Mediterranean Open Access Network

Athens (via Skype) - 6 December 2012

“The Institutional Open Access Mandate at the Queensland University of Technology”

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Queensland University of Technology (QUT)
Brisbane, Australia
Gardens Point campus
Kelvin Grove campus
Brisbane central business district
Gardens Point campus
QUT has ...

6 x Faculties:
- QUT Business School
- Creative Industries
- Education
- Health
- Law
- Science and Engineering

2 x Research Institutes:
- Health and Biomedical Innovation
- Future Environments
  - Sustainable Resources
  - Information Security
QUT has ...

- 40,000 Students
  - 6,800 International
  - 100 Countries
  - 2,150 Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Students
Research Growth

Research Income ($'000)

Research Publications (Unweighted)
“Open access is, simply, the idea that research articles should be freely, immediately and permanently available online to anyone, rather than locked away in subscription journals as many currently are.”

Zoe Corbyn, THES, 12 November 2009.
A compelling idea...

- Costs of scholarly communication already high
- Inflation had no relation to CPI
- Further compounded for some nations which need to import most of the literature
Open Access
- Origin and Inevitability of the Concept

- The Technology Enablers – the net + application

- Economic Imperative - the input/output distortions of the scholarly publishing business (the issue of moral hazard)

- Researcher Motivation – the ceaseless quest for recognition and/or impact
Open Access – Journey at QUT

- Watching the debates since the 90s
- Exploring the need to act and aligning policy with researcher motivation
- Committee Process, [2003] (University Research Committee → University Academic Board)
Institutional repository policy at QUT

F/1.3 QUT ePrints repository for research output

1.3.1 Background

QUT staff and postgraduate students produce research and scholarly output as a contribution to their discipline and/or as part of scholarly discourse. A significant proportion of this is intended for publication for the general purpose of recognition and impact. The following policy applies to this process, only where such output is not intended for commercialisation or individual royalty payment or revenue for the author or QUT. In effect it applies to the corpus of refereed research literature, conference papers, selected creative works and other non-refereed output, including research data, as contributed by QUT to the outside world.

http://www.mopp.qut.edu.au/F/F_01_03.jsp
1.3.2 Policy

Material which represents the total publicly available research and scholarly output of the University is to be located in the University's digital or "E print" repository, subject to the exclusions noted. In this way it contributes to a growing international corpus of refereed and other research literature available on open access, a process occurring in universities worldwide.
1.3.2 Policy

- The following materials must be included in QUT ePrints:
  - Refereed research articles and conference papers (author’s accepted manuscript) at the post-peer review stage
The following materials may be included in QUT ePrints:

– Refereed research articles and conference papers (submitted manuscript) with corrigenda added following peer review if necessary
– Un-refereed research literature & conference contributions, (the accepted draft)
– Books and book chapters
– Theses
– Creative works with a research component
– Descriptions of research data and datasets
Materials to be commercialised, or which contain confidential material, or where the promulgation would infringe a legal commitment by the University and/or the author, will not be included in QUT ePrints.

QUT’s preference is to make materials available at the time of publication. Requests for embargos of more than twelve months must be referred to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Technology, Information and Learning Support).
QUT’s Institutional Repository - QUT ePrints

- Established in 2003  http://eprints.qut.edu.au

- Focus is currently on providing open access to the ‘postprint’ versions of QUT’s peer-reviewed scholarly publications
Motivating Researchers to Self-archive to the IR

- Usage statistics are available for each author.
- Data includes:
  - Cumulative downloads
  - Downloader location
  - 10 most popular works
Motivating Researchers to Self-archive to the IR

- Usage statistics are also available at the individual item level including:
  - Total downloads
  - Citations
  - Downloader location
  - Most popular search terms
Motivating Researchers to Self-archive to the IR

- Statistics ‘dashboards’ are also available at the organisational unit level.

- Reports available include:
  - Downloads
  - Monthly deposits
  - Downloader location
  - Most popular authors
  - Most popular works

- Some faculties and research centres provide incentives (rewards) based on this information
The discoverability of repository records via Google is very persuasive.

A search for information on financing creative industries returns over 1.8 million hits.

Three papers in QUT ePrints are on the first page results.
QUT ePrints - 8 years on.....

- **QUT ePrints**
  - 39,192 records (Aug 2012)
  - 22,163 full-text (56.3%)
  - 19,236 open access (48.8%)
The proportion of records with full-text attached is much higher for recently published works (87.4% of works published in 2012 have full-text attached).

This is partly due to new staff uploading metadata-only records for their pre-QUT publications.
Global Developments ....

- The rise of funder mandates
- The rise of institution mandates
  - MIT
  - Harvard
  - Imperial College
  - Other universities in Australia
  - Many more
Citation Impact for a Mature Researcher (QUT)

- **Professor Lidia Morawska** (physics / environmental health) began uploading full-texts copies of her published articles in 2005.
- The open access copies have been downloaded a total of 32,044 times.
- Her annual citation rate (as measured by Scopus) increased from 183 in 2005 to 570 in 2011.
Prof. Ray Frost (chemistry) began uploading full-text copies of his published articles in 2004;

The open access copies have been downloaded a total of 142,030 times;

His annual citation rate (as measured by Scopus) increased from 455 in 2004 to 1941 in 2011.
Prof. Katherine White (Psychology) has 101 open access publications in QUT ePrints, which have been downloaded a total of 47,750 times;

OA deposits started in 2007

Annual citation rate (as measured by Scopus) increased from 56 in 2007 to 268 citations in 2011.
Martin Skitmore (construction economics/surveying) has 236 open access publications in QUT ePrints, which have been downloaded a total of 153,205 times;

His annual citation rate (as measured by Scopus) increased from 53 in 2005 to 163 citations in 2011.
This QUT researcher (epidemiology and sexual health) has repository records for 46 of his 148 publications listed in Scopus - but only 11 have open access copies attached.

The citation pattern since 2005 is quite different.
More Evidence

http://arxiv.org/abs/1001.0361

These researchers compare the citation rates of open access articles v non-open access articles (in the same journals) using data from QUT, CERN, Southampton and Minho.

Concluded that, where subscription barriers exist, the size of the OA advantages increases with the citeability (quality) of the article.
“Just last week, the General Manager of Sustainable Development from an Australian rural industry called me – based on reading one of my research papers in ePrints. He loved what he read – which he thought was the most clear approach he’d seen on quantifying social impact – and we are now in discussion about how we can help them measure their industry’s social impacts.”

Dr Evonne Miller, Senior Lecturer, Design
The Faculty of Education has found that ePrints has formed an important bridge to facilitate engagement of potential postgraduate students with the Faculty.

Both the Research Pathways Coordinator for Undergraduate Courses (Dr Beryl Exley), and the Assistant Dean Research, report with certainty the growth in HDR numbers through the greater visibility of the faculty’s refereed research.
The Broader Role – Research Impact

- Greater visibility
- Direct impact on metrics that matter
- New readerships internationally and other areas, e.g. rural
- Attracting HDR students
Response of the Faculties and others in the University

- Developing Faculty-specific reward systems for depositing
- Considering mandates in other areas of research policy, e.g. data
- Using ePrints to link to important research profile information about staff
Research Impact - Direct Citation Outside the Literature

Review and Critique of Current Microbial Source Tracking (MST) Techniques


Research Impact - Non-traditional Research Outputs

Accented Body: the body as site and in site.

Stock, Cheryl F. (2006) Accented Body: the body as site and in site. [Creative Work]

Photo Presentation of Work (MS PowerPoint 318.5Kb)
Supplemental Material.
Image credit: Sonja de Sterke, Richard Hauser, Fiona Cullen, Ian Hutson, Aaron Veryard, Gyo Hyojung

Artistic Acquittal Report (PDF 306Kb)
Supplemental Material.
Questions?