SHARING EXPERIENCES and EXPERTISE in the Repository professional development of promoting OA and IRs

**Introduction**

In January 2012, the Digital Repository Federation (DRF), Japan, invited Jackie Wickham, the Repositories Support Project (RSP), UK, to Japan to share information about the activities of the RSP, especially training events and workshops. Through this meeting, it was found that there were many similarities between activities of each party, which aimed to promote open access and institutional repositories in UK and Japan. So both agreed sharing their experiences and expertise would lead to further promoting open access and institutional repositories in two countries.

**We Have a lot in Common**

1. **The Objective**
   - Both parties aim to increase open access through institutional repositories.
   - To realize that objective, they set a concrete agenda as follows:
     - More repositories in higher education institutions
     - More content in existing repositories
     - Promote good practice and standards

2. **Activities**
   - Both run training events and workshops, through which repository managers are able to share information or make a network of personal contacts.
   - The DRF has held international conferences and run various workshops such as nationwide workshops, regional workshops and technical workshops and training events for beginner/senior staffs and so on. The RSP has held conferences and run various events such as residential schools, skill trainings and technical workshops and so on.
   - And they have a lot in common with respect to a) the topics of events, such as the latest trend of Open Access, copyright issues, repository softwares, and b) the methods used in training events such as group discussion, bringing impersonation to presentation.

**MOU between DRF, RSP and UKCoRR**

Among all objectives and activities of each repository community in Japan and UK, commonalities can be clearly identified. For mutual benefit, the DRF, the RSP and the United Kingdom Council of Research Repositories (UKCoRR), UK, agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with respect to an international cooperation aimed at sharing experiences and expertise on 1st March 2012.

Development of professional skills and expertise for the promotion of institutional repositories is of rapidly increasing significance in both countries.

**Share our Experiences**

In activities of the DRF and the RSP, there are many ideas and know-how that the two parties can take from each other, and share for their mutual benefit. For example, the DRF translated one of handouts of the RSP’s workshop “Communication Skills for Effective Advocacy” into Japanese and posted it on the DRF’s website. And this year the DRF will run a training event for senior staff based on an RSP’s workshop in communication skills at a residential school. The DRF is also interested in the RSP’s webinar programme and is planning to introduce something similar. Meanwhile, the RSP is interested in the repository game and skit developed by the DRF.

**Japan to UK**

1. IR Board Game Played in Social Events
2. Comedy Skit “Author Rights”

**UK to Japan**

3. Translation of “Communication Skills for Effective Advocacy” into Japanese
4. Training Webinars

**Conclusion**

The DRF, Japan, and the RSP, UK, have a lot in common with respect to running training events or workshops for repository managers and sharing each party’s experiences and expertise brings mutual benefits. In addition, the Memorandum of Understanding between DRF, RSP and UKCoRR will consolidate that sharing. For the future, applying each party’s best practices in training and development programmes is expected to further promote open access and institutional repositories in the two countries.

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