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Huddersfield Open Access Publishing (HOAP) Project

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Introduction

The Huddersield Open Access Publishing (HOAP) Project was a 6 month project funded by JISC and led by Computing and Library Services at the University of Huddersfield, in conjunction with the School of Education and Professional Development and the Research and Enterprise Directorate. The HOAP system was designed to develop a low-cost, sustainable Open Access (OA) journal publishing platform using EPrints Institutional Repository Software. It has been used to accommodate the University journal, Teaching in Lifelong Learning, from its existing print subscription model to an OA journal. A benefit of this platform is that it can be created for the journal, with content being archived in the University Repository. The HOAP project aims to bring together the main systems of delivering OA research articles, OA repositories and OA journals.[1]

Specification

After discussions with EPrints, the project provided a basic HTML file together with the appropriate branding. The pages have been kept relatively simple and can be reordered for other journals. This allows each title to have its own branding on the landing pages and contents pages.

The creation of the journal landing pages and the volume/issue pages is fully automated. The articles are uploaded into the Repository in the normal way, with the first article of a new issue automatically creating a new entry on the landing page. This process saves time and manual effort. In due course, the DOAJ will be able to index and provide links to all the articles. Each subsequent article deposited in the issue will therefore be listed on the journal page. This means that the entire issue can be uploaded in around 30 minutes.

The articles themselves maintain the standard Repository branding, but each one also links back to the journal landing page. This allows the user to process and access discovery, e.g. the article only has fields in the Repository and can be accessed through the journal landing pages, via Google Scholar, and, in due course, the DOAJ. The inclusion of DOAJ will mean that the title will be retrieved from web-scale discovery systems such as Summon, Primo etc.

Usage statistics

The IRStats package from EPrints can be used to monitor usage for all articles in the journal. This also allows authors to see their own statistics immediately. In addition, the impact of a particular article can be measured over time using the reporting feature on the IRStats administration pages. There have been approximately 1,800 full text downloads of journal articles since launch. Volume 3, Issue 2 has had approximately 100 downloads from 26 countries.

Recommended articles, data and a toolkit please visit our blog:
http://library.hud.ac.uk/blogs/projects/hoap/

Cost benefits

Like many journals, Teaching in Lifelong Learning relies on voluntary contributions for the editorial role and peer review. Income was derived from subscriptions, in contribution from the huddersfield University’s Distributed Centre for Excellence in Teaching Training (SUDETT) and the University Teaching and Learning Institute (TLI). 70% of the overheads of the journal went towards the peer review, registration and stationery costs associated with the initial costs. This means that the move to an OA model, although increasing a loss from subscription income, results in a significant cost saving. The remaining costs are now absorbed by TLI, giving the aims of the journal to disseminate the work of early career researchers from around the UK, this contributes even as an investment for future research.

References

2. Willett, D. (2012) ‘Open, free access to academic research’ this will be a seismic shift’ Guardian. 1 May, http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/may/01/open-free-access-academic-research
5. SAS Open Journals: http://sasopenjournals.blogspot.co.uk/2011/08/social-networking-extensions-for-sas.html

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New titles

An audit revealed a further 5 journals in existence, 2 of these titles were loaded onto the HOAP platform:
- Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Research and Practice
- RADAR

New journals will be considered for publication by the Press during 2012.

Recommendations

The project has made a number of recommendations to JISC in the final project report [4]:
- Audit UK universities to find in-house journals
- Collect the metadata of University OA journals in a central repository for exploitation by link resolvers, e.g. OAI-PMH
- Make the code behind the HOAP platform freely available via the EPrints Bazaar
- Develop best practice guidelines from the HOAP and SAS Open Journals Projects [5]
- Workflows
  - Use the ROA toolkit to enable authors to deposit their articles directly into the system, which could mean less peer reviewed, copy edited and published via a series of workflows
  - Use the outcomes of the EPICURE project to develop and make output available in PDF and XML versions resulting in dissemination through mobile devices
- Usage statistics, The project has recommended that JISC investigate the recommendations of the PUBLIS2 report to provide articles level metrics. It is also suggested that if this was to be used by other university publishing initiatives, there could be a role for the JISC journals usage statistics portal (JUSP)