

Open Access in the UK:
University of Reading and Beyond

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The Optimal Situation and How to Get There

- An Institutional Repository: it is very useful to run your own as the ancillary uses far outweigh the costs.
- A Deposit Mandate: whatever you call it, without one you will get at most 30% deposit of full text. With it, you can reach nearly 100% ongoing deposit in a few years.
- Who has the real power in your institution: faculty voters, senior management, President, Lay Council? Explain the benefits to them in terms they understand.
- Be prepared for a long journey, and for frustrations along the way.
- Once the IR is running and the mandate adopted, encouragement, explanation and administrative processes (Liege Model) are what you need for compliance. No sticks, no extra carrots.

Open Access Version 0

- In the 80s Computer Scientists began putting their papers on departmental ftp sites in postscript format, supplementing printed technical notes. Web pages supplemented/replaced ftp sites from the web's inception.
- Tools such as archie, WAIS and info were used to provide findability and access.
- Early Open Access electronic Journals have been in existence since the 80s at least, running on ftp sites.
- In 1991 High Energy Physicists began systematically sharing pre-prints via an email list and central ftp archive.
- In 1993 a web interface was added and in 1999 it was renamed arXiv and adopted the name arXiv.org.

From Subversive Proposal to First Mandate

- In June 1994, Stevan Harnad made the Subversive Proposal that all authors of “esoteric” articles should make them available on-line for free.
- In 1997 the CogPrints subject repository was opened, for papers in the cognitive sciences (Harnad’s technical field).
- In 1999 in Santa Fe, the OAI-PMH (Open Access Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting) was specified.
- In 2000, the EPrints platform was launched running OAI-PMH.
- In 2001, the Open Society Initiative held the Budapest Open Access Initiative meeting.
- In 2001, Electronics and Computer Science (Harnad’s dept) at Southampton adopted the first deposit mandate.

University Mandates, Funder Mandates

- As of writing, ROARMAP (Register of Open Access Repository Material Archiving Policies) listed 248 adopted mandates.
- 105 Institutional, 28 Departmental, 46 Funder, 68 Thesis and 1 Multi-institutional.
- In the UK there are 20 institutional mandates.
- In 2003, Queensland Univ. of Technology adopted the first University mandate.
- In 2003, The Wellcome Trust issued a position statement supporting open access. In 2005, they adopted a deposit mandate for research they funded.
- In 2004, the UK parliament called for Open Access to publicly-funded research. In 2006, RCUK drafted a deposit mandate but adopted a recommendation. Three councils mandated deposit.
- In 2008, the US Congress enacted a law requiring NIH-funded research to be deposited. A broader law is under discussion.
- Unfortunately, funder mandates are proving to be very slow in providing OA, whereas institutional mandates provide near-100% for that institution within three years.

ePrints Repository Software

- GNU EPrints repository software is the oldest OIA-PMH repository software.
- It is a free software project whose project manager is based at Southampton University.
- It provides a relatively simple platform for a basic repository service to be up and running within a few days.
- With minimal site-specific tailoring it can be run at very low cost.
- It is optimised and maintained for OA, to support a deposit mandate.
- Other options exist, some free software, some not.

A Personal Story of Archivangelism I

- As a PhD student in the mid-90s I put my MSc thesis on my web page, and have continued to make all my academic publications open access except book chapters.
- In 2002–3 I worked on a mathematical knowledge management project and published a paper on copyright issues in maths journals.
- In 2004 I joined the Open Access Forum mailing list.
- In 2005 I began discussions with tech staff in my School on setting up repository software.
- In 2006 we joined forces with the School of Meteorology in piloting an IR for UoR and promoting an IR and deposit mandate.

A Personal Story of Archivangelism II

- In 2008 I failed to get my School to pre-empt the University adoption of a deposit mandate.
- In 2009 the Senior Management Board of University of Reading adopted a deposit mandate and funded repository management directly.
- In 2010 the University of Reading mandate came into force.
- In a test on 19/11/2010 of items deposited in 2010, only some items were deposited with full-text (8 available, 5 with a request button, 21 metadata), but it takes 2–3 years usually to reach near 100%.

Conclusions

- Academics are busy people, with too many demands on their time.
- Even though it is in their interests (greater readership, greater citations ...) only a few will deposit all papers unmandated, and a few more will deposit some papers unmandated.
- A mandate is the sure way to tell staff that the University believes the figures and feels Open Access is important.
Guides: tinyurl.com/2c7aogm; tinyurl.com/3525x2c.
- Over 80% say in surveys that they'd comply willingly with a deposit mandate, very few have objections, provided everyone has to do it (no internal game-playing).
- The Liege Model and passionate local academic and librarian archivan-gelists speed movement towards near 100% mandate compliance.
- Don't worry about copyright, journal sustainability, findability, high quality meta-data. Get the full text out there for those without subscription access.