Jisc Open Research Hub

Demonstration—from Repository to Preservation

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Abstract – Jisc's Open Research Hub (JORH) integrates a number of repository, preservation, reporting and storage platforms as a one stop shop for researchers and research managers. The service offers both open source and proprietary systems and allows data and metadata to be shared openly if required. The platform has been developed through years-long consultation with the UK HE research sector and sector bodies, along with contributions from both in-house Jisc and third-party experts. And was launched in July 2018.

The need for such a solution has arisen from the sector's desires to achieve several, shared aims, including: greater collaboration; tackling the reproducibility crisis; enabling better research; enabling a better user experience; and meeting funder requirements.

Jisc's custom-built repository—the Open Research Repository—is part of the Jisc Open Research Hub. It's built upon an extensive data model and rich messaging layer, providing users with a clean, simple, and easy-to-learn interface for the deposit, approval, and discovery of a range of outputs. In particular it allows for a seamless end to end experience for the user; from deposit straight through to preservation.

Jisc's position in the UK higher education / research sector, as well as the scale of the service provides us with many domain-specific insights to share with iPRES delegates, ranging from the broad methods mentioned above, down to individual design decisions informed by our research and domain expertise.

Keywords – Research Data, Integration, Preservation, Shared Services, Repository to Preservation

Conference Topics – The Cutting Edge: Technical Infrastructure and Implementation.

I. Introduction

Jisc's Open Research Hub, integrates a number of repository, preservation, reporting and storage platforms as a one stop shop for all users of repository and preservation systems. The service offers a range of component systems and a range of potential integrations, both in terms of data (and meta data) sources and endpoints. It allows data and metadata to be managed, preserved and shared as openly as possible and as securely as needed.

This demonstration is intended to show the ease by which data can be deposited, along with semi-automatic selection and entry of meta data from a variety of systems through to preservation (also in a variety of systems).

It will be of interest to content generators, developers, integrators, vendors, repository managers, curators, research data managers, support staff, and data end-users.

II. DEMONSTRATION CONTENT

The demonstration will illustrate the core functionality and features of the open research hub. It will highlight the motivations, and methods applied to achieve a compelling user experience in the repository and beyond through the creation of user-friendly, automated workflows between various systems.

As part of the demonstration, the presenter will highlight development leading up to the launch in July of last year (and development since then) and will highlight our custom repository development as well as how we worked with suppliers of two preservation systems (Archivematica and Preservica). The demonstration will show how Jisc has created a technical and storage architecture that automates many traditionally manual tasks. This includes the 'messaging layer' that allows new products and services to be easily integrated. Time permitting, examples of additional integrations that are currently being developed (such as Pure CRIS System and Haplo repository) will also be shown.

As the UK Higher Education sector's trusted experts in 'digital', Jisc strives to deliver high quality services. The demonstration will highlight our recognition that, in the research domain, the viability of any new platform is greatly affected by the usability of the systems put before users. Platforms have a greater chance of gaining traction if they meet or exceed user's expectations in terms of ease-of-use. With the best will in the world from institutions and policy makers, users have a powerful tendency to use the most frictionless solution to fulfil their given needs; it is therefore vital to ensure we encourage good practice and engagement by delivering services that are intuitive and un-demanding to use. In this sense the demonstration will frame its presentation of user experience as a strategically important part of the wider move to open science.

It will also focus on the need for interoperability. In this day and age, no repository or preservation system can expect to be embraced by the community if it can't be integrated with extant systems (and future systems and standards as they emerge) to allow for the creation of a totally seamless and as pain free as possible user experience.

The demonstration will feature potential solutions to some of the challenges faced in developing such a system, for example creating simple workflows in complex areas and the challenge of preserving diverse research data file formats that aren't currently recognized by existing preservation registries and services.

The demonstration will also show some of the non-technical side of Open Research Hub; such as being informed by and informing good practice in the sector through hosting community events; and creating information, advice and guidance content based on good practice and findings realised through the development of the Open Research Hub. It will also, importantly, cover how Jisc has approached creating a sustainable business model for the service and how we can support institutions in exploring its potential.

III. DEMONSTRATION REQUIREMENTS

This demonstration will need a wired internet connection, a PC, a screen & projector or display screen.

The demonstration will be up to 20 minutes with an additional 5 to 10 minutes for questions/discussion.

IV. GOALS AND CONCLUSION

The take-home messages from this demonstration are:
- These shared services provide opportunities to enhance and integrate existing products and services in the sector.
- The potential for a well-designed, integrated system to transform the user experience. Data deposit doesn't need to be hard.
- The importance of a compelling user experience in the adoption of services among users.
- That systems can be produced that allow disparate systems to interact to provide a solution that is greater than the sum of its parts.

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