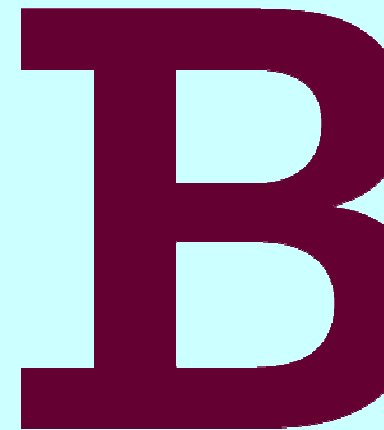


Developing UBIRA :
Challenges, Changes
and Choices



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The University of Birmingham Institutional Research Archive [UBIRA]

- Presents many challenges, changes and choices for Information Services and the University
- Had an ePrints Repository for some time
- Content matches with recent JISC report which reported 1/3rd of Institutional Repositories had little content**
- Push for development has been to improve access to and raise the profile of academic research at BU.

**LINKING UK REPOSITORIES: Technical and organisational models to support user-oriented services across institutional and other digital repositories : SCOPING STUDY REPORT (Alma Swan (Key Perspectives Ltd) and Chris Awre (University of Hull)
June 2006

The experience at the University of Birmingham

- Challenges
 - Agreement within the University on
 - what the fundamentals of the Repository should be
 - How this matched the University's Mission and Research Agenda
 - Strong encouragement by the university to deposit in UBIRA
 - Research funders starting to require deposit and view open access as a good thing

The experience at the University of Birmingham

- Challenges
 - Getting colleagues on board
 - Senior Management of the University
 - Knowledge and Research Transfer Committee
 - Academic colleagues
 - Directors of research
 - Research Groups
 - Library staff
 - Differing information needs
 - Keeping up to date

The experience at the University of Birmingham

- Changes
 - Software development
 - Moving to version 3 of ePrints – April 2007
 - More user friendly deposit screens
 - Automatic administration of embargo periods
 - Import and export of records “less difficult”
 - Requires customisation and training as this is a new(ish) technical area for BU
 - No direct experience of commercially-developed repository software

The experience at the University of Birmingham

- Changes
 - To how and who would initially populate the repository
 - Emphasis now on mediated deposit to create “critical mass”
 - Changes in staff responsibilities for more co-ordinated approach
 - Digital Assets Manager
 - Open Access Co-ordinator

The experience at the University of Birmingham

□ Choices

- Began with two investigative, research works

Assessing the availability of the 2005 research outputs produced by other Institutions to members of the University of Birmingham.

Research work to assist with the development of the University of Birmingham Research Archive

- Both written by Stephen Bull. 2007

The experience at the University of Birmingham

□ Choices

- Few pre prints from BU staff available outside BU
- Different subject areas published in differing reference types
- One third of journal references located were classed as *Green*, one third as *Yellow* and one third as either *having no information or no RoMeo colour assigned*.
- Whilst a large percentage of journal items were accessible, it is clear more needs to be done if all research publications are to be made available.

The experience at the University of Birmingham

□ Choices

- To have three distinct areas
 - ePrints repository
 - Peer reviewed research material
 - eTheses Repository
 - PhD theses : ETHoS project
 - ePapers Repository
 - Grey literature and working papers
- Interest in non-text based material
 - Involvement with MIDESS project
- Many names – one Mission

The experience at the University of Birmingham

□ Choices

- Work with **interested staff** to **obtain** suitable research materials to **upload**
- Actively support Library staff to promote and advocate Open Access generally and UBIRA specifically by
 - Providing WebCT area with monthly, annotated, bibliography on open access using an endnote library
 - Producing powerpoint presentation for local use on the benefits of open access and IR emphasising preservation issues

The experience at the University of Birmingham

□ Choices

- Training staff on how to locate open access materials themselves using either institutional repositories, search engines, etc
- Adding **selected** repositories and search engines to the elibrary to aid the research process of staff and students
- Integration into the workflow of material for uploading into UBIRA

Promotion of UBIRA

- The challenges, changes and choice allow UBIRA to be promoted with confidence by emphasising the following benefits:
 - Preservation - research centrally stored and preserved
 - Increased visibility – Google likes repositories
 - Free access to research
 - Non exclusive: placing things in the repository does not stop their use elsewhere

Summary

- Research funders now beginning to mandate open access
- Peer Pressure to make research more widely available
- Advocacy and promotion of UBIRA
 - targeting interested staff
 - providing guidance to users on
 - locating peer reviewed material
 - how to publish more widely