Sharing Academic Research: The Role of Repositories

Repository Managers Interview 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 repository managers in Australian universities on IR services, strategic directions for IRs, third-party repositories, and the role of repositories in open scholarship. Preparation before interviews 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 interviewing is suitable method to explore both current institutional repository infrastructure, services and future plans.

# Interview Questions

## Introduction

* Acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands where the interviewer and interviewee are
* Thank participant for their time
* Ensure interview consent form has been digitally signed
* Explain format of interview - we’ll start with talking about your repositories, then third-party repositories, then the future of IR services

## Background – repository infrastructure

* How many IRs do you support? (some universities have multiple repositories for different output types)
* Is the IR(s) standalone or is it populated via research output/publication management systems e.g. Elements?
* What digital preservation activities are supported (prompt for the activities of keeping multiple copies, monitoring file integrity and file format obsolescence)?
* Are any other systems integrated with the IR(s)/dependent on data from the IR(s)?
  + If so, who is responsible for maintaining these systems (Library/research office/IT, other)

## Research output types

* What research output types are collected in the IR(s)? Prompt for:
* Journal articles
* Books/book chapters
* Theses (HDR including PhD/Masters by Research; and Masters by coursework, and Honours)
* Creative practice (creative writing, digital art, physical art, theatre/film recordings and supporting materials)
* Reports, position papers, submissions (grey literature)
* Infographics, blog posts, news articles
* Research data
* Software
* Any other research output types
* If any of these research outputs are collected but not stored in the IR, where are they stored i.e. other repository, third-party IR, server. Can you tell me the reasons for keeping different research output types in different places?

## Researcher workflows

* How automated are the upload processes for different research output types?
  + can researchers self-deposit to the IR
  + can researchers automatically get a DOI
* Who is responsible for providing the following information about research outputs: (researcher/performed by the Library/is there additional curation):
* metadata about research outputs such as contributors
* copyright
* compliance with journal publisher policies
* identifiers e.g. DOIs – are they requested or obtained (self-service) by the researcher

## Education and support for researchers

* What IR education and support do you provide for researchers? i.e. online help guide/dedicated email or phone support
* Who provides this support? i.e. library/faculty librarians/faculty admin/other

## Third-party repositories

* Do you recommend any third-party/external repositories to researchers? If so, what research output types do you suggest that researchers use third-party repositories for
* Do you provide support for researchers using third-party repositories?
* Do you perform any reporting or harvest any metadata for research outputs by your researchers from these third-party repositories?
* 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 researchers using third-party repositories?

## The future of IR services

* What plans do you have for your university’s IR(s) (prompt for expansion of research output types)?
* Who decides which research outputs are collected in the IRs?
* What effect do you think the Read & Publish (R&P) agreements negotiated by the CAUL Consortium will have on IRs?
* 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?

## The role of the IR

* In what ways does your IR(s) 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)
* Do you think the role of the IRs in supporting open research will change in the future?
* How do you encourage researchers to share their work openly in your repositories?

## Repository support team

* 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.

## Wrap-up

* Ask interviewee if they want to add anything else
* Remind interviewee they can contact the interviewer about this research
* Thank interviewee 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)