

Streamlining Deposit: An OJS to Repository Plugin (Pitch)

The problem

Our project fits within the Research data deposit and sharing protocols and tools priority areas.

The cost of depositing an article in an institutional repository is £33-£36 according a 2014 Research Consulting report. It takes 48-52 minutes to deposit an article. This is likely to discourage many academics from depositing, limiting knowledge discovery and research advancement.

In 2016, the grace period for HEFCE's mandate for immediate deposit on acceptance will end. This is a ticking time bomb that, without action, will result in the waste of time and money due to inefficient deposit practices.

The solution, benefits and delivery

We will develop a suite of plugins for the popular Open Source project Open Journal Systems (OJS) to streamline article submission and depositing.

Main benefits are time savings for authors and cost savings for institutions. A process that took almost an hour will now take under 5 minutes.

We will create a plugin to integrate data depositing with Figshare by month 3 and Dryad by month 6. We will also develop a plugin to integrate OJS with the JISC Router by month 12. This approach is innovative because, to our knowledge, none have been connected to OJS before.

OJS is a easy to setup, self-hosted Journal production system widely used in academia - with 24,000 installations worldwide. Our Open Source plugins will encourage code maintenance, reuse and active contribution to the project from institutions that use OJS - ensuring sustainability.

We will also produce code that be easily reused and repurposed for other platforms and Open Source documentation on best practices for streamlining the depositing process on non-OJS platforms. This will ensure wide applicability of our work by not restricting impact to OJS users. Encouraging reuse will also enhance sustainability.

Plugging in with Figshare, Dryad and the JISC router will enable researchers to deposit and cite supplementary data and, upon acceptance, make their article available to institutional repositories.

Advantages of plugging in with Figshare include ease of integration, document visualisation and ready support. Figshare have agreed to provide custom endpoints and advice on existing publisher workflows, without cost - a contribution-in-kind of £7,500.

We will follow a user-focused design and evaluation process throughout. We will interview academics, both OJS and non-OJS users, to find out their depositing requirements to inform our plugin design. We will evaluate our plugins extensively with academics. This approach is innovative as researcher experience is often neglected when designing publishing tools. It will be at the heart of our development and evaluation efforts.

Research outputs will include international conference papers on the benefits of the plugins and on the importance of user experience in this domain.

Our most important success criterion is use, measured by number of plugin installations. Ubiquity press will install them on 75 journals. We will ensure widespread adoption by promoting them at the Public Knowledge Project (PKP) conference 2015, where OJS users and developers meet, and on mailing lists and social media.

Other success criteria include level of contribution from the Open Source community and perceived usability and usefulness of the plugins by academics.

The team and funding

Our project team has extensive capacity to deliver, with a balance of the necessary skills and expertise:

Ernesto Priego from City University London will lead the project. He specialises in online publishing for impact and widening participation.

Andy Byers, Lead Developer at Ubiquity Press will lead development and coordinate integration. He is an active OJS developer.

Stephann Makri from City University London will lead user-focused design and evaluation. He has provided UX expertise to the British Library, LexisNexis and Nature.com.

Mark Hahnel from Figshare will provide support and advice.

For the first 3 months, we are requesting £10,000 to cover 2.5 day/week of development, 10% of academics' time and PKP conference attendance. We are requesting £35,000 for the full 12 months.

Our plugins will make it far easier for researchers to deposit and share their work, saving them time, saving their institutions money and promoting valuable knowledge discovery.

References

Research Consulting (2014) Counting the Cost of Open Access. The Estimated Cost to UK Research Organisations of Achieving Compliance with Open Access Mandates in 2013/14. November 2014. <http://www.researchconsulting.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Research-Consulting-Counting-the-Costs-of-OA-Final.pdf> [Accessed 26 February 2015]