

The Institutional Repository

The University's new institutional repository, designed to showcase (and preserve) the University's scholarly research output, went live on January 20th 2011. This repository, built using Southampton University's *EPrints* open source repository software, is called (at least for the moment) **Eprints@Portsmouth**, the lowercase 'p' differentiating our repository from the enabling software. This new repository replaces an earlier one – also created using *EPrints* – which went live in 2004, a repository which, because it was both poorly-promoted and poorly-exploited, contained just over 100 journal articles when it was closed in Christmas 2010. The new repository has been designed by a small team in the University Library and it has been built (and is being hosted and maintained) by the repository software company at Southampton University, *EPrints.org*.

Institutional Repositories and Open Access

The development of institutional repositories is closely bound up with the 'open access' publishing movement, where authors publish in 'open access' journals (many of



which are peer-reviewed and of high quality) whose contents are then open to the world for free. This publishing model, only about 15 years old, inverts the long-established model of journal publishing where authors publish for free and publishers then charge (often very highly) for access to the published articles in either print or electronic form. The cost of publishing in open access journals can be low, indeed it may even be even free, but if it is high the open access publishing charges can be paid from a variety of sources: the author may pay them themselves, their institution may pay them or the charges may be paid from a publishing element included in their research grants.

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ETHOS now 2 years old

Since its launch in January 2009, ETHOS has offered researchers across the world a single point of access, demonstrating the breadth and quality of UK doctoral research.

Below you can see 6 month snapshots of its history:

Compare this to the 5,000 theses digitised and 10,000 supplied each year under the old British Thesis Service, and the success of the project in showcasing the best of UK research is clear.

	Theses available	Registered Users	Theses Downloaded
Jan 2009	5,000	1,000	2,000
July 2009	18,000	17,500	57,000
Jan 2010	26,000	34,000	119,000
July 2010	36,000	51,000	196,000
Jan 2011	44,000	65,000	260,000

To find out more, see our notes and link at:
<http://www.port.ac.uk/library/staff/research/inmyarea>

PhD supervisor or researcher?

A Research Information Network study into the role of supervisors in developing students' information literacy underway now. This is a notable area in which there is little prior evidence on the perspectives of supervisors (PhD and equivalent) with respect to research skills focusing on the handling of information and data. If you'd like to take part the surveys are at:

<http://www.rin.ac.uk/supervisor-survey> and
<http://www.rin.ac.uk/research-student-survey>.

Wiley Open Access journals

Wiley, who publish many of the journals we subscribe to are venturing into open access publishing with three titles launching in 2011:

- *MicrobiologyOpen*
- *Ecology and Evolution*
- *Brain and Behavior*

For more details see:
<http://www.wileyopenaccess.com/view/index.html>

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For some years now all biomedical research funded by the United States National Institutes of Health has been required to be deposited in an open access repository – NIH mandates its own *PubMed Central* – and the Wellcome Trust was the first research body in the UK to mandate deposit of research that they funded, also mandating *PubMed Central*. The UK Research Councils are also beginning to mandate the deposit of research articles in open access repositories. The writing is well and truly on the wall...

An institutional repository holds the details of the scholarly output of its home institution, ideally with some form of full text accompanying the (enhanced) bibliographic data of the items in the repository. This full text can be text of the article prior to peer review (a **preprint**) or the text of the article following peer review but prior to publication (a **post print**) or, if the article has been published in an open access journal, it can be the full text of the article as seen in the journal. Copyright is the main problem which con-

found repository managers packing their repositories brim-full of full text, but the consensus seems to be that in most cases uploading a preprint or postprint should not cause problems. There has never yet been, so I am reliably told, a single case where copyright infringement by a repository has resulted in a prosecution. Such infringements may lead to the item being removed from the repository in very short order, but no prosecution has ever occurred.

Getting your articles into the repository

Building a repository is a reasonably easy task but populating it with good quality data is much harder. Some universities have introduced an institution-wide mandate whereby academics are required to 'self archive', that is they are required to deposit the details (and ideally some form of full text) of their articles in their institution's repository themselves, not a hard task but just something else to be added to the list of things to do. Here at Portsmouth we are adopting a more centralised model of populating our repository called 'mediated archiving'. In this model each Faculty will have two nominated and

trained 'depositors', whose responsibility it will be to take your articles, conference papers etc and deposit them in the archive. **Top tip:** You can your help Faculty's depositors by ensuring that you keep a copy of your article preprint or postprint so that these can be passed to the depositors for uploading into the repository. Once deposited in the re-

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pository deposits are not made public immediately. They are stored in a review area where they are checked and then 'signed' off by one of the repository editors, all of whom are Library staff and thus used to tidying-up and adding value to this sort of material.

Exposing your research to the world in an open access repository is good for both the institution and the individual. Some studies have suggested that placing details of your research in an open access repository can double your citation rate for some articles – good for you and good for your home institution.

Accessing the Repository

How can you access our repository? The repository is linked to from the University Library's home page – <http://www.port.ac.uk/library> – but you can also access it directly by going to <http://eprints.port.ac.uk>.

Questions?

If you have any questions about our institutional repository please ring me or email me as shown below.

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