in the last decade?
What scope have we for achieving new things?
Openness Agendas

- **Open Access to Research Outputs**
  - Supported by all Research Councils
  - Heavily promoted by JISC

- **Open Research Data**
  - Move from closed VRE / EScience environment
  - To open (able) data

- **Open Educational Resources**
  - Move from “Learning Objects” to “Learning Resources” via Open Access practice and methodology
  - Move from closed VLEs to sharing resources
  - All underpinned by active preservation and curation policies and workflows
Open Access vs Research Assessment?

- In UK, high proportions of public-funded research
  - National research assessment processes
  - All universities required to account for research outcomes / quality
- Repositories found role in cataloguing research outputs for RAE2008
  - Embedded them at the heart of institutional infrastructure ✓
  - Diverted (temporarily) from Open Access goals ✗
- But for REF....
CRIS: Current Research Info Systems

- EuroCRIS organisation promotes systems that deal with whole research infrastructure
CRIS: Current Research Info Systems

- CERIF standard data schema interoperates between different systems

Repositories should support CERIF
FRIS portal (NL)

- CRIS pulls together all research & admin information to create a unified view about a researcher’s involvement
- Comes from administration
- Promoted by REF
EPrints / CRIS Chimera

- As part of JISC’s Readiness for REF project, Eprints accommodates the CERIF data scheme
  - CERIF data interchange
  - Not just *publications* but *projects* and *organisations*
- CERIFed repositories have many separate datasets, all linked together via explicit relationships
  - a paper doesn’t have a *project property*, it is related to *project objects*
EPrints Before (sans CERIF)

- Projects and funding organisations are just names typed into the paper’s metadata record – with name authority assistance
EPrints After

• Now they are repository objects in their own right
• A paper links to its affiliated projects, instead of just mentioning them
CRIS Dichotomy

CRIS components attempt to provide service to research management and administrators.

Repository attempts to reach researchers and public, and provide a service to management.
Admin/CERIF View of A Project

- Grant ID / Funder / Amount
- Start date, End Date
- Investigators
- Budget breakdown

"To support Business Analyses"

K. Jeffry, Workshop on CRIS, CERIF & Institutional Repositories, June 2010
Researchers’ View of A Project

- Project name
- Project aims / objectives
- Project Logo / Website / Blog
- Press releases
- News clippings
- Funder
Repository / CRIS combination

• Bring new perspective to CRIS
  – Researcher-oriented
  – Publicity-oriented
  – Marketing-oriented

• Descriptive, narrative

• Complementary to administrative perspective
Pulling Together

- JISC Open Impact project
- Repository of High Impact Research
- Brings together staff, outputs, projects
  - Repository acts as a CRIS
  - Holds admin data
  - Collects outputs and evidence
Impact Narratives

- Collecting evidence of research impact
- Preserving evidence
- Presenting evidence
- Publications, press reports, reviews etc
Timelines of Research Activity

- Generated from repository RSS feed
- Using off-the-shelf timeline software
  - Timeline 3D for Mac
  - Allows different visualisations: posters, movies
Presenting Research Feeds as Slideshows

Line the form below to generate slideshows (in .pptx format) from RSS (1.0, 2.0) or Atom (0.3, 1.0) feeds.

Enter the URL of the feed, and then select a template to base the generated slideshow from:

URL of feed:

Select a template:

Image scale factor: 1.0

Maximum content length: 200

Generate
e.g. RSS Feed from Press Releases

HV Lab staff celebrate opening of new research space

http://www.ecs.soton.ac.uk/news/3266

Staff and students at the Tony Davies High Voltage Laboratory are celebrating the completion of construction work in the Lab which has provided valuable new space for high voltage research.
Repository collecting social feeds

- Twitter data periodically collected from the Twitter API
- Stored as a dynamically growing collection of XML files
- Wish to extend to other ‘feeds’
Repository collecting Twitter feeds

- XML data can be downloaded for analysis
- Rendered by repository as a list of tweets for the user
Collecting Other Impact Evidence

- Accommodating unexpected objects in a dedicated research repository
  - Press releases
  - BBC news video clips
  - Reviews
Concluding Remarks

• Social, political & funding pressures are changing the roles of Research Information Environment

• Repositories have a history of engagement with grassroots / public
  • providing services (portfolios, collections, reports)
  • collecting/managing/preserving information and knowledge products

• These engagements can enrich administrative CRIS products

• CRIS ontological breadth can enrich repositories

• Distinction between CRIS / repository starts to blur.
A PostScript About Co-constitution

• A repository is not an information management black box
• It is a socially embedded technological phenomenon that promotes new relationships to research information
• OA Repositories have put pressure on Research Funders to change their relationship to research information
• Now Research Funders are changing repositories