Are we there yet? Well...not quite
Celebrating the progress we have made with our institutional repository over the last 9 years and looking at the challenges still to come.

Lyn Gibson - Repository Administrator
Joyce Templeton – Assistant Information Services Advisor
Laura Ennis – Information Services Advisor

We’ve come a long way since 2008 when...
• The Global Economic Crisis was underway
• Barak Obama was elected the first African-American President of the USA
•...and Edinburgh Napier University got its first institutional repository

Where are we now?

There have been challenges along the way since 2008:
• Getting the message across that the repository benefits the academic researcher.
• Open access:
  - Spreading the word about the benefits of open access and why it’s important.
  - Helping academics understand how they can achieve open access.
  - The implications for REF2021.
• Awareness of the benefits of open access is growing but it needs more promotion.

The repository is established and growing. Statistics gathered by the repository demonstrate:
• Researcher engagement demonstrated by increasing deposits.
• Worldwide discovery of our research.

New Research Management System (RMS) in 2016:
• A one-stop-shop with data from the RMS populating the University’s external website (see diagram on right). This helps with advocacy.
• The RMS and its workflow and processes contribute to the institution’s shift in focus towards research and supports the University’s Strategy 2020 (Edinburgh Napier University, 2013).

The repository is a substantial university resource and ripe for exploiting but there are challenges to making the most of this showcase of university research.

**Academics are depositing work in the repository but how do we keep the momentum going?**
• Continue promoting to academics the importance of depositing within 3 months of acceptance to comply with REF2021 rules.
• Repository awareness is embedded into staff induction.
• Continuous promotion of the repository and related areas.
• The open access message still needs more promotion.
• Encourage academics to take ownership of repository data and recognise the benefit to their academic reputation.
• Streamline the workflow for adding an output.
• Clear lines of communication and points of contact between repository staff and academics.
• Support information must be easy to access by researchers.

**How do we demonstrate the repository’s value?**
• Repository software enables uploading and gathering of information for REF submission.
• Promote the benefits of repository deposit so it becomes embedded in research culture.
• The RMS populates Researcher Profiles which are prominent on the University’s external website.
• Statistics show the reach of the researcher through download counts, referer graphs and geographical reach diagrams.
• Use repository data to create reports of activity for Heads of Schools and Directors of Research.
• Encourage academics to add links to repository records in all communications, social media blog posts etc.
• Ensure data is suitable for RDF, text and data mining.

**How do we use our new repository?**
• Deposits are not limited to journal articles but include other types of outputs.
• Target non-traditional research outputs and “defiant objects” (Nadin & Randall, 2013).
• The repository is used to store the research data underpinning the outputs thus ensuring long term preservation and accessibility.
• Academics use Worktribe to build their profile with projects, news, activities and a short biography.
• Outputs are linked to projects.
• Projects, outputs and people are tagged with research areas, themes and centres, creating interlinked information.
• New researchers to the University should add their publications to the repository.

**What are the continuing challenges?**
• We are working in uncertain times with budget cuts and reductions in staff numbers.
• Sharing best practice across institutions.
• Still a long way to go to make systems ‘talk’ to each other so we can harvest metadata from others and they can harvest ours.
• The repository should work with external systems to deliver a fully automated process that eliminates the burden on the researcher.
• Publishers policies are complex and navigating them is increasingly challenging.
• Responsibility for APCs and offsetting deals require multi-disciplinary teams to manage them.

Reference and acknowledgements
Background and additional images from https://pixabay.com
Diagram created by Joyce Templeton