Streamlining Deposit: An OJS to Repository Plugin

From "Counting the Costs of Open Access" (Research Consulting, November 2014), we learn that

> "the costs of depositing an article in an institutional repository are calculated at £33 per article when weighted by article numbers, while the unweighted figure is £36. Across the responding institutions, it takes 48 minutes (weighted average) or 52 minutes (unweighted) to deposit an article" (page 13).

If the HEFCE mandate for immediate deposit upon acceptance is to be followed, these costs and time scale will be untennable.

At *The Comics Grid: Journal of Comics Scholarship*, we appreciate the urgency of an open, easy-to-use mechanism to send submissions data to Institutional Repositories automatically.

The Comics Grid is a pioneering open access journal published by Ubiquity Press. The journal is built on the OJS open journal and publishing management system developed by the Public Knowledge Project.

Our idea is to write a plugin that sends data automatically to Institutional Repositories using the Edina Broker (previously directly to the institutional repository via SWORD), adding support for linking data from Dryad (an international repository of data underlying peer-reviewed scientific and medical literature) and figshare (an open access repository developed by Digital Science) and other existing services.

Writing the plugin for and within the journal would allow us to use an existing open access journal as a piloting platform and to test the beta version with our community of editors and authors. Being a plugin for OJS means other journals would potentially benefit; the latest figures from the Public Knowledge Project cite 24,000 installations of OJS.

Our idea fits within the Research data deposit and sharing protocols & tools priority area. Because *The Comics Grid* is a multidisciplinary journal, we're aiming at a holistic understanding of data transfer and understand the urgency of interoperability for humanities journals.

The idea has two main components, one that we could call "technical" (in the sense it implies the development of a tool) and one that we could call "research" (in the sense that it implies researching what has already been done, learning from the process of developing the tool and from its implementation).

Our idea is to write a plugin for Open Journal Systems that sends data automatically or semi-automatically to Institutional Repositories.

1. To make data submission easier in terms of data by allowing people to upload directly to Dryad (an international repository of data underlying peer-reviewed scientific and medical literature) and Figshare (an open access repository developed by Digital Science) via API.

2. To make depositing easier by connecting OJS to other services via the JISC publications router which can be subscribed to by institutions to receive submissions.

We are aware there's important work that has been done already in this area, with tools that are already in use. We don't want to reinvent the wheel. We want to build on what has been done, as there seems to be consensus that none of the existing solutions are completely satisfying. We are not saying we can come up with THE tool; we would use this opportunity to

- discover what has already been done,
- work with what already exists,
- use the development phase itself as research data,
- implement and test the tool and obtain research data,
- produce a research output and an open source tool that can be used by the community.

For example, Stuart Lewis alerted us that the University of Edinburgh uses both SWORD and OJS (http://journals.ed.ac.uk/). We also know Rory McNicholl made a plugin based on the OJS SWORD plugin that gives editors the option to deposit to repositories as part of the OJS workflow. This was developed for and is in use by UCL at http://ojs.lib.ucl.ac.uk/. Rory was interested in collaborating with us and we believe the knowledge and expertise exchange would be vital.

The points made by Martin Eve in his comment to our idea on the Ideascale platform are vital. We believe it is authors (not publishers) who must be responsible for depositing their work in repositories. This is also why this is a researcher-led idea, one that seeks knowledge exchange between researchers (who are also journal editors), publishers, developers, librarians (including repository managers) and university administrators.

Developing this idea would be an opportunity to continue learning about the technical component, which can only give a more thorough understanding of the pragmatic challenges and opportunities, from an implementation point of view, of open access and data and manuscript deposit. We believe it is essential that authors gradually become more involved in the publishing and depositing process, and this collaborative idea is one step in this direction.

References

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Priego, Ernesto (2015) "#Dataspring: An Idea to Make Depositing Data and Accepted Manuscripts Easier (today at #IDCC15)", 12 February 2015, https://epriego.wordpress.com/2015/02/12/dataspring/ [Accessed 26 February 2015].