



The RepNet survey for IR managers – an analysis

Introduction

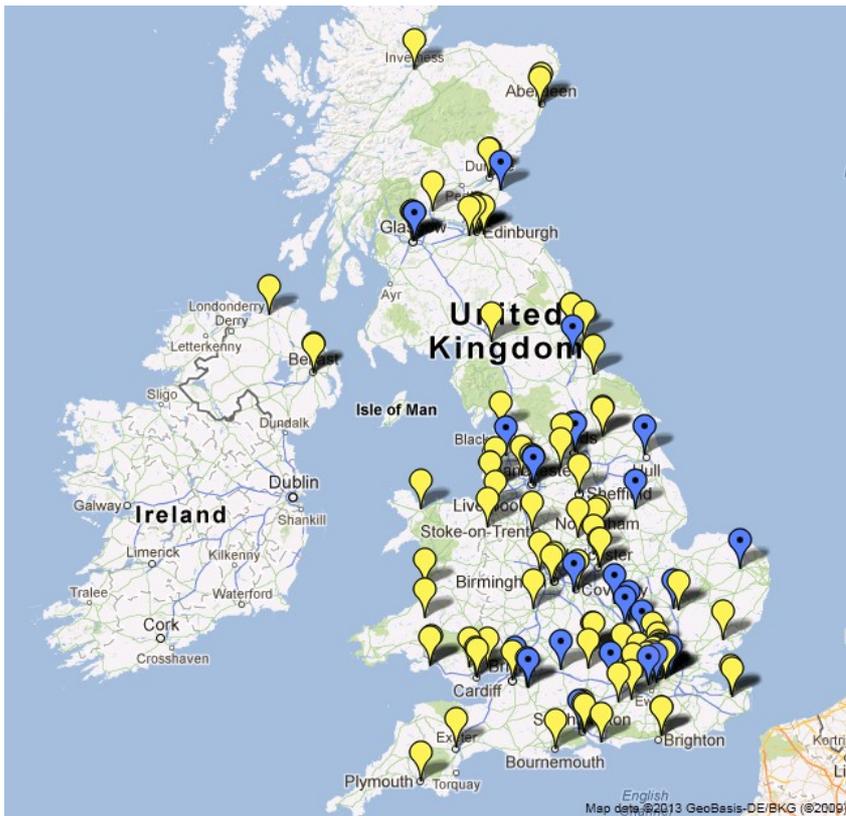
This report provides an analysis of the results of the RepNet survey for Institutional Repository managers across the UK repository network. This survey, available at http://ukcorr.org/repnet_survey/, was released on Nov 12th by UKCoRR on behalf of the RepNet Project after the UKCoRR annual meeting was held at Teesside University on Nov 9th.

The RepNet project is aiming to provide the UK repository network a whole set of new services to be built on top of the present RIM infrastructure layer. This survey is intended to establish the interest on such new services, to identify perception of their need and to assess the technical/attitudinal readiness to implement them by the IR manager community. Some of the RepNet services (either being currently built or planned as future applications) the IR managers are surveyed on are:

- RJ Broker for automated content transfer into IRs
- SWORD endpoint availability for ensuring the RJ Broker is able to deliver
- IRUS-UK tool for producing cross-repository COUNTER-compliant usage information
- Enhancing metadata sets in IRs by automatically collecting additional data such as DOIs or funder and grant information
- Enhancing currently low levels of OpenAIRE compatibility
- Setting up harmonised procedures for measuring IR content growth: the RepNet Deposit Uptake Monitor
- Setting up procedures for increasing levels of IR content indexing by search engines
- Ensuring services provided by the RepNet fit the wide variety of RIM system configuration available across the IR network (with CRISs, Symplectic, RMS and other systems in the picture)
- Testing the levels of current IT support for enhancing IR features and exploring the possibility of delivering additional functionality in this domains through the RepNet IT Support Hub.

Although the sample on which this statistical analysis is based upon is still rather limited, we believe the preliminary results to be highly significant (and we count on our previous knowledge of the situation obtained from conversations with a wealth of IR managers for backing such statement). From an analysis on the available answers, this note draws some preliminary conclusions on the position of IRs and HEIs with regard to services to be delivered by the RepNet.

The following IRs and institutions have so far provided their answers to the survey:



- ROAR, University of East London
- Hydra, University of Hull
- UoBRep, University of Bedfordshire
- UEA Digital Repository, University of East Anglia
- City Research Online, City University London
- NORA, Natural Environment Research Council
- GALA, University of Greenwich
- University of Warwick
- Research@StAndrews, University of St Andrews
- Open Research Online, Open University
- Queen Mary Research Online, Queen Mary University London
- CLoK, University of Central Lancashire
- LSE Research Online, London School of Economics
- Leeds Met Open Search, Leeds Metropolitan University
- Durham Research Online (DRO), University of Durham
- CentAUR, University of Reading
- DSpace@Cambridge, University of Cambridge
- Spiral, Imperial College London
- UWE Research Repository, University of the West of England
- Kingston University Research Repository, Kingston University
- OPUS, University of Bath
- SEA, Southampton Solent University
- Manchester e-Scholar, University of Manchester

- Strathprints, University of Strathclyde
- SORA, St George's University of London
- Oxford Research Archive (ORA), University of Oxford
- NECTAR, University of Northampton
- The Lincoln Repository, University of Lincoln
- CERES, Cranfield University
- UCA Research Online, University of Creative Arts
- [OpenAIR@RGU](#), Robert Gordon University

This report will be updated after every significant increase in the number of answers.

Survey results

There is a common structure for providing the results for every question in the survey, which contains three sections: Question, Conclusion and Supporting data (answers). The detailed analysis for every question is followed by some final conclusions for the whole survey.

Q0. What software platform & version does your IR run?

EPrints is the IR software platform for a **wide majority of the answers** (19/29), followed by **DSpace** (6/29) with less than one third. **Both platforms cover over 85% of the sample**, which backs the current RepNet focus on providing services to both main platforms. All EPrints-based IRs run version 3 or higher, which will allow them to run default SWORD endpoints and to receive support for installing updated add-ons such as CRIS or REF2014. EPrints Service in Southampton would be a very interesting RepNet partner for the purpose of harmonising IR services.

EPrints: 19

DSpace: 6

Fedora: 3

Other: 1

Q1a. Is your IR already running a SWORD endpoint?

Only a few EPrints-, DSpace- and Fedora-based IR managers seem to be aware of the fact that SWORD endpoints are provided by default by high versions of their software platforms. A number of them suspect they might have it available but are not sure. Prior to releasing the RJ Broker, the RepNet should carry out an awareness-raising campaign on SWORD endpoint configuration (ideally having previously discussed it with EPrints colleagues in Southampton, but this is not a must).

Yes: 7

No: 17

Don't know/Don't think so: 5

Q1b. Would you need IT support to make one available?

Most IR managers declare they would need some kind of support for making available and/or configuring a SWORD endpoint in their IRs. As to who should provide such support service, some of them (3) would rely on their project/institutional IT support and some others (4) would expect their hosting provider to deliver them this service. Three additional ones would expect the RepNet to directly deliver the service. In view of these results, the RepNet should **engage with the appropriate hosting providers** (EPrints, SDLC and ULCC are specifically mentioned) in order to provide them adequate guidelines. This could very much work on a best practice basis, addressing a few IRs at the beginning (ideally those in the RepNet PReG) and spreading working procedures across the IR network.

Two IR managers state that SWORD-mediated content transfer is not an IR Project priority in their case.

Yes: 9

No specification on who should deliver IT support: 4

Hosting provider should deliver it: 3 (EPrints: 3, SDLC: 1)

Would rely on own IT support: 8

Don't know/Not sure: 4

Not in schedule: 2

Already have a SWORD endpoint: 5

Q2. Are you currently running any automated procedure for content ingest into your IR? (such as pushing metadata-only items from CRIS or SWORD-based item transfer from external content providers).

Approximately half the IRs (14/29) aren't currently running any automated procedure for content ingest. Those operating one or where one is being implemented mainly mention pushing items from their CRIS (usually Symplectic, but also PURE, Converis and in-house developed CRIS). There are ongoing initiatives across the IR network both for PURE UK and Symplectic User Groups dealing with standard implementation of automated ingest services that will presumably result in a wider extension of these procedures. The RJ Broker service will anyway become the first procedure for automated content ingest for many IRs.

No: 14

In progress (CRIS-push ingest mechanism/Symplectic/WoS): 4

Yes (CRIS-push/Symplectic/PURE/BioMed Central/WoK): 12

'Import by DOI' function: 1

Q3. Are you currently monitoring the rate of growth of your IR contents?

Most IR managers (24/29) deliver periodical reports on content growth – usually monthly, although a couple of answers mention quarterly or annual reports. Many of them claim to use their usage modules for the purpose, and only a few of them declare not to be collecting this

kind of information. Emphasis should be made when deploying the RepNet Deposit Uptake Monitor feature on harmonisation of procedures for measuring the rate of growth of IR contents (especially when the RJ Broker starts automatically delivering contents).

Yes: 15

Yes (with repo stats module): 9

Somewhat ad hoc: 1

No: 4

Q4. Do you keep up-to-date information on the rate of full-text vs metadata-only items in your IR?

Few IRs (6/29) claim not to be collecting information on the rate of full-text vs metadata-only items. The rest of them mention different procedures for performing such counts – most of them doing it manually, although there is a mention to aggregation as a potential source for automated counts. One fourth of the surveyed IRs are full-text only repositories.

As above, harmonised procedures for measuring the rates of full-text vs metadata-only items could be disseminated as part of the implementation work for the RepNet Deposit Uptake Monitor. Automatic full-text vs metadata-only item counts should be examined as a potential service to be provided by aggregators.

Full-text only: 6

Yes: 16

Yes (via bitstream analysis): 1

Intermittent: 1

Don't know/Don't think so: 1

No: 4

Q5. Do you keep up-to-date information on the rate of IR content indexing by search engines such as Google/GoogleScholar/ Microsoft Academic Search?

Almost all IR managers declare not to systematically collect information on rates of content indexed by search engines for their IRs, and **most of them would be willing to receive some guidelines for performing this on a regular basis**. As it was surfaced along the RepNet Advisory Board meeting last Sep, there is a clear support requirement from IRs in this domain. As opposite to the previous question, there is no mention to the possibility of this service being provided by an aggregator (although one IR manager mentions they are registered with OCLC OAIster).

No: 22

No, but registered with OCLC OAIster: 1

Not on a consistent basis: 3

To some extent: 2

Q6. Could you provide a one-line description of the available institutional infrastructure in terms of research information management at your university?

The sample of available RIM systems at HEIs shows a wide variety of running solutions. For RepNet purposes, the most significant outcome is the fact that **nearly half the IR managers declare to rely just on their IR for the management of institutional research outputs** – with half of these relying on an internal CMS + IR solution. This means no other possible system may provide HEIs the overlay services they will need for tracking their Open Access outputs (and potentially payments), and it makes the case for the planned RepNet services for IRs. Half the answers however state an either running or in progress CRIS/IR system, which seems to be gradually becoming the most frequent solution (again with a variety of platforms for both CRISes and IRs).

IR-only: 7

RMS + IR: 6

Symplectic + IR: 6

Converis + IR: 3

PURE + IR: 3

PURE + IR (in-progress): 1

In-house built CRIS + IR: 2

(unspecified) CRIS + EPrints: 1

Q7. Would you be interested in receiving direct support for making your IR OpenAIRE compatible?

This is one of the most unanimous answers in the survey. 22 out of 29 answers declare their interest for their IR becoming OpenAIRE-compliant and for receiving support in order to achieve this goal (even if two answers say they'd rather have their CRIS becoming OpenAIRE-compliant and other two say it's not a top priority given the low number of EU projects running at their specific HEI). Once things are cleared up regarding the compatibility between RIOXX and OpenAIRE, this service is one of the first the RepNet could start delivering, since again it could easily be provided on a best practice basis (with liaison to EPrints and other stakeholders such as PURE UK User Group being highly advisable).

Yes: 18

Yes although: 2

via CRIS: 2

To be done by someone else: 1

No: 4

Would like to know more: 1

Q8. Would you be interested in a service for automatically collecting DOIs for your IR items, or is that information already available in your IR?

Most IR managers (18/29) express their interest in knowing more about this service for automatic DOI collection. Most of them are also already carrying out some process for achieving this purpose -including manual checks and DOI collection through their PURE or Symplectic CRIS or directly from Scopus- but would like to have this service offered in a comprehensive and harmonised way for all available records.

Yes: 18

CRIS will do it (PURE/Symplectic): 4

From Scopus: 1

Currently manual process: 5

Not sure: 1

Do it already: 1

Q9. Have you registered for taking part in the IRUS-UK initiative for providing cross-repository COUNTER-compliant usage data? If you haven't, would you be interested in becoming part of the project?

Almost one third of the answers (8/28) declare to have already registered with IRUS-UK, which is an above-average rate. A large majority of those which have not yet registered with the service express their interest in doing so (and one specifically mentions having registered for IRUS-UK as a result of this survey).

No: 1

No but would be interested: 17

Yes we have registered: 8

Under consideration: 2

Q10. Would you be willing to take part in a test development for collecting Funder and Grant information in order to have it automatically attached to your IR items?

Again the results for this question align with the ongoing requirements expressed in the RIO Extension Guidelines and with the planned RepNet Metadata Enhancement Suite service. A wide subset (16/26) of IR managers would like –some of them rather emphatically– to add funder and grant information to their current IR metadata sets. Some mention ongoing tests at their IRs for collecting these fields from Symplectic, their specific CRIS or the WoS, but even those who are not sure whether a potential service in this regard might fit their needs would like to know more about the RepNet plans in this regard.

Yes: 13

Yes but: 2

Potentially: 1

Would like to know more first: 5

No: 5

Q11. Are you satisfied with the current level of IT support your institution provides you in terms of enhancing IR features? Would you be interested in a potential RepNet-driven external IT support service for the purpose?

Answers to this question show a wide set of support services presently available to IRs, ranging from institutional services to those provided by hosting services (such as EPrints, SDLC¹ or ULCC²) on an agreed level of support that sometimes covers development. A quite large number of IR managers (10/26) declare however they would be interested in a RepNet-run IT support service, and the figure rises to 16/26 when adding in those who would consider other support services or would anyway be interested to know more about a potential RepNet service. Given the planned RepNet IT Support Hub is set to be DSpace-specific, it would be highly advisable to liaise with EPrints and other service providers in order to provide this service in a harmonised way across the IR network.

Yes, would be interested: 10

[Currently Hosted IRs] Would consider other support services: 3

Already receiving support from EPrints but interested to know more: 2

RepNet could perhaps team up with present SP: 1

We have no support: 1

Happy with current support level: 8

Would like to know more first: 1

Not interested: 2

Conclusions

As stated in the introduction, this RepNet survey aims to explore the interest, the perceived need and the technical readiness of Institutional Repositories for new service implementation on top of the current infrastructure level. The survey results show high levels of interest for such new services, a widespread awareness of their need and low/medium readiness for their implementation. All of this makes the case for the RepNet service delivery use cases as presented at the UKCoRR membership meeting last Nov 9th, see <http://www.repositorynet.ac.uk/2012/11/13/repnet-at-the-2012-ukcorr-membership-meeting/>.

Whereas technical support for new feature/development implementation at IRs is generally available (and could otherwise be possibly provided by the RepNet by jointly working with other stakeholders such as EPrints or SDLC), the main conclusion of the survey is that consistent **outreach activity** is required from the RepNet in order to provide **guidelines for carrying out different processes** from IRs. When discussing features such as setting up and configuring SWORD endpoints, getting IRs ready for RJ Broker automatic content transfer, monitoring IR content growth or maximising IR content automatic indexing by search engines,

¹ Scottish Digital Library Consortium (SDLC), <http://www.sdmc.ed.ac.uk/services/institutionalrepositories.html>

² University of London Computer Centre, <http://www.ulcc.ac.uk/content/repositories-he-and-research>

a requirement is expressed for some technical guidance for carrying out these processes in a harmonised way across the IR network.

Regarding specific services that are either already being delivered or being designed by the RepNet, there is a consistent interest across the IR network according to the survey results for becoming users of those services when they are made available. Features like the RJ Broker for automatic content ingest, services for metadata enhancement such as automatic DOI on funder/grant info collection or supporting OpenAIRE compliance are well received and it shouldn't be difficult for the RepNet to find institutions willing to test their early adoption.

Finally, the picture of research information management infrastructure (CRIS/IR) available at UK HEIs emerging from the survey shows a widely varying range of running solutions, which will require the RepNet to examine specific considerations on how to address different use cases from a service provider viewpoint.

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