

The Institutional Repository Project: Why, What, When

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www.manchester.ac.uk/institutionalrepositoryproject

Today I'll like to give you a brief overview of the University's Institutional Repository Project.

My presentation is in three parts,

-I'll start with why this project exists,

-Then I'll give you an overview of what the project hopes to deliver and when

-And finish by bringing you up to date with what's happened so far

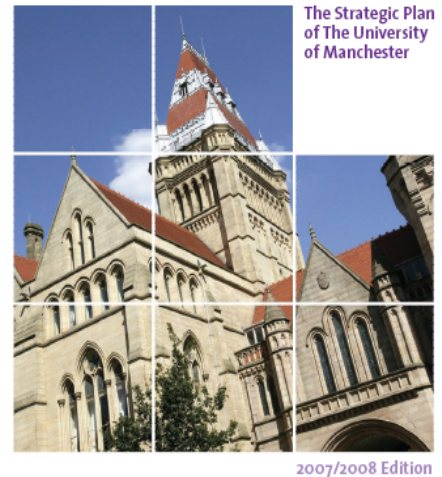
Manchester 2015

Goal Two – World Class Research

*“... among 25
strongest research
universities ... on
commonly accepted
criteria ...”*



Towards
**Manchester
2015**



So what is this Project all about?

Fundamentally its about Manchester 2015 and ensuring the University becomes one of the top 25 research led university's in the world.

Manchester research is under threat - EducationGuardian Oct 07

- 8th overall

Unfortunately 2007 metrics suggest that we aren't doing as well in this area as we might expect or hope for.

In October, the Guardian Newspaper higher education section published predictions for RAE2008. Overall we did well and were ranked 8th out of 136 UK institutions considered.

Manchester research is under threat - EducationGuardian Oct 07

- 8th overall
- 32rd for research impact

However, we ranked 32nd for the 'research impact' metric which is a measure of the amount of citations received by the university's research articles in peer-reviewed journals.

Manchester research is under threat - EducationGuardian Oct 07

- 8th overall
- 32rd for research impact

- UCL
 - 4th overall, 8th for research impact
- Glasgow
 - 9th overall, 13th for research impact
- Southampton
 - 11th overall, 29th for research impact

This is particularly unimpressive when you view the rankings of other Russell Group universities.

-UCL was ranked 4th overall and 8th in impact.

-Glasgow was ranked 9th overall and 13th in impact.

-Southampton was ranked 11th overall and 29th in impact.

I don't want to labour this point, but it is worth saying that similar trends are visible in the 2007 Academic Rankings of World Universities and the 2007 Times Higher Education Supplement World University Rankings.

So how will an institutional repository help with this potential problem?



We – you – need to support, monitor and manage research ...

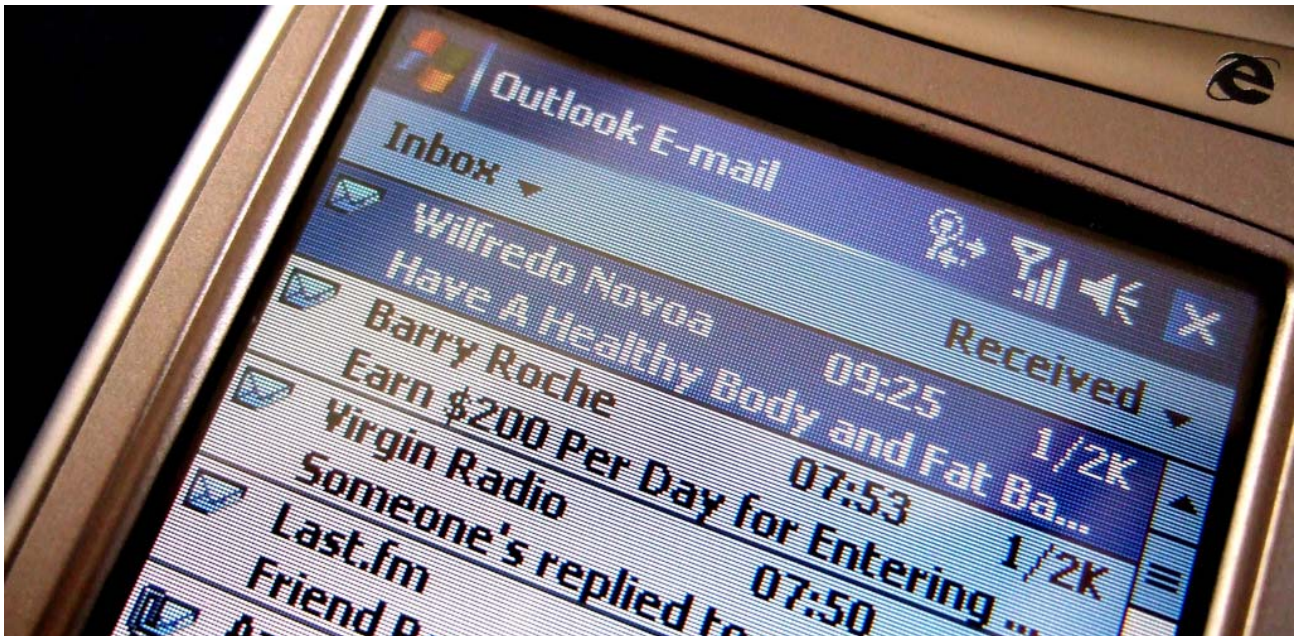
The reasons why the University seems to be under performing in terms of the impact of its research are many and complex.

Irrespective of these reasons, we won't improve our performance without supporting, monitoring and managing our research activities,

This includes

- maximising the potential of our research findings, disseminating them as widely as possible and making it easy for others to access, read and cite them,
- improving our understanding of the outputs of our research communities,
- knowing who is producing what,
- understanding where work is being published at what alternative options exist,
- anticipating what impact research will have,
- and, as a consequence, trying to assess our strengths and weaknesses.

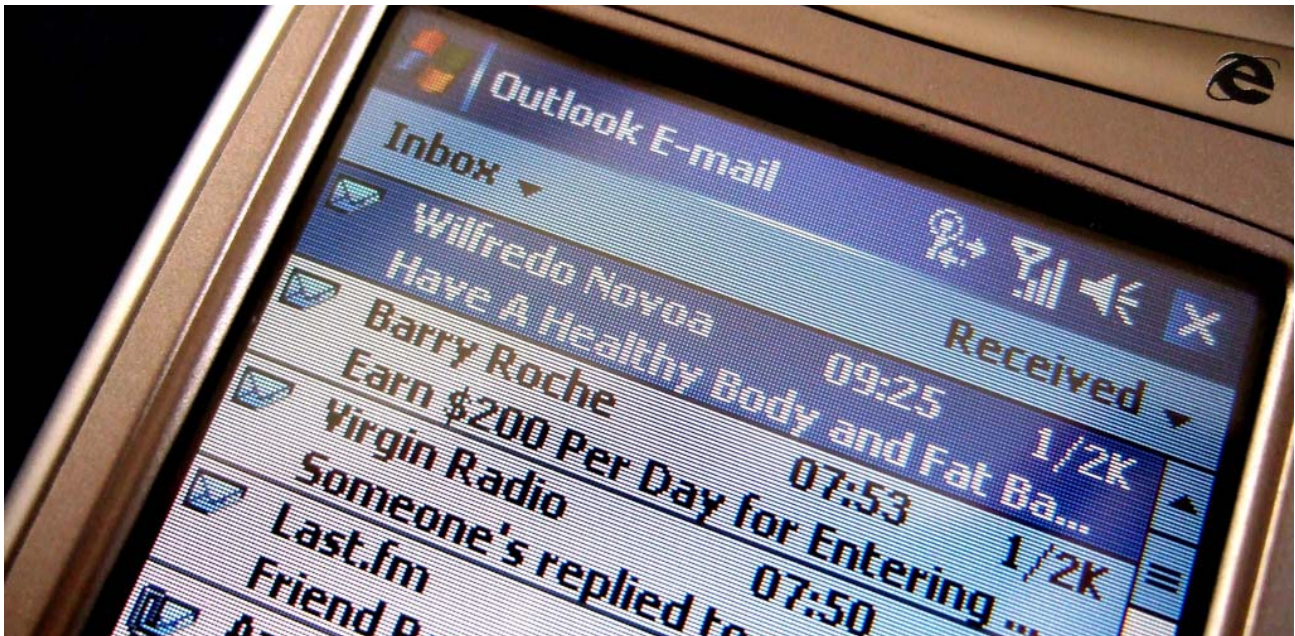
Ultimately this is all to help individual researchers and organisations make informed decisions on how best to manage their research. So where does an institutional repository come in. To answer that I need to explain what a institutional repository is first.



An institutional repository is ... a place to store and preserve intellectual assets

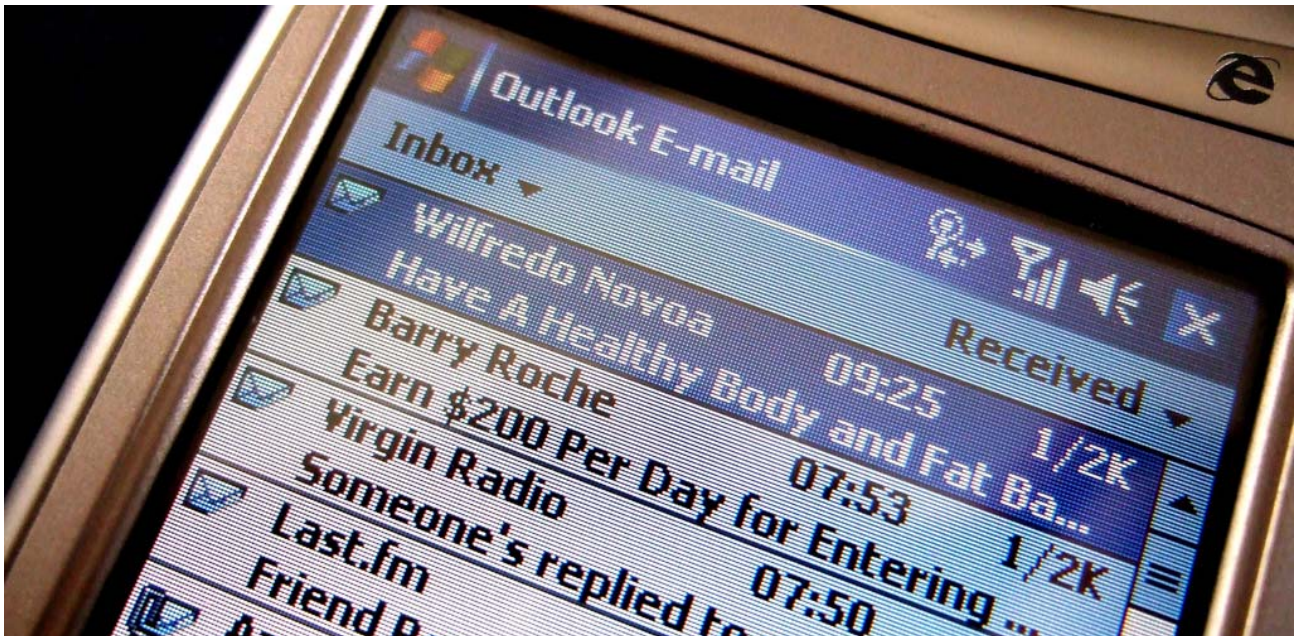
An institutional repository

- will provide individuals and organisations a place to store their digital intellectual assets
- will preserve electronic materials for posterity



An institutional repository is ... a catalogue of research outputs

-It is a catalogue of research outputs that managers can use to monitor research activity, for example, to ensure grant funder requirements are met



An institutional repository is ... a locus for individuals to manage, disseminate and share their scholarly work

- Most importantly it is a place where individuals can manage, disseminate and share their scholarly work,
- And others can easily access it

Of course there are disadvantages and risks with all this.

Who benefits?

- Researchers
 - make life easier, not harder
 - from PhD to Prof
- Managers
- Librarians
- Organisations
- Community



We want to ensure the repository services directly benefit individuals involved in research, including

- Academic staff, whether they be established Professors, young lecturers, postdoctoral researchers and PhD students
- Research managers, including yourselves
- Librarians and other support staff who are involved in the curation and preservation of scholarly work

Who has got one?

- Most of our rival institutions
- Presumed to exist by research councils
- Who will not have one?



Most of our international rivals already have repository services

For example of the 20 Russell Group, we are one of four that have yet to establish an institutional repository

Research Councils now presume institutions have a repository and are making decisions based on this presumption. Six of the seven UK research councils have now mandated that research outputs that result from their funded grants should be made widely and free available as possible and ideal deposited in a digital repository.

More importantly what would be the impact of not having a repository? Its highly likely that any such institution would stand out, for the wrong reasons.

There are risks
... many are
myths

An institutional repository
DOES NOT mean

- open access



However many of the perceived risks are infact myths. For example

Having an institutional repository DOES NOT mean

-Open access to all research

There are risks
... many are
myths

An institutional repository
DOES NOT mean

- open access
- less peer review



It DOES NOT mean the end to peer review

There are risks
... many are
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An institutional repository
DOES NOT mean

- open access
- less peer review
- more plagiarism



It DOES NOT mean more plagiarism

There are risks ... many are myths

An institutional repository
DOES NOT mean

- open access
- less peer review
- more plagiarism
- piracy



It DOES NOT mean more individuals or the university have to infringe publishers copyright.

There are risks
... many are
myths

An institutional repository
DOES NOT mean

- open access
- less peer review
- more plagiarism
- piracy
- fewer learned societies



It DOES NOT mean the end to learned societies

There are risks ... many are myths

An institutional repository
DOES NOT mean

- open access
- less peer review
- more plagiarism
- piracy
- fewer learned societies
- more SPAM



And it DOES NOT mean more SPAM

And others ...



Five project deliverables

Its MORE than a database and a website

So if a repository doesn't mean these things, WHAT are we trying to deliver with this Project.

Importantly the repository isn't just some technology, a database and a website, it's a set of services, it's cultural awareness and a way of working.

Overall our objective is to establishing sustainable Institutional Repository services for the University. To achieve this we have identified 5 key deliverables

Deliverables are ...



Five project deliverables

Its MORE than a database and a website

1. awareness

Stakeholder engagement and awareness



Five project deliverables

Its MORE than a database and a website

1. awareness
2. support network

a repository support network of individuals who assist in the submission of content, its curation and preservation,



Five project deliverables

Its MORE than a database and a website

1. awareness
2. support network
3. technology

a set of simple to use technologies



Five project deliverables

Its MORE than a database and a website

1. awareness
2. support network
3. technology
4. sustainability

A governance and sustainability plan



Five project deliverables

Its MORE than a database and a website

1. awareness
2. support network
3. technology
4. sustainability
5. content

And finally a repository with a significant amount of content

Five phases of work

Month

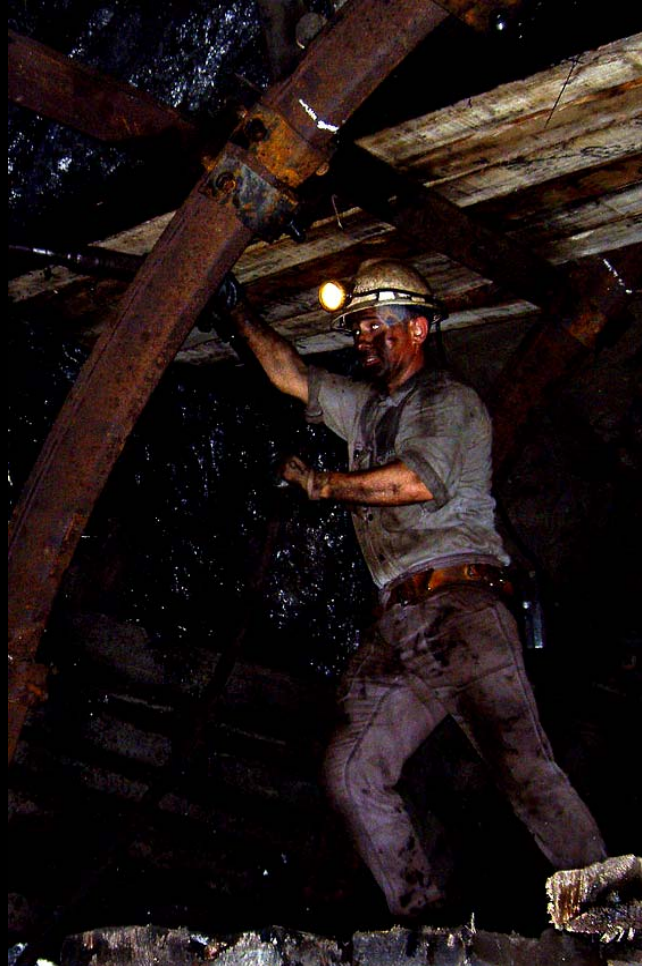
1-2 start up

3-8 pilot

9-14 scale up

15-21 review/enhance

22-24 handover



How are we going to achieve these deliverables. Well we've identified five main phases of work.

Start-up is establish the project structures and interfaces with other services.

Five phases of work

Month

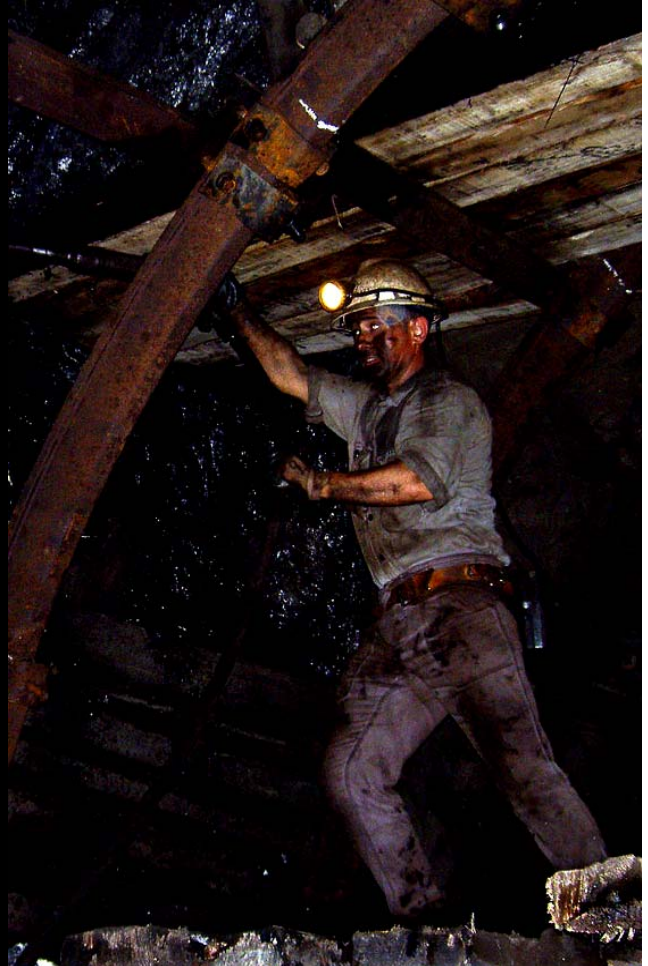
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The pilot phase aims to establish some working models, capture user expectations and obstacles, and provide materials we can use for subsequent advocacy efforts.

Five phases of work

Month

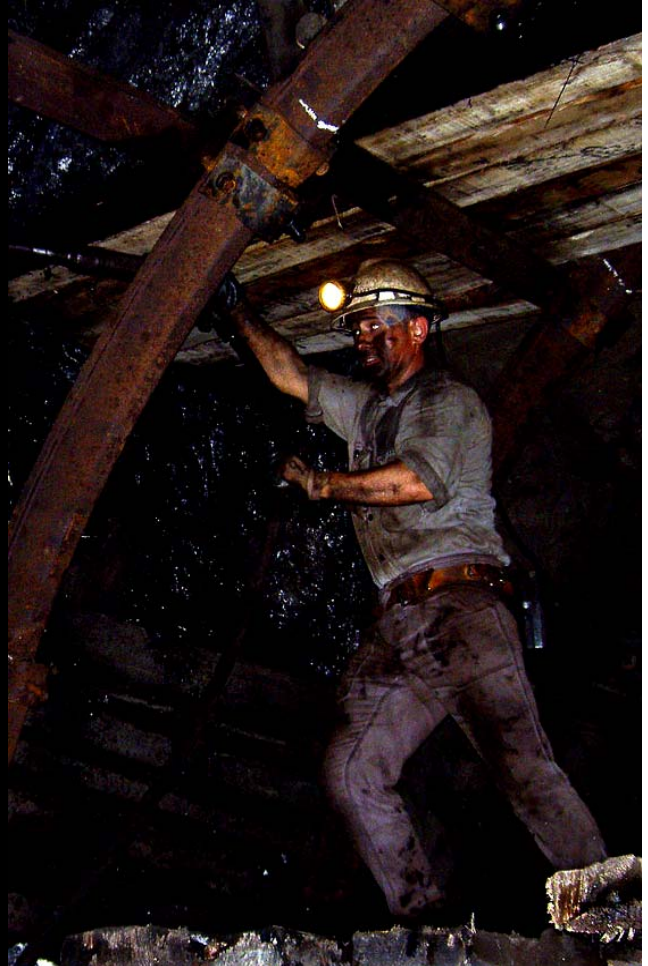
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The scale-up phase will essential move pilot services to full production services. At this point we expect to communicate too all university researchers and get them to engage with the services offered.

Five phases of work

Month

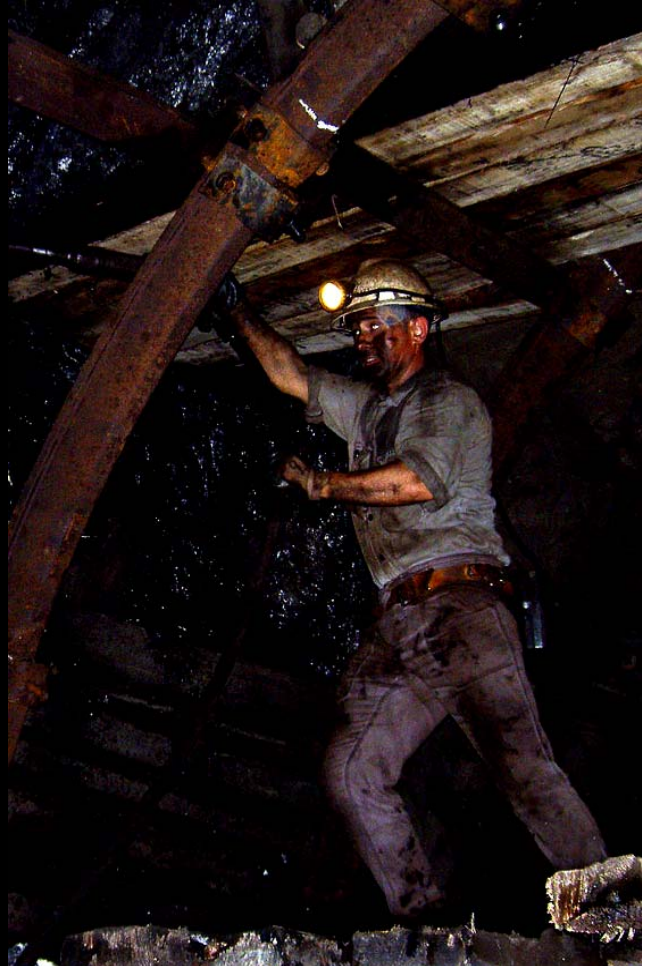
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The review/enhance phase will determine if working practices are operating effectively and enhance them accordingly.

Five phases of work

Month

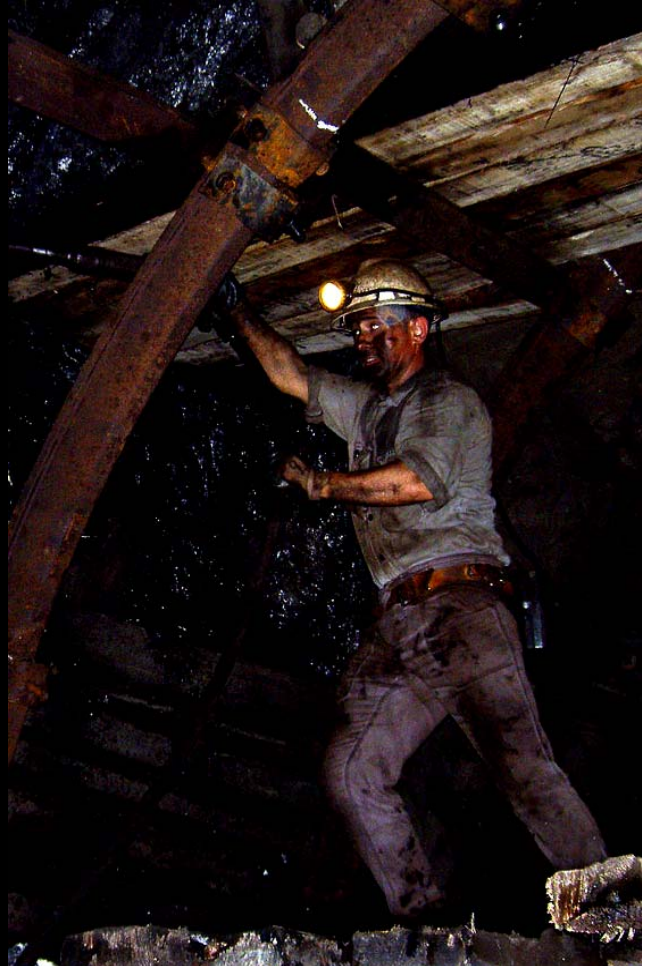
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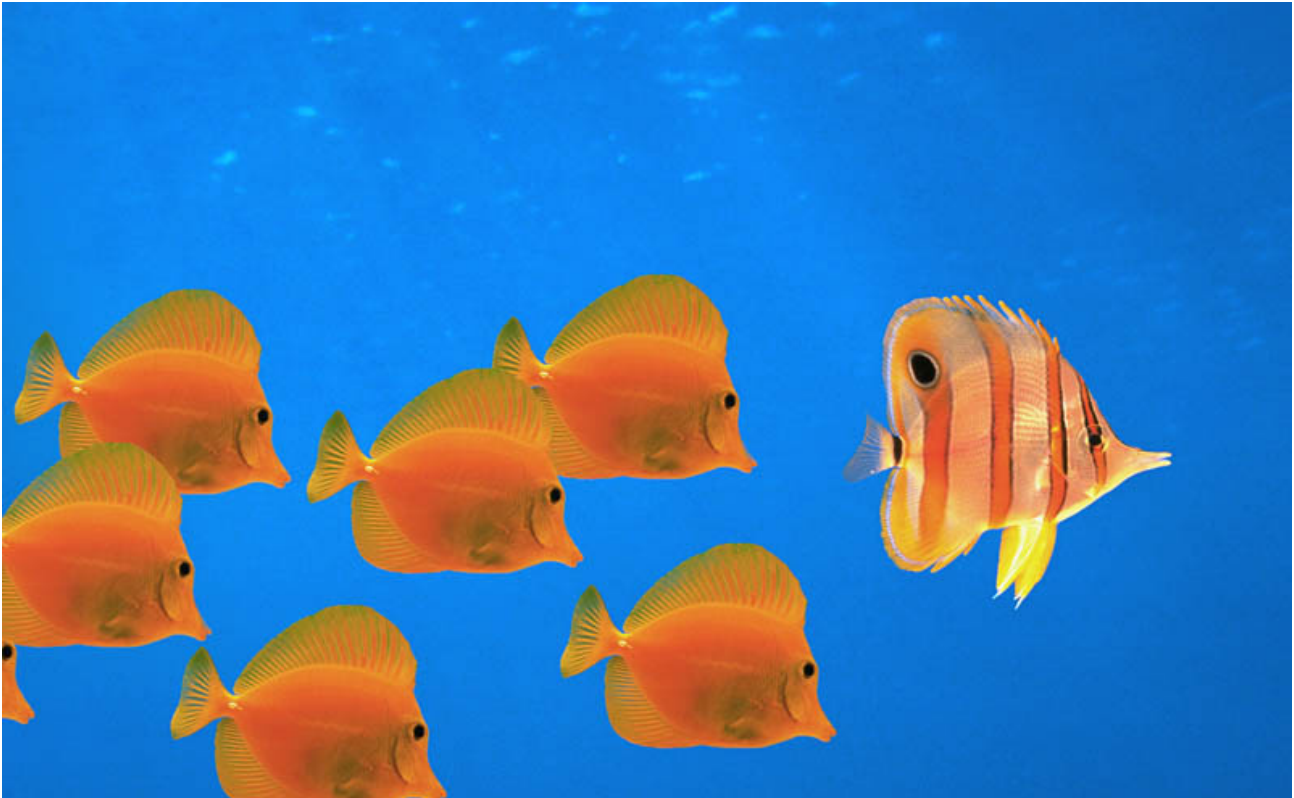


The handover phase will tidy up any loose ends and ensure our sustainability plans are in place

The Institutional Repository Project has launched



So where are we. Well the Institutional Repository Project has definitely left the launch pad.



Strong leadership and management team

We've have strong leadership with a committed academic sponsor and experienced project manager



Steering Group – key stakeholder groups

We have convened a steering group with professorial representatives from across the university and other key stakeholder groups



Appointed implementation team

We've appointed an implementation team of three full-time individuals (including myself/Phil)



Confirmed early adopters – need more

We've confirmed some early adopters, including the National Centre for eSocial Sciences and members of the School of Computer Sciences.

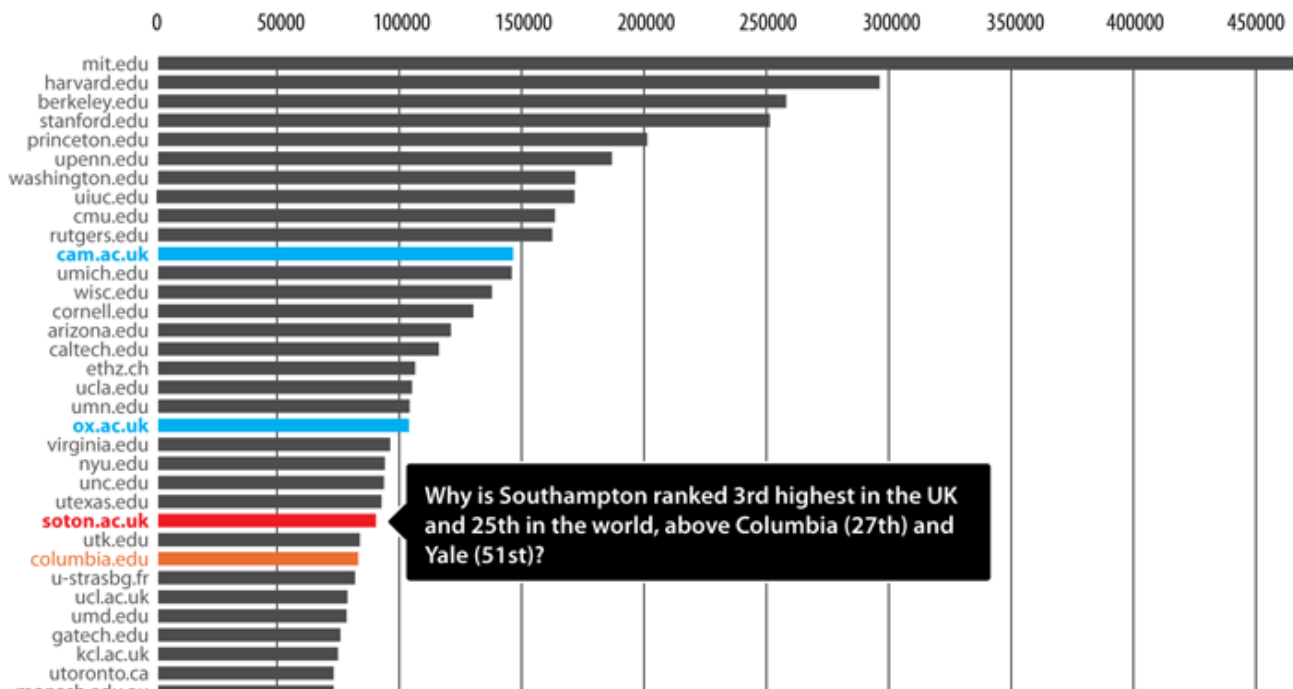
Obstacles are
being identified
and addressed



We've started to identify obstacles and are beginning to deal with them.

In particular we have engaged

- with graduate administrators on the challenges of storing and managing electronic theses and dissertations
- with research business managers to discuss issues around how best to support academic staff
- with IT Services to examine infrastructure requirements



Southampton University – ranked 25th in the World, 3rd in the UK

Well Southampton think it has for them?

The most striking evidence for this is Southampton’s rank in the league of Google citations or G-factor. This is essentially an indicator of how often content on there website get’s linked to and hence cited by other websites.

In this respect, Southampton are 25th in the world and 3rd in the UK.

Southampton put this down in part to the existence of its Institutional Repository, which has grown in the last 4 years to hold around 30,000 records, 25% of which are freely accessible full text versions of research articles.

Essentially, by providing a place for individuals to manage and disseminate their scholarly work and a place where others can easily access that work Southampton University has increased the likely that that work is cited.

Questions

www.manchester.ac.uk/institutionalrepositoryproject

1. Where should academics input and manage their scholarly work, library website, faculty intranet, school website and/or desktop?
2. Is there an engineering related area that could be an early adopter?
3. What's next – communicate with Research Directors?

And let's finish there ... questions?