The Repositories Support Project
DSpace UK&I User Group Meeting

Chris Yates,
csy@aber.ac.uk
University of Wales, Aberystwyth
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Introduction to the RSP

• Mission Statement

“The Repository Support Project is a JISC funded 2.5 year project to co-ordinate and deliver good practice and practical advice to English and Welsh HEIs to enable the implementation, management and development of digital institutional repositories”

• Lead/Partners

The project is being led by SHERPA - University of Nottingham

i) University of Wales Aberystwyth
ii) UKOLN at the University of Bath
iii) University of Southampton
iv) Digital Curation Centre

• Partners represent key centres of expertise regarding repositories
Aims of the RSP

• The RSP will provide guidance and advice to the whole UK sector with a view to:
  i) Increase repository capacity
  ii) Increase institutional knowledge and skills in the repository domain
  iii) Increase repository awareness within institutions

• The aim:
  i) Wider take-up and development of institutional repositories in HEIs
  ii) A deployed network of inter-working repositories for academic papers, learning materials and research data
  iii) Allow institutions to manage their assets, showcase research output and share learning material
Why the RSP?

• Isn’t there already expertise within institutions when implementing repositories?
  - Yes, some institutions in advanced stages of establishing well managed IRs

• Despite this, the widespread deployment of repositories is still patchy

• Many institutions do not have the expertise, resources or confidence to address the repository agenda

• Principal aim of the RSP
  i) Increase the pace of institutional repository adoption
  ii) Providing an outreach programme of advice and information
  iii) Initially targeting institutions who are yet to take the first step

• By providing practical assistance and advice on
  i) embedding existing repositories within institutional strategies
  ii) provide clear decision paths
  iii) succinct guidance notes
  iv) hands-on support
The RSP Role

• Consultation with the repositories community & JISC programme managers
  i) Ensuring institutions can be effectively supported whatever their repository type or stage of maturity
  ii) Databank of expertise, know-how and best practice
  iii) Different views for target audiences and repository types, tailored to specific needs

• Technical: software selection and installation, technologies, metadata, interoperability
• Organisational: staffing, business requirements and incentives, copyright clearance and digital rights management
• Repository management: policies, workflows, archiving and preservation
• Advocacy: advocating to different stakeholders and advising on advocacy within institutions
How DSpace fits in with the RSP

• Software agnostic approach
  - Support for DSpace, Open Repository, EPrints, Fedora

• RSP will place greatest focus on the DSpace and EPrints repositories

• Why is this?
  i) DSpace & EPrints the most predominant institutional platforms in the UK to date
     - DSpace: 198
     - EPrints: 219 (taken from OpenDOAR - www.opendoar.org/)
  ii) RSP can provide greatest support for these repository platforms
     - DSpace: University of Wales, Aberystwyth
     - EPrints: University of Southampton
DSpace support for RSP partners

- **On site support**
  1. Within Wales, the RSP has 4 site visits per year for each of the 12 institutions.
  2. Feedback from RSP summer school highlighted 8 institutions asking for a DSpace training day.

- To act as a first point of call/go between for HEIs and the DSpace community.

- **Provide technical support for:**
  1. Installation & setup
  2. Bespoke source code modification/assistance
  3. Advice on hardware/software
  4. UI modification/customisation

- **Training events & literature to promote implementation, management and development of DSpace repositories.**

- To highlight successful DSpace repository installations for other HEIs to look towards.

- **Bilingual Welsh interface language pack for DSpace.**
DSpace support for RSP partners

- DSpace repository setup as demonstrator
- Allows users to experience DSpace without having to implement their own system
Impact on the DSpace community

- Interaction with different institutions through site visits & events will allow feedback into the DSpace community.
- Hopefully, this will allow the DSpace community to be more tightly partnered with users at institutions allowing us to understand their requirements.

Suggested DSpace features

i) DSpace statistics (GSoC)
ii) Website population from DSpace
iii) Library catalogue integration (Voyager/TALIS)
iv) Sequel server support (DAOs)
v) Enhancement to submission processes (Auto complete of form fields)
vi) Rate this item feature
vii) UI modification dependant on submitter (Manakin)

- Some of these suggested features are in the DSpace current release.
- RSP role to promote awareness of DSpace functionality.
- Highlight user requirements and feedback into community.
Support RSP needs from the DSpace community

• What support can the DSpace community give the RSP

• Draw on the wealth of knowledge and experience for DSpace issues that can’t be answered through the RSP
  i) Technical Support for hardware/software
  ii) Patches & bug fixing

• Training & events

• Continued development of DSpace software
Engagement in DSpace by HEIs to date

- Site visits have highlighted 11 out of the 12 HEIs opting to adopt DSpace

- Identified reasons
  i) Support that the RSP can provide
  ii) Strength of the DSpace community
  iii) Microsoft Windows platform support for DSpace
  iv) Highly configurable

- Feedback RSP summer school, showed increased interest in DSpace

- 8 institutions registering for site support for the RSP

- A number of institutions registering for DSpace training days

- Hopefully, the DSpace community can be involved with these?
Engagement in DSpace by HEIs to date

• http://maps.repository66.org/ (thanks to Stuart Lewis, UWA)
Thank you for listening!

Any Questions?

**Discussion**

- What support can the DSpace community give the RSP?
- What support/feedback can the RSP give the DSpace community?