The Institutional Repository Project: Why, What, When

Dr Phil Butler

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 four 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

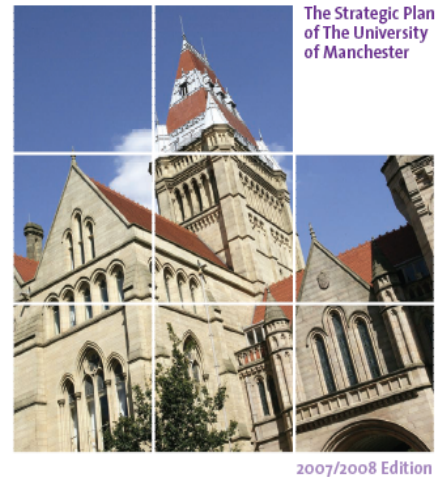-And finish by bringing you up to date with what's happened so far

So lets get started …

Manchester 2015

Goal Two – World Class Research

"… among 25 strongest research universities … on commonly accepted criteria …"

Towards
Manchester
2015

The Strategic Plan
of The University
of Manchester

2007/2008 Edition

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.

An ambitious goal and a significant challenge for us all.

How are we performing and are we getting closer to this goal? In some respects yes, however in others we are significantly behind. I'll like to look at a particular criteria … RAE 2008.

Manchester research is under threat - EducationGuardian Oct 07

- 8th overall

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.
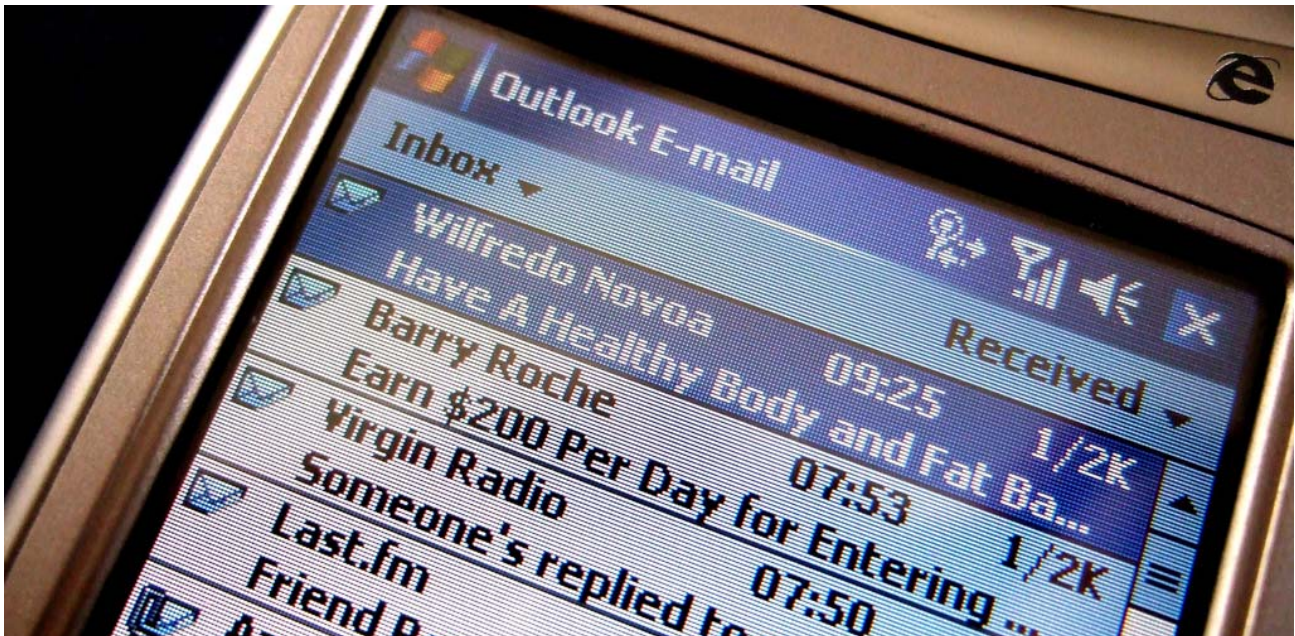
What's the impact to EPS IT … ?

I'm sure you are thinking how does this effect me and IT in EPS. Don't worry its not like this picture implies.

Well I can say with confidence that the immediate impact of this Project to you is effectively ZERO. Let me return to this issues latter in my presentation.

Importantly I need to explain what a institutional repository is, who benefits from having one and who's got one already.
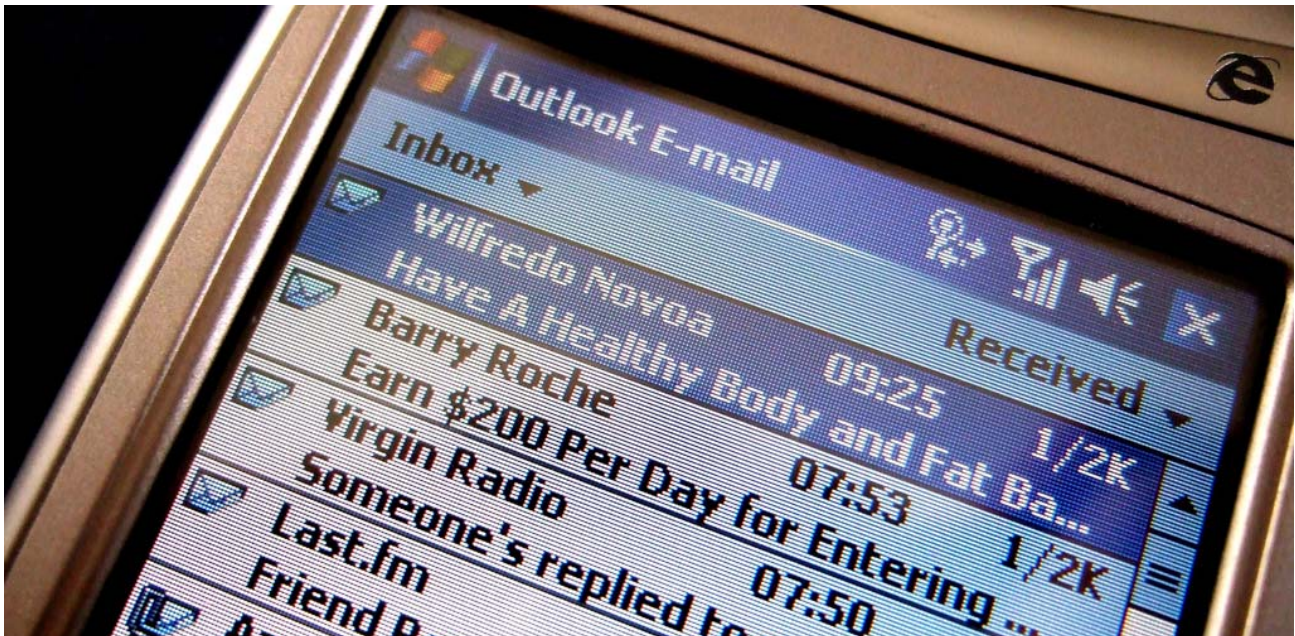
An institutional repository is ... a place to store and preserve intellectual assets

An institutional repository is different things to different people, what I say is it is not just a database and a website,

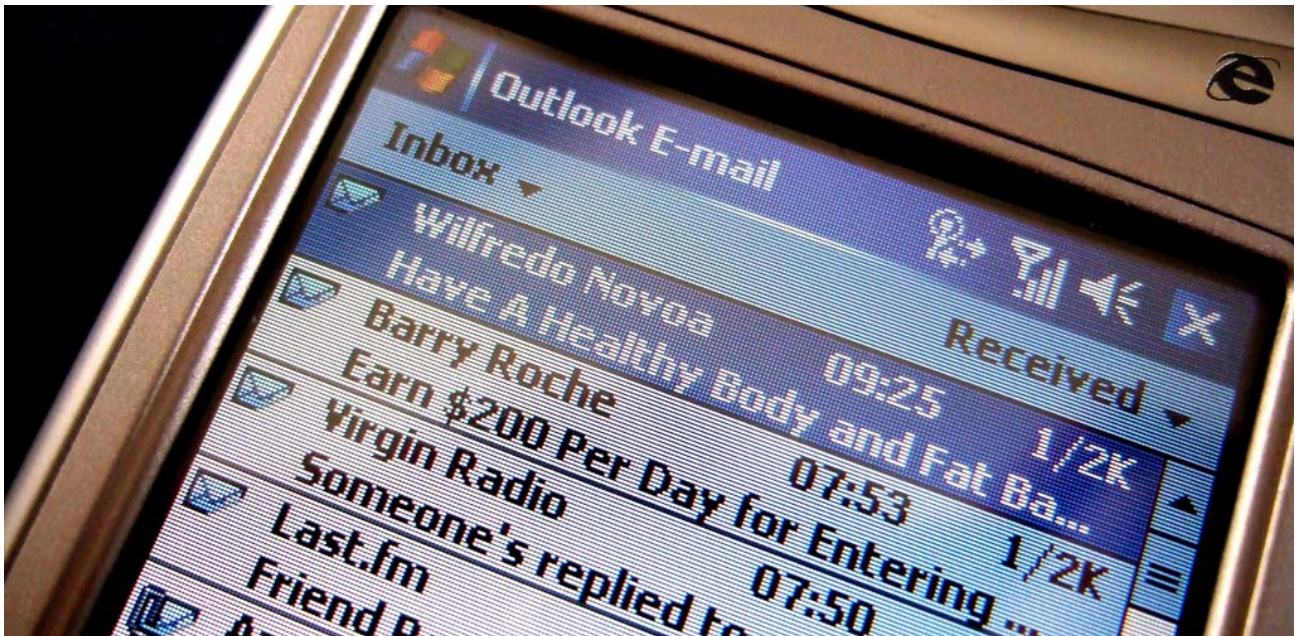I prefer to think of an institutional repository as

• a place where individuals and organisations can store their digital intellectual assets

- a place where they can be confident those assets are preserved electronically for posterity

An institutional repository is … a catalogue of research outputs

-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

•And most importantly a place where individuals can manage, disseminate and share their scholarly work, so that others can easily access it

Who benefits?

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

So who will benefit, well repository services should directly benefit individuals involved in research, including

-Academic staff, whether they be established Professors, young lecturers, postdoctoral researchers and PhD students

-Research managers,

-Librarians and other support staff who are involved in the curation and preservation of scholarly work

Because the prestige of organisations is built on the reputations of individuals, ultimately repository services should benefit research centres, institutions, schools, faculties and the university as a whole.

Finally as a publicly funded non-profit organisation the university has a duty to ensure its activities are as widely disseminated as possible, so an institutional repository benefits national and international research communities.

Who has got one?

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

Who has got an institutional repository.

Well most of our international rivals.

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.

Saying this most existing institutional repositories are embryonic, and we are late to the party, but there's still considerable room for improvement.

So setting up a repository sounds like a good thing to do. However there are disadvantages and risks.

Five project deliverables

Its MORE than a database and a website

Lets take a bit more detail, WHAT is this Project trying to deliver.

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

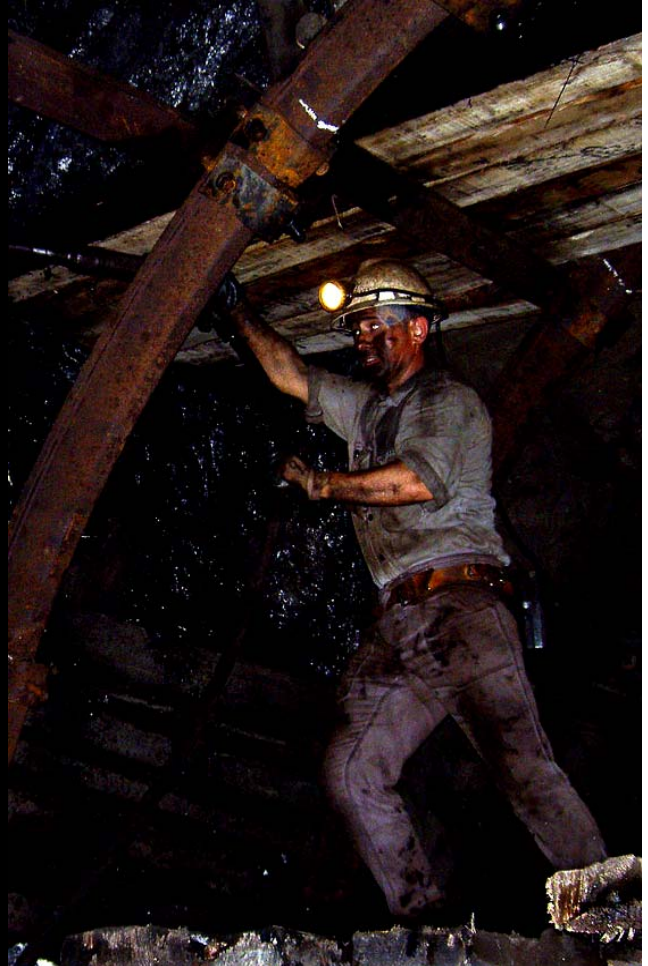And finally a repository with a significant amount of content

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.
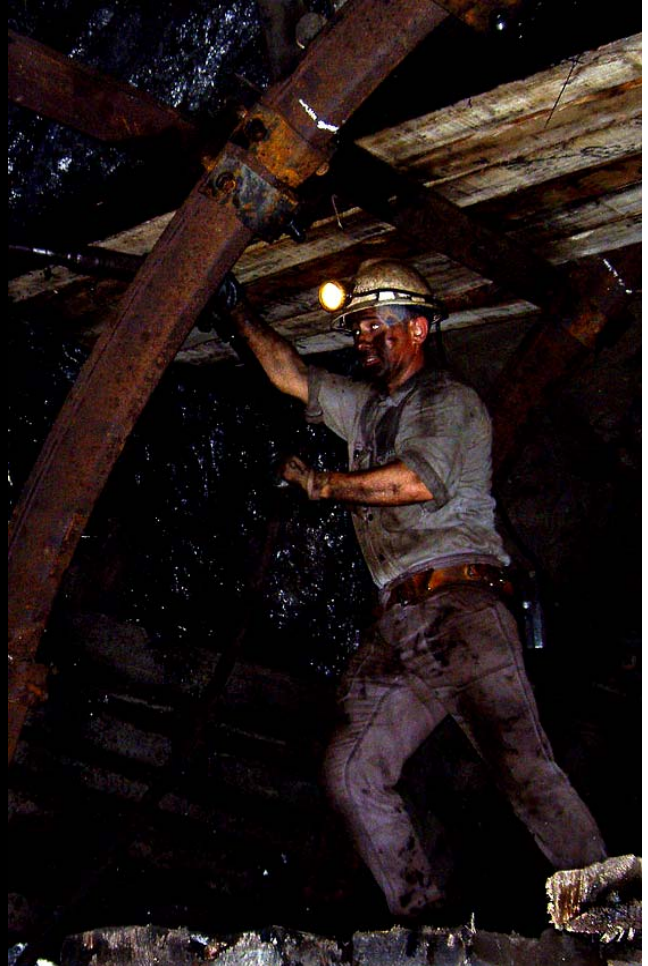
Five phases of work

Month

   1-2 start up

   3-8 pilot

  9-14 scale up

15-21 review/enhance

22-24 handover

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

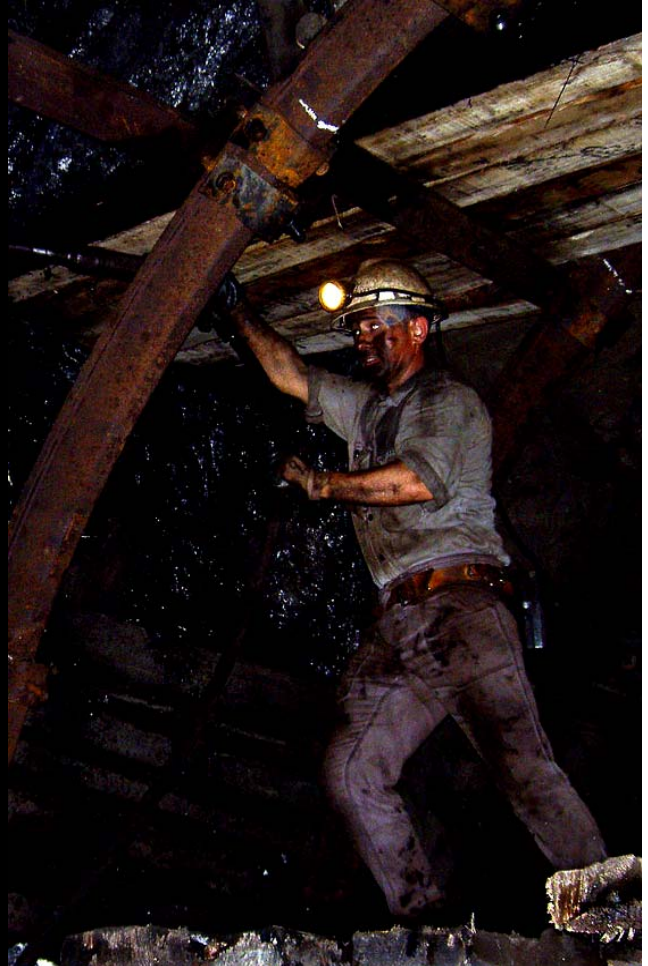# Five phases of work

Month

 1-2 start up

 3-8 pilot

 9-14 scale up

 15-21 review/enhance

 22-24 handover

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.
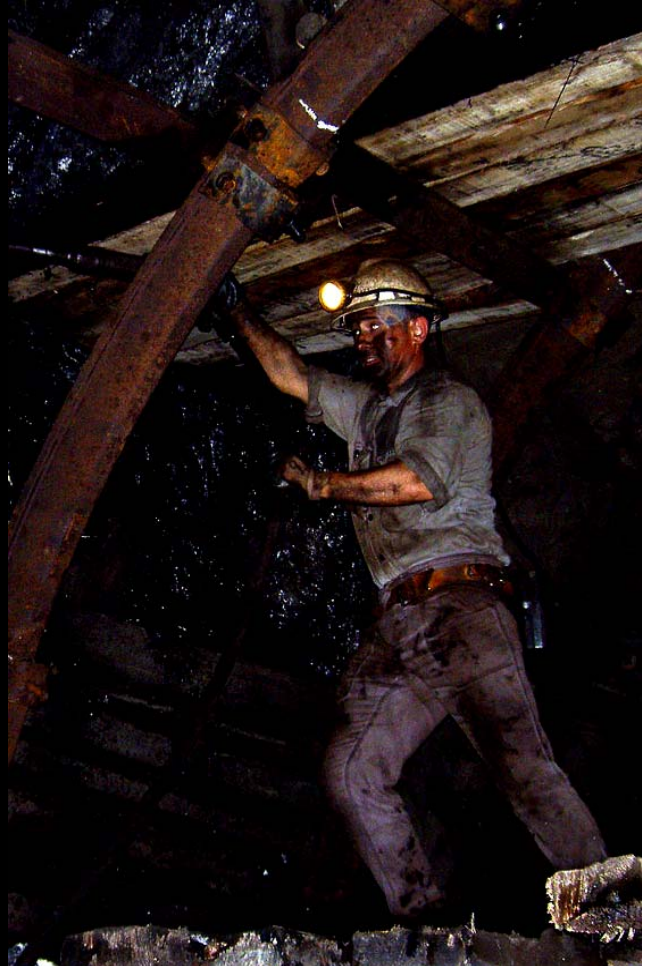
Five phases of work

Month

    1-2 start up

    3-8 pilot

    9-14 scale up

  15-21 review/enhance

  22-24 handover

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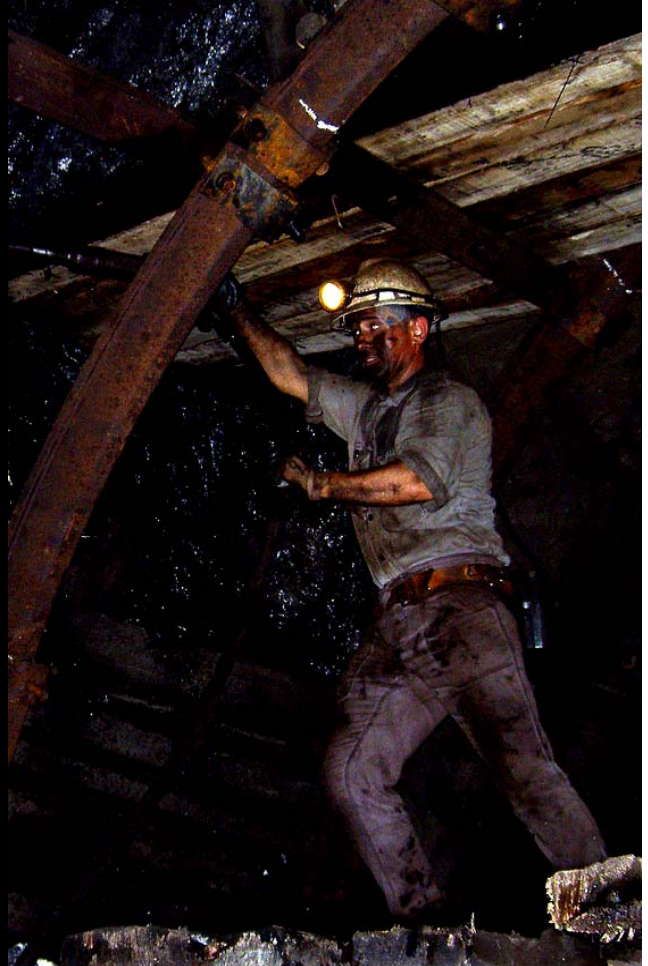
Five phases of work

Month

1-2 start up

3-8 pilot

9-14 scale up

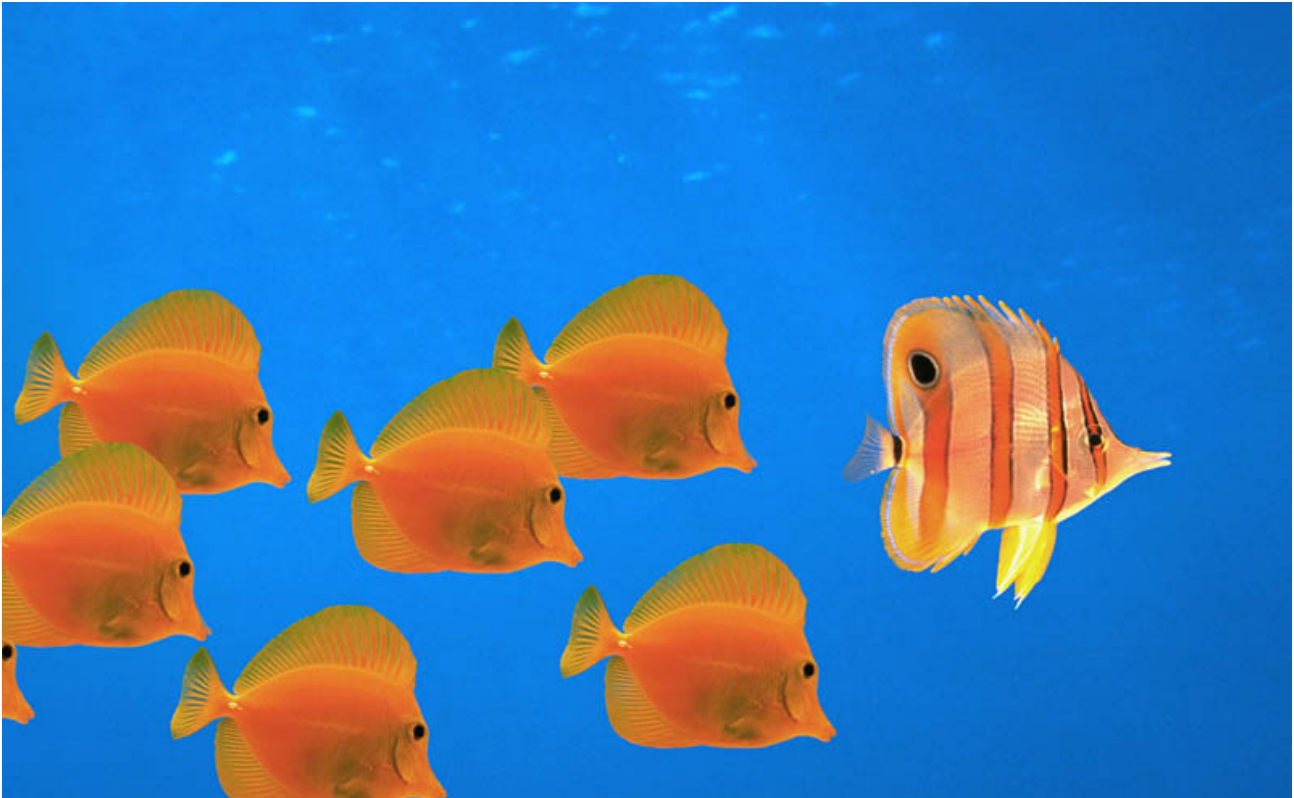15-21 review/enhance

22-24 handover

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 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's academic communities and other key stakeholder groups

Appointed implementation team

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

Confirmed early adopters

We've confirmed some strategic early adopters, including the National Centre for eSocial Sciences, members of the School of Computer Sciences, the Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell Matrix Research and migration of RAE 2008 data for the Research Office.

Set up first pilot repository

We've set up our first pilot repository with a basic set of functions. This is to allow us to support early adopters, learn about the alternative technical solutions and begin to identifier what are the technical obstacles.
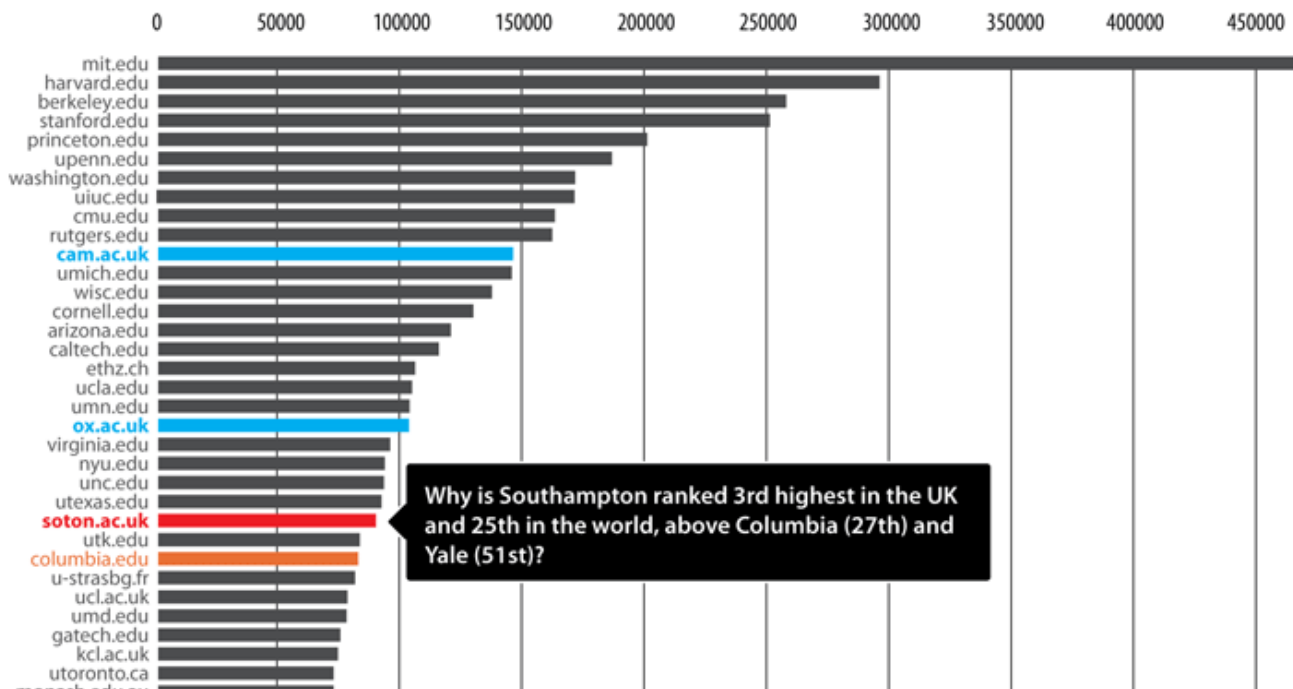
Obstacles are being identified and addressed

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

-with Faculty IT teams

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

Finally will an institutional repository make a difference, will it improve individuals and organisations research reputations, 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-factpr. 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.

What's the impact to EPS IT … ?

Lets finish with that key question, what's the impact to EPS IT?

As I said earlier the immediate impact is effectively zero. However, its important you are aware of the project and its goals so that if a customer asks for information you can point them in the right direction. Furthermore you can immediately start thinking about how best the Project and Faculty can work together.

In the medium term, the Project is working with Simon Harper in the School of Computer Sciences as an early adopter in EPS. The purpose of using early adopters is to conduct usability trials to iron out some of the significant barriers that academics and others have with managing their scholarly work.

I'm anticipating this will happen over the next 4 - 6 months.

After that will want to look at

-migrating all EPS publications data to a repository system,

-enhancing existing interfaces to improve their usability and functionality,

-engage with academics in awareness and training sessions to encourage them to deposit their content and ensure they are fully aware of the surrounding issues such as research council mandates, copyright and options for disseminating of their scholarly work

-Go live … with a gentle ripple and not a big splash!

Questions

www.manchester.ac.uk/institutionalrepositoryproject

And let's finish there … questions?