How can a Repository Contribute to University Success?

APSR - The Successful Repository June 29, 2006
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Open Access Fundamentals

- Open access to research: about 2.5 million articles per year in 24,000 titles
- The only ones who can provide open access to the 2.5 million articles are the authors
- Surveys show that only about 15% of authors self-archive and 95% will comply if mandated by research funders
Open Access at QUT – Progress

- Early 2002-Budapest Open Access Initiative
- 2002-3: informal policy development
- Mid 03: passage of policy through University Research and Innovation Committee
- September 03: adoption by Academic Board
- Library launched QUT ePrints 2003
The University’s Formal Policy

• “Material which represents the total publicly available research and scholarly output of the University is to be located in the University's digital or "E print repository, subject to the exclusions noted.” …Scope:

  – refereed research articles and contributions at the post-print stage (subject to any necessary agreement with the publisher);
  – refereed research literature at the pre-printed stage (with corrigenda added subsequently if necessary at the discretion of the author);
  – theses (as prepared for the Australian Digital Theses (ADT) process);
  – un-refereed research literature, conference contributions, chapters in proceedings, etc
QUT ePrints – at a glance

- Registered depositors: 631
- Items in Repository: 3382
- Items in Editorial Review: 7
- Items in User Areas: 403 (in-process items)
- All faculties have some representation
  - Most activity in Science, Health and Education
Feedback from QUT
A leading research professor in the School of Physical & Chemical Sciences said he found the eprint archive to be extremely useful as he has noticed that he now spends much less time responding to requests for copies of his manuscripts. This is a very common practice in Chemistry and it can be very time consuming. For requests that he does receive, he finds that it now takes very little of his time as he refers the requestor to the QUT ePrints URL embedded in his email signature.

In the last 12 months, his eprints have been downloaded 7396 times.

He says it now only takes him about 5 minutes to deposit a paper so it’s worth the small effort required. He has encouraged many of his colleagues to use the archive and has directed all of his research students to deposit their papers.
Feedback from QUT…ct’d

‘The ePrints archive offers a very efficient platform to streamline the dissemination of ideas and outcomes at different stages of the research lifecycle. By centralising and uniformising publication-related data, it also provides unique opportunities to facilitate data collection and search processes. And perhaps foremost, it democratises the access to our research output, which is greatly appreciated by our colleagues in less economically developed countries.

The value of ePrints to the research community is already significant and it will become even more significant as more institutions deploy the concept around the world.’

Lecturer
School of Software Engineering & Data Communications
Feedback from QUT…ct’d

I was surprised at the high number of downloads for some papers. The detailed download information is useful for gauging the depth of the interest. I have found it very useful to have a web page which links to the fulltext of many of my publications.

Director of Research
Faculty of Information Technology
Feedback from QUT…ct’d

I regularly check my downloads just to see which papers are getting the most attention. I must say that the amount of downloads is higher than I expected. Recently I also used the statistics in my (successful) application for promotion as it gives an idea where you stand relative to other researchers at QUT. As you can see I have a link in my signature at the bottom of my email. On a regular basis do I get emails with requests for reprints in pdf format and quite often they are from journals that I don't have the electronic version of, so then it is easy to reply to these colleagues that they can download it from the eprint server. Overall, I think this eprint service is a very useful addition to help us advertise our research activities.

Lecturer

Inorganic Materials Research Group
School of Physical and Chemical Sciences
Related Developments

• Australian Systemic Infrastructure Initiatives
  • Funding will be provided for innovative approaches that link or expand access to shared facilities, such as libraries, information and communications technologies…..

• DEST grant to QUT to develop legal protocols
• Open Access, Creative Commons and eResearch support
• RQF and debates on research impact
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