Sharing Academic Research: The Role of Repositories

Library Leaders Focus Group Guide

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# Glossary

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| Term | Meaning |
| ARC | Australian Research Council |
| digital preservation | Digital preservation is “the actions required to maintain access to digital materials beyond the limits of media failure or technological and organisational change”.[[1]](#footnote-2) |
| ERA | Excellence in Research for Australia – a national framework for research evaluation in Australian universities[[2]](#footnote-3) |
| IR | institutional repository (see repository) |
| metadata | Information used to describe an item, which adds meaning and can make the item more findable[[3]](#footnote-4) |
| open scholarship | ‘Open Scholarship is the practice of research, education and knowledge exchange in such a way that others can collaborate and contribute, where research publications, data, lab notes and other scholarly processes and works are properly and ethically managed and evaluated and, unless restricted for justifiable reasons, are freely available to all levels of society under terms that enable reuse, redistribution and reproduction of the work and its underlying data and methods. Open Scholarship may also be referred to as Open Science or Open Research. (Adapted from [Foster’s Open Science definition](https://www.fosteropenscience.eu/taxonomy/term/100))’[[4]](#footnote-5) |
| repository | A repository is a digital archive that stores records of research outputs, and sometimes the research output also. Repositories can be institutional, and only accept outputs from researchers at that institution; they can be subject-based and accept outputs on a specific subject; or they can be general-purpose and accept all research outputs from everywhere. Repositories ‘collect, manage, preserve and provide access to valuable research and educational content’.[[5]](#footnote-6) Some repositories hold multiple types of research outputs, and some hold specific types of research outputs - for example dedicated data repositories. |
| third-party repository | A repository that is not run by Curtin University. For example the general-purpose repositories Zenodo,[[6]](#footnote-7) Humanities Common CORE[[7]](#footnote-8) and Figshare[[8]](#footnote-9) (note that this refers to free Figshare rather than the paid Figshare for institutions) |

# Introduction

The purpose of this research is to identify opportunities to support researchers in sharing their research outputs in repositories. Curtin University Library would like to find out more about how other universities support their researchers in using repositories for their research outputs, by talking to library leaders and repository managers in Australian universities who plan and manage repositories. We would also like to find out how Curtin University researchers are using repositories.

This project will find out the views of library leaders in Australian universities on strategic directions for IR services, their perceptions of third-party repositories, and the role of repositories in open scholarship. Preparation before focus groups will include online research and a literature review to find out as much as possible about the institutional repository infrastructure and services for each university participating in this research. However, much of this information is not available on public-facing websites, and focus groups are a suitable method to explore institutional repository services and future plans.

# Focus Group Questions

## Introduction

* Acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands where the interviewer and interviewees are
* Thank participants for their time
* Ensure interview consent form has been digitally signed for all focus group participants
* Explain format of focus group. In this focus group we will be talking about repositories, which are digital archives that stores research outputs. We will firstly talk about institutional repositories, which only accept outputs from researchers at that institution. Then we will talk about third-party repositories, which are not run by institutions. Examples of third-party repositories are Zenodo, Humanities Common CORE and free Figshare. Repositories ‘collect, manage, preserve and provide access to valuable research and educational content’.[[9]](#footnote-10) Some repositories hold multiple types of research outputs, and some hold specific types of research outputs - for example dedicated data repositories.

## The role of the IR

* In what ways does your IR support open scholarship?
* What role does your IR play in ERA submissions? (prompt to identify if some IR metadata & copies of outputs are used, or is a copy of the IR created especially for ERA)
* Do you use the IR to monitor funded research for compliance with funder policies on open access?
* Are data/stats from the IR used for any other purposes? (prompt for dashboards/ statistics for library use/statistics for broader internal/external communication)
* How do you encourage researchers to share their work openly in your repositories?

## The future of IR services

* What plans do you have for your university’s IR (prompt for expansion of research output types, new IR services for researchers)?
* How do you plan on funding any new IR services?
* If you have no plans for new IR services, are there reasons for this?
* Is there anything about your IR that you would like to change?
* What challenges do you face in getting the IR to be everything you want it to be?
* Do you think the role of the IRs in supporting open research will change in the future?
* What role does the repository play in enabling green OA, and do you think this will change in the future? (if change) What factors have caused this change?
* CAUL has negotiated many Read & Publish (R&P) agreements. Do you think this will have an affect on IRs?
* Have you considered a rights retention policy for your institution, where researchers retain the rights to research outputs generally handed over to journals?

## Third-party repositories

* What role do third-party repositories currently play for your university?
* What role do you see for third-party repositories in the future? Are you planning to recommend/support third-party repositories in the future for any types of research outputs?
* Do you have any reservations about using third-party repositories?

## Repository staffing and support

* All universities have different team structures relevant to repository support, and some staff support repositories as a part of their role. Can you estimate the total FTE for staff who supporting researchers with getting their research outputs into a repository? Roles to consider include: research library staff, copyright, data library staff, data curation, repository team, research data management staff, research outputs team, scholarly comms, digital preservation, IT staff and ERA support roles.

If you do not have this information to hand, feel free to contact the researcher after the focus group.

* How are these repository support positions funded? i.e. from library budget/IT budget/research office budget/other

## Funding open initiatives

* How does your university support open scholarship outside of the university? (Prompt for funding of initiatives such as SCOSS, DOAJ, other)
* Is this funding from the Library budget/elsewhere?

## Wrap-up

* Ask participants if they want to add anything else
* Remind participants they can contact the interviewer about this research
* Thank participants for their time again

1. <https://www.dpconline.org/digipres/what-is-digipres> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. <https://www.arc.gov.au/excellence-research-australia> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. <https://www.naa.gov.au/information-management/describing-information/metadata> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. <https://www.tcd.ie/library/news/unboxing-open-scholarship/> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. <https://coartraining.gitbook.io/coar-repository-toolkit/introduction/role-of-repositories> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. <https://zenodo.org/> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. <https://hcommons.org/core/> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. <https://figshare.com/> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. <https://coartraining.gitbook.io/coar-repository-toolkit/introduction/role-of-repositories> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)