Brief description of the paper
This paper provides an overview of Research Publication Service activities which will meet the needs of the University and which are important in the run up to the next REF submission at the end of 2013 and thereafter. The paper then looks at the need to promote the collection and record both the metadata and full text for research outputs (open access); and to provide appropriate links to other data important to making research projects visible, including management of research data, with a view to moving on to open scholarship approaches.

Action requested
For discussion

Resource implications
There are resource implications in these approaches. However, ensuring the proper recording of Edinburgh’s research and making it fully visible are core functions of the University.

Risk Assessment
The paper has no risk assessment.

Equality and Diversity
Does the paper have equality and diversity implications? No

Freedom of Information
Can this paper be included in open business? Yes

Originator of the paper
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Development of the Research Publication Service

Throughout the last year (2011) the Research Publication Service (RPS) team has effectively been ‘on hold’ as a result of PURE implementation project. This has provided the RPS team with the opportunity to take stock of our services, build relationships with the Schools and College teams and to form a direction for the future.

As we start 2012, the team’s involvement in the PURE project is shifting rapidly from implementation to operation. RPS is now embarking on a process to redefine the services that the University wishes to see.

This paper provides an overview of RPS activities which will meet the needs of the University and which are important in the run up to the next REF submission at the end of 2013 and thereafter. The proposals in the paper will aid the University in delivering the commitments required by Research Councils. The paper then looks at the need to promote the collection and record both the metadata and full text for research outputs (open access); and to provide appropriate links to other data important to making research projects visible, including management of research data, with a view to moving on to open scholarship approaches.

The RPS is advised by the RPS Steering Group, which comprises representatives from each College and appropriate Support Groups. The Steering Group’s remit is presently being revised in line with plans for 2012, and will be chaired by Professor Alan Bundy from the School of Informatics.

The RPS team is currently a staff of 3 persons, and we have received IS NPRAS funding for a further 1 FTE over an 18 month period to focus on the understanding and development of ‘open scholarship’ in research as a means to increase the widest possible dissemination, engagement and impact of Edinburgh research. Further funding is likely to be required to develop this work further and to support College/School requirements for increasing impact of research outputs—this is likely to be best provided by working with and in conjunction with Schools.

This paper takes a look at existing and proposed RPS services under the following headings;

- Core services currently provided by the RPS team.
- Proposed measures for the cost and benefit of open access at Edinburgh
- Proposed services to maximise the exposure of Edinburgh research outputs

1. Core Services

The RPS team currently provide the following as core services to support the needs the Universities researchers and research managers:

- Population of the PURE system with publications data working closely with the Schools in rolling out the system to academic staff for direct input to PURE. This covers the acquisition of both metadata (record only) items and full text (record and full text) items in line with the University Research Publications Policy.
• Working to ensure that the research records held in PURE are made available as widely as possible to support the dissemination of Edinburgh research.

• Building and maintaining strong relationships with the School and College teams so RPS can provide consultancy services that support local research strategies.

• Provision of compliance reporting on behalf of a number of funding agencies such as the Wellcome Trust, and for other council initiatives such as the RCUK research outcomes project.

• Acquisition and management of Edinburgh eTheses, in line with the University thesis deposit mandate.

2. Proposed measures for the cost and benefit of open access at Edinburgh

Understanding the Cost of Open Access: Without a sound grasp of the cost/benefit metrics associated with open access it is difficult to demonstrate the return on any investments made. Recent requests to identify the annual cost of open access fees at the University has shown just how difficult it is to quantify this, with recent estimates differing by a factor of 100% (from £0.5 to £1M).

Validating estimates for total cost of open access is not possible within the University finance systems. In order to improve this understanding, it is suggested that a fund code for open access publishing is created.

Improving the quality and access to this information on the cost of open access is important for the following reasons:

• Gaining an understanding of the total cost of open access as incurred by the University.

• Improving our understanding of the breadth of open access publications at the University as a proportion of all research publications submitted.

• The provision of accurate reports on OA compliance rates across funded projects, as required by funders.

• The possible re-negotiation of subscription deals with publishers to ensure that they discount rates where we have already paid for an open access option. At present, publishers are indulging in a practice known as “double-dipping”—that is receiving funds to make items freely available as open access, but then not discounting these items from the toll access subscription packages. This is a long term strategy, which requires detailed information on costs per item to initiate renegotiation, which will inevitably be protracted, with publishers.

• A review of the different open access routes, to see which is the most beneficial, in financial and visibility terms, for the University. Often publishers will use funder information during the article submission process to offer open access compliance options. While these do indeed allow authors to meet funder mandates (“gold” open access), it may be the case that an alternative route to open access could be made via the University institutional repository to satisfy the same requirement (“green open access). Hence we could be paying for a publisher option that is not necessary, with potential savings of up to £3K per publication.

• Provision of baseline measurement data for the ongoing development of open scholarship approaches.
Quantifying the benefits of open access: In addition to getting a better understanding of the costs of open access, we also need to improve our knowledge of the benefits of open access. This information is critical as part of our drive to encourage adoption of this approach.

This evidence gathering work will take an number of alternative approaches, such as case studies, impact studies and data analysis of citation databases. This benefits management will be a long term objective and will include;

- The development of case studies which show how researchers have benefitted from open access approaches.

- Number and frequency of citations on works that have been made available as open access, both as immediate open access and for items that have been provided for open access thorough the University institutional repository after they have been previously published in a toll access journal.

- The benefits of open access on the impact measures associated with the REF process.

- Improved ability to support the requirements of funding and Research Councils for reporting and compliance

- Understanding the financial benefits of open access to the university, such as through negotiated publisher deals, or through comparing green and gold open access routes.

- Identifying and documenting evidence of improved collaboration and funding opportunities from open access.

3. Services to maximise the exposure of Edinburgh research

The University and its research staff are under increasing pressure to ensure that the outputs of research produced are made available as openly as possible. The 7 major Research Councils that form the core of RCUK all now have open access policies for research outputs, and these are now being developed to incorporate further requirements for research data.

The University of Edinburgh has had its own Research Publications Policy since January 2010 requiring all research outputs to be centrally recorded and made available as full text open access where possible. Improving compliance against this policy is a core requirement to maximising research exposure, and with research impact now forming 20% of the return value for the REF in 2014, the importance of developing support services in this area is clear.

To this effect, a number of areas have been identified that we propose to develop as part of our ‘open scholarship’ programme in 2012.

- A light-touch revision of the University’s Research Publications Policy in light of the development of new core infrastructure services (PURE) and to reference elements of the University Research Data Management Policy, followed by further promotion of the Policy.

- Improving the use of PURE and its associated API services as a means to ‘expose’ information about Edinburgh research for access via the public web.

- Improving use of PURE as a tool to support the Edinburgh Research Data Management Policy
● Increasing the opportunities for sharing and discussing Edinburgh research, both directly and via social networks.

● Providing tools to collect data on the reach and impact of these services.

● Improving the use of repository systems to demonstrate a more direct academic value.

● To develop academic and research communities in Edinburgh therefore showcasing institutional areas of excellence and encouraging cross disciplinary engagement.

● ‘Productionising’ and promoting the Library and Collections Open Journal Services, i.e. taking services from the current proof of concept to an operational service, and implementing a number of Edinburgh e-journals in conjunction with (or at least with the support of) Edinburgh University Press

● Forging better links with public engagement teams to develop collaboration opportunities across the University.

● Working to develop case studies on the practice and benefits (or dis-benefits) of open scholarship approaches

● Increased engagement with academic/research and student bodies within the University to promote principles of open scholarship.

● Develop a number of training and support materials that can be used as part of an improved liaison service in the area of open scholarship.

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