

Report on the series of interviews at pilot academic units

During the Summer 2008 fourteen academic researchers from AGES, EDT and Informatics were interviewed to find out more about researchers' publishing practices, their views on issues like copyright, versioning and Open Access publishing. The information gathered alongside the Online Survey results will advise the BURP! Team in the design and implementation of the University of Bradford institutional repository.

Dissemination of research

Most respondents only used commercial journals in channelling their research results to the wider scholarly public. Nine respondents identified their School or departmental web pages as a place where staff could publicise their research, although these pages were not able to provide full text access in most instances. Blogs, podcasts, TV appearances or direct requests from individuals as an additional method of distributing research findings were also mentioned.

Copyright and versioning

Interviewees were asked about their practices regarding the retention of their own work once a paper had been accepted for publication. Most respondents claimed to keep the final copies of their own papers although in some cases this meant keeping a copy of the published PDF instead of an author version. These responses are quite encouraging

in view of the work the repository staff need to engage in with academic units in soliciting content.

Nearly all respondents were unaware of the publisher policies around depositing published papers on the free web. Most were not aware that publishers did not usually permit the use of published PDFs in open access repositories.

Getting published

When it comes to choosing a journal to offer papers for publication, the 14 respondents shared a number of criteria. From years of experience in their field academic researchers tend to build an understanding of what the "good" and "reputable" titles are in their subject area. Impact factors also affect the choice of journal alongside high visibility and large readership. Some respondents did admit that occasionally an author has to simply get published and there might not be a choice between titles. Also, in some subject areas there are only a very few journals deemed of high enough reputation to warrant approach.



Open Access publishing

Very few respondents knew whether there were any [Open Access](#) (OA) journals available in their subject area and even fewer were able to name titles that could be labelled Open Access. The other respondents were either not aware of what Open Access journals were or were certain that none existed for their subject.

Funder mandates

Funder mandates or institutional mandates received a mixed response from the interviewees. Some respondents expressed their concern regarding an imposed mandate on already time-poor research staff. However, mandates were overall welcomed as a tool to provide impetus for staff to begin depositing. In some cases, nevertheless, the respondents wished for a "recommendation" approach rather than a strongly-worded mandate from the University. The interviewees also named some conditions that should be taken into consideration when implementing mandates; publisher embargos, confidential materials and copyright issues should be taken into

consideration when following any mandate on deposit.

Repository Communities and structure

Consensus seems to exist in terms of the way researchers would like to see the repository structured. For instance, some would like to see content organised by subject or by research groups. Others thought a school/department led structure would work for their area. However, it became evident from all the responses that it would take a while before the live repository service settles in with a content structure that suits the users.

Content

Some respondents were not sure what the range of suitable material for an institutional repository would be. However, most answers included journal articles, theses, conference papers, books, presentations. Some respondents felt that all officially published research output should be included while others wanted to see the School vetting some content intended for the repository. Some respondents saw the benefits of a repository in providing for the more "obscure" or less traditional research materials like software tools, TV appearances, podcasts and so forth.

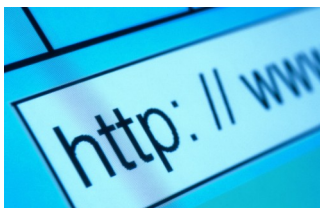
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Conclusions

The fourteen respondents all gave their unique views on repositories and the ways they would like to interact with them. Invaluable information was also gathered on the respondents' author practices.

The Project Team have also been able to gauge the level of further advocacy work and training required by front-line repository users in the forthcoming months prior to the launch of the live repository service and beyond.

The Project Team have planned a series of road shows to cover issues like copyright and how this affects the self-archiving activities at institutional level; the importance of file management and versioning; and the opportunities Open Access publishing can bring to academic authors. The repository service pages will also address all these issues by providing links to existing author/depositor tools and information pages.



The BURP! Team may be contacted via email at lib-repository@bradford.ac.uk by phone at extension 3400.

You can also find information about the Project on our web pages at <http://www.bradford.ac.uk/library/burp/index.php>.

What is wrong with this Picture?

1. A brand-new PhD recipient proudly tells his mother he has just published his first article. She asks him how much he was paid for it. He makes a face and tells her "nothing," and then begins a long, complicated explanation...
2. A fellow-researcher at that same university sees a reference to that same article. He goes to their library to get it: "It's not subscribed to here. We can't afford that journal. (Our subscription/license/loan/copy budget is already overspent)"
3. An undergraduate at that same university sees the same article cited on the Web. He clicks on it. The publisher's website demands a password: "Access Denied: Only pre-paid subscribing/licensed institutions have access to this journal."
4. The undergraduate loses patience, gets bored, and clicks on [Napster](#) to grab an MP3 file of his favourite bootleg CD to console him in his sorrows.
5. Years later, the same PhD is being considered for tenure. His publications are good, but they're not cited enough; they have not made enough of a "research impact." Tenure denied.
6. Same thing happens when he tries to get a research grant: His research findings have not had enough of an impact: Not enough researchers have read, built upon and cited them. Funding denied.
7. He decides to write a book instead. Book publishers decline to publish it: "It wouldn't sell enough copies because not enough universities have enough money to pay for it. (Their purchasing budgets are tied up paying for their inflating annual journal subscription/license/loan costs...)"
8. He tries to put his articles up on the Web, free for all, to increase their impact. His publisher threatens to sue him and his server-provider for violation of copyright.
9. He asks his publisher: "Who is this copyright intended to protect?" His publisher replies: "You!"

What is wrong with this picture?

(And why is the mother of the PhD whose give-away work people cannot steal, even though he wants them to, in the same boat as the mother of the recording artist whose non-give-away work they can and do steal, even though he does not want them to?)

Harnad, Stevan (2003). For Whom the Gate Tolls? How and Why to Free the Refereed Research Literature Online Through Author/Institution Self-Archiving, Now. <http://cogprints.org/1639/1/resolution.htm>.

Visit <http://www.brad.ac.uk/library/burp/openaccessinfo.php> to read more about Open Access to research!