



Online survey results

A big thank you to all participants!

Nearly a hundred people completed the repository online survey conducted during April and May 2008.

Now that our three prize draw winners have settled back to enjoy their winnings we have time to report back on the survey results.

The respondents came from a range of university sections and represented a variety of University roles. The majority of respondents identified themselves as academics but a number of participants also represented the academic-related and administrative units at the institution.

What should go into a Bradford repository?

Respondents identified a range of possible content types for the repository. Most votes were given to journal articles, conference papers, books, theses and some types of archival mate-

rial. This result seems to reflect the experiences in other UK Higher Education Institutions where repositories are busily being set up for staff research output.

Benefits or repositories

Over 61% of respondents found the perceived benefits of repositories either very important or quite important. A further 8% found the same benefits to have some importance to them. A rough third of respondents said they would want to see the repository in action before making up their minds about benefits. Another 8% did not quite see the benefits of a repository to their research activities or

the University as a whole.

The main benefits participants were quizzed on included worldwide access to research, faster availability; easy search-

terested or wanted nothing to do with an institutional repository. Not surprisingly, a third of all respondents did not yet have a firm opinion about either the bene-

...”special collections which give the university an edge over others.”

ing and locating of digital materials; opportunities for wider dissemination of grey literature and other non-traditional /unpublished items; long-term preservation; and University research being stored in one centrally managed location.

Level of Interest and Concerns

Over 50% of respondents said they were either extremely or moderately interested in the forthcoming University of Bradford repository. A small number of people were either not very in-

fits or their level of interest in a repository. This can often be attributed to the relatively early stage in the set up process. People simply do not yet know how the repository service will cater for them.

When asked about any concerns people might have about repositories the following topics came up:

- A paper in a repository might constitute prior publication
- Threat of plagiarism
- Lack of RAE weighting
- Lack of peer-review for unpublished items
- Copyright and IPR

...Conclusions

Although a high proportion of respondents did not yet have firm opinions on repositories and their possible benefits to individuals and the institution, certain themes did emerge from the survey results.

The themes included a broad consensus on the type of content the repository should have, how people would like to interact with the repository service,

and what issues need to be addressed prior to the repository launch in 2009.

The Project Team are now concentrating on designing a user-friendly deposit interface that provides a quick and easy method for submitting scholarly materials. Advocacy efforts will concentrate on awareness building on e.g. copyright, and IPR issues; and assisting users in embedding the

repository into their daily workflows where appropriate.

A possible follow-up survey 18 months into a live repository service is expected to gauge any changes in peoples' attitudes to repositories in general and Bradford Scholars in particular. Such a survey will also advise the repository management on how to further

develop the live service to improve the available services and design aspects of the repository.

Full report available at

<http://www.brad.ac.uk/library/burp/index.php>

Email the Project team at Lib-repository@bradford.ac.uk