Huddersfield Open Access Publishing

Graham Stone

Introduction

The Huddersfield 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 platform aimed to develop a low cost, sustainable Open Access (OA) journal publishing platform using EPrints Institutional Repository software. It has been used to migrate the University journal, Teaching in Lifelong Learning, from its existing print subscription model to an OA e-journal. A specific front end has been created for the journal, with content being archived in the University Repository. The HOAP project attempts to bring together the two systems of delivering OA research articles, OA repositories and OA journals [1]

Opening up access to academic research will put more data and power in the hands of the people who pay for it [2]

As the chief benefactor of research within its walls, universities have long chafed at the notion that this research is given away to commercial entities, then repurchased at a premium [3]

Cost benefits

Like many journals, Teaching in Lifelong Learning relies on voluntary contributions for the editorial role and peer review. Income was derived from subscription, a contribution from the Huddersfield University's Distributed Centre for Excellence in Teaching Training (HUDCETT) and the University's Teaching and Learning Institute (TALI). 70% of the expenditure of the journal went towards the printing, postage and stationery costs associated with a print only copy. Thus, the move to an OA model, although meaning a loss from subscription income, results in a significant cost saving. The remaining costs are now subsidised by TALI, given the aims of the journal to disseminate the work of early career researchers from around the UK, this contribution is seen as an investment for future research.
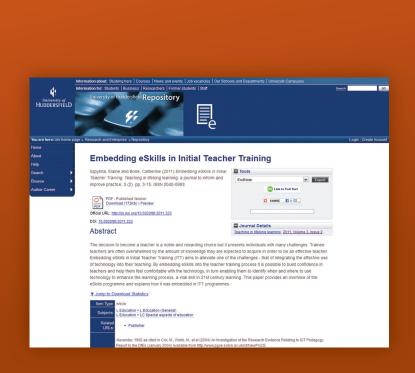
Specification

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 reproduced 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 pages and a new issue page by referencing the ISSN, year, volume, issue and page numbers in the articles. Each subsequent article deposited in the issue will therefore be listed on the journal pages. The efficient workflow means that an 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's landing pages on the platform. This simplifies the process and aids discovery, e.g. the article only has one instance in the Repository and can be discovered through the Repository, journal landing pages, via Google (Scholar), and in due course, the DOAJ. Inclusion in 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 volume 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 downloads from 26 countries

Huddersfield research review

Another outcome of the project was to assess the feasibility of a journal to showcase the most significant research at the University of Huddersfield by including interviews with the authors of the most cited and/or downloaded articles in the Repository together with an editorial overview by a senior researcher who will locate Huddersfield research within the broader national and international literature in the relevant fields and disciplines. The Huddersfield Research Review was endorsed by the University Research Committee in December 2011 and the project will be taken forward during 2012.

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.

Project outputs

In order to disseminate its output, the project developed a toolkit for other institutions, including new workflows, a licence to publish template and guidelines for new title proposals. The project hopes the toolkit will inspire other institutions to investigate OA journal publishing.

As part of preparations for the HOAP platform, the 'notes for contributors' section was completely revised. A 'Licence to Publish' (LtP) now replaces the previous copyright transfer agreement, this allows the author to retain the copyright under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported License (cc-by).

HOAP has also joined CrossRef and the Committee on Publishing Ethics (COPE), Teaching in Lifelong Learning is now listed in JournalTOCS has been be submitted to the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).

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. KnowledgeBase+
- 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 RIOJA toolkit to enable authors to deposit their articles directly into the system, which could then be 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 PIRUS2 final report to provide article 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)

References

1   Yiotis, K. (2005) 'The open access initiative: a new paradigm for scholarly communications'. Information technology and libraries. 24 (4), pp.157-162.

2   Willetts, 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**

3   Tananbaum, G. (2003) 'Of wolves and boys: the scholarly communication crisis'. Learned publishing. 16 (4), pp. 285-289.

4   Stone, G. et al (2012) Huddersfield Open Access Publishing final report. Project Report. University of Huddersfield, Huddersfield. **http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/13278/**

5   SAS Open Journals: **http://sasopenjournals.blogspot.co.uk/2011/08/social-networking-extensions-for-sas.html**

For further information on the project, including the latest developments, articles, data and a toolkit please visit our blog:

http://library.hud.ac.uk/blogs/projects/hoap/

Poster: **http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/12971/**

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