Supporting the Development and Growth of the UK Repositories Network

RSP
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.

Building Repositories
The RSP is contributing to building repository capacity, knowledge and skills within institutions. Through providing guidance and advice it benefits the whole of the UK sector resulting in the wider take-up and development of institutional repositories in HEIs.

The aim of the project is to progress the vision of a deployed network of inter-working repositories for academic papers, learning materials and research data across the UK. Whilst fulfilling the business requirements of HEIs to manage their assets, showcase research outputs, and share learning materials, such a network of populated repositories will be a major step forward in the provision of open access materials.

The RSP & You
The RSP is consulting with the community at large in order to ensure institutions can be effectively supported whatever their repository type or stage of maturity. A databank of expertise, know-how and best practice is being built at the project website - www.rsp.ac.uk Support materials concentrate on four broad themes:

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 marketing and promotion within institutions

Supporting the Community
The RSP is running an active outreach programme of advice and information. This targets institutions that are yet to take the first step, as well as giving more advanced institutions guidance on embedding existing repositories within institutional strategies. In both instances the RSP advises on the best way to develop clear decision paths, through practitioner-based presentations, briefing papers and hands-on support.

In developing its services and support the project draws on the wide-ranging expertise of its carefully selected combination of consortium partners and upon the substantial amount of additional expertise, research and infrastructure already available within the sector.

Project Partners
The project is led by SHERPA, University of Nottingham, with core partners Aberystwyth University and UKOLN at the University of Bath. Other partners are the Digital Curation Centre and the University of Southampton.

All partners represent key centres of expertise regarding repositories, and the project builds on their previous national and international activity across the repositories landscape.