Current developments in Aberystwyth University’s research repository provision 2007/8

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Presentation at National Library of Wales in 2004 led to Repositories Bridge Project

**DSpace** installed and trialled by IT staff of Information Services, led by Stuart Lewis

Proposal to IS management for full repository service

**Content** developed from early 2006

Welsh Repositories Network (12 institutions) from April 2007, funded by JISC

Full-time repository manager from mid Sept 2007
Holdings: staff research

- **Holdings** up from 269 to 487 since September 2007

- Computer Science, Information Studies, Maths and Physics, some Geography & Earth Sciences, RSP & IS

- Of 16 academic depts, 4 have contributed staff research content (17 depts until IBERS merger)

- Usage statistics: DSpace and Google Analytics (for advocacy use)

- Project data
  - Welsh Dept
  - Theatre Film & Television Studies, European Languages to follow
Holdings: theses/dissertations

- Theses:
  - 11 PhD (7 depts)
  - 2 MPhil (Welsh Dept)
  - Some retrospective PhDs through EthOS project

- Dissertations:
  - 14 MSc dissertations with distinctions – 39 more in process (International Politics)
  - 1 MA thesis (Welsh Dept)
Developments: overview

- End of pilot project in January 2008
- Roll out of service to all departments ongoing
- Update from DSpace 1.4 to DSpace 1.5 (JSP UI) ongoing
  - bilingual interface
  - visual upgrade
- Mandatory electronic archiving of theses/dissertations agreed from 2008/9
  - Dual collection (paper/electronic) for the medium term
  - Items to be linked to paper copies in library catalogue
- Proposal for Current Research Management System (CRIS) under consideration by university management
- (Bid for JISC funded Deposit Plait project accepted)
Policymaking processes and problems

- Especially in a pilot project, it is extremely easy to make policy up as you go along, or by default
- It is often done *by necessity* to make things work
- Examples to follow may be few, indirectly comparable
- It is necessary therefore to get these issues discussed officially as early as possible, even if many are unsolved
- The long-term aims of the service may seem clear, but this is not necessarily the case on closer inspection
- This was effectively my first task as repository manager
Purpose and methods

- Purpose
  - Primary: research showcase ↔ resource
  - Subsidiary: preservation

- Copyright / Risk management
  - rely on RoMEO
  - no hard copy of agreements or print-outs of advice

- File formats:
  - PDF initially favoured
  - all accepted, PDF conversion service (not always for LaTeX)

- Versioning not yet supported in DSpace
  - multiple unlinked entries for now
Strategic and Marketing

- **Description:**
  - “Online Research Repository”
  - leaving aside words “digital” and “archive”
- **University resource, not library resource**
  - No links to library resources on home page
  - Conversely linked to *from* library electronic information pages, through IS pages
- **Support from university management**
- **Publicity methods:**
  - direct approach to heads of depts, directors of research
  - informational event(s) for academic staff
  - staff/student meetings (more relevant in future?)
Rights and publishers

- Use of RoMEO
  - No date stamps, “not to be relied on for legal advice”
- Publisher correspondence where RoMEO incomplete
- Rights information in metadata
- Metadata-only records where archiving disallowed
  - Academics interested in bibliographic services
  - Automatically generated bibliographies that can be included in authors’ web pages
- Limited test of the button
  - ineffective
  - legality?
- Embargoes not currently supported in DSpace
Legal issues: all content

- Licence agreement: click-through, *not* legal signature
  - Risk management assessment
  - In self-archiving, LDAP authentication and time stamps considered acceptable
  - In mediated self-archiving (repository or occasionally departmental staff), e-mail permissions need to be kept

- End-user licences
  - Click-through licence may inhibit use of repository
  - End-user notice planned: “by using this you agree to…”

- Take-down policy
  - *Immediate* take-down pending investigation
Legal issues: theses/dissertations

- 3rd party copyright
  - Education sessions to be arranged for future content
  - Retrospective archiving or digitisation (e.g. EthOS)
  - Some retrospective items to be intranet access only from DSpace 1.5, as a result of copyright content
- Embargoes not currently supported in DSpace
  - manual embargoes
  - rare case now, but anticipate 3-4 per annum in future
- Take-down policy
  - immediate take-down pending investigation
Metadata

- Qualified Dublin Core
  - OAI-PMH harvesters use only simple Dublin Core
  - OAIster & Intute
- Metadata review, early 2008 (compliance issues)
  - `dc.type` → `dc.type.publication` e.g. “refereed published journal paper
  - `dc.type` → “Text”, “Image”, “Sound” etc
  - `dc.description` → `dc.rights`
- DSpace requires
  - `dc.contributor.author` (ideally `dc.creator`)
- No current reason to deal with
  - `dc.identifier.citation` (to be split up if CRIS developed?)
  - `dc.rights.embargodate` (not supported in DSpace 1.5)
- Not using Library of Congress Subject Headings, MARC etc
The IBERs merger

- The Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER) merged with two University depts:
  - Institute of Rural Sciences (IRS)
  - Institute of Biological Sciences (IBS)
- The Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences is now AU’s single largest department
- IGER has a long-standing research reporting database
  - BBSRC funding requires this to be maintained
  - It is entirely possible to import records into CADAIR
  - Both need to be interoperable with a future CRIS
  - Supplies a partial model for co-ordinating research reporting better, for using data to support future grants
Future content

- **Data archiving service**
  - Offered below cost price to encourage early use
  - Encourages academics to archive research content as well?
  - Too early to assess so far

- **RAE content**
  - No involvement of IS in last RAE
  - Need to seek separate licence from authors
  - We can reasonably expect to administer REF content

- **Learning objects / teaching materials**
  - Preliminary discussions: Dept of Information Studies
  - Likely to require a separately branded repository
  - Intranet-only resource?
  - Other repository solutions? Research repository is priority