Open Access and Research, the Experience of a Large Australian University

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QUT has ...

7 x Faculties

- Built Environment and Engineering
- Business
- Creative Industries
- Education
- Health
- Law
- Science and Technology

4 x Research institutes

- Heath and Biomedical Innovation
- Creative Industries and Innovation
- Sustainable Resources
- Information Security
Cost complications in Australia

- Costs of scholarly communication already high in these disciplines
- Further compounded by need to import
- Currencies at points of origin generally stronger than Australian Dollar
Open Access
- Origin and Inevitability of the Concept

- Explosion in scholarly communication
- Artificial nature of the scholarly publishing market
- Revolutionary impact of technology
- BUT ... where would change happen first?
Open Access – journey at QUT

- Watching the debates
- Exploring the need to act
The Key Issue

- Understanding core business of research institutions and their communities;

- In particular, understanding the motives and drivers of researchers and the difference between the “give-away” and the “non give-away” literature.
Policy F/1.3 E-print repository for research output at QUT

1.3.1 Application

QUT staff and post-graduate students produce research and scholarly output as a contribution to their discipline and/or as part of scholarly discourse. A significant proportion of this is intended for publication for the general purpose of recognition and impact. The following policy applies to this process, only where such output is not intended for commercialisation or individual royalty payment or revenue for the author or QUT. In effect it applies to the corpus of refereed research literature, conference proceedings, and other non-refereed output, as contributed by QUT to the outside world.
Institutional repository policy at QUT-1

1.3.2 Policy

Material which represents the total publicly available research and scholarly output of the University is to be located in the University's digital or "E print" repository, subject to the exclusions noted. In this way it contributes to a growing international corpus of refereed and other research literature available on line, a process occurring in universities worldwide.
1.3.2 Policy

The following materials are to be included:

- Refereed research articles and contributions;
- Un-refereed research literature, conference contributions, chapters in proceedings, etc (the accepted draft);
- Theses as prepared for the Australian Digital Theses (ADT) process;
Institutional repository policy at QUT-2 ... cont’d

- **Materials to be included ... cont’d**
  - Access to these contributions will be subject to any necessary agreement with the publisher;
  - The material is to be organised in the repository according to the same categories used for the reporting of research to DEST;
  - Material to be commercialised, or which contains confidential material, or of which the promulgation would infringe a legal commitment by the University and/or the author, should not be included in the repository.
QUT’s Institutional Repository - QUT ePrints

- Established in 2003
- http://eprints.qut.edu.au
- Focus is currently on providing open access to the ‘postprint’ versions of QUT’s peer-reviewed scholarly publications
Motivating researchers to self-archive to the IR

- Download statistics provide data on the number of additional readers they have reached;
- More readers = more potential citations.

Download statistics

Top 50 Authors
Date range: 4/04/2007 - 03/04/2008

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From QUT - 5 years on.....

- QUT ePrints
- March 2009
  - 14,269 records
  - 8784 with open access full-text attached
  - (plus over 1,000 additional with restricted access full-text attached – includes embargoes)
  - 2088 active depositors
Open access and citation frequency (Gargouri)

1. OA adds an independent positive increment;

2. There is no difference for mandated and unmandated OA;

3. The citation advantage is greater for high impact journals.
Prof. Ray Frost began uploading the accepted manuscript versions of his published articles to QUT ePrints in 2004;

The open access copies have been downloaded 173,615 times;

Annual citation rate increased from 308 citations in 2004 to 1727 citations in 2008.
Citation impact for an early career researcher (QUT)

Citation Report  Author=(martens W*)
Timespan=All Years. Databases=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&HCI.

This report reflects citations to source items indexed within Web of Science. Perform a Cited Reference Search to include citations to items not indexed within Web of Science.

Published Items in Each Year

Citations in Each Year

Results found: 256
Sum of the Times Cited [?]: 2,676
View Citing Articles
View without self-citations
Average Citations per Item [?]: 10.45
h-index [?]: 28
Total Research Income Comparison – QUT and Sector, 2003 to 2007

QUT 2003 – 07 (increase of 132%)

Sector 2003 – 07 (increase of 68%)
A QUT ePrints record...

“Open Access” to the author’s final draft version

Linked access to the published version
Main Issues Arising

- distractions arising from government research assessment and open access agendas becoming confused;
- distractions arising from less relevant conversations about repositories;
- well-known confusables.
Misunderstandings – Suber’s field guide

1. All OA is gold OA

2. Low levels of spontaneous self-archiving reflect opposition to OA

3. OA archiving will kill journal subscriptions

4. OA is about bypassing peer review
5. Okay, then, but OA journals skimp on peer review

6. Okay, then but at least green OA is about bypassing peer review

7. OA is about punishing greedy or obstructive publishers

8. OA journals couldn’t possibly pay their bills
Addressing concerns about copyright...

- At QUT, the Library offers to help authors to manage the copyright issues
- Authors are encouraged to deposit a ‘postprint’ version of all their journal articles
- The Library enables a level of access consistent with the publisher’s policy
Copyright as an enabler

- QUT was also the lead institution in Australia in the global Creative Commons Project, and sees a clear link between providing material in open access and the rapid development of open content licencing.

- Oak Law project was a result of the Australian Government’s recognition of this and its own interest in advancing accessibility.

Open Access taking root in QUT

- The champion researchers become the main advocates
- The exemplar research growth faculty rewards academics for depositing
- The library and the research portfolio (research office) unite to improve metrics
Queensland University of Technology
+Repository +Incentive +Mandate

Green line: total annual output
Red line: proportion self-archived

Documents

DEST-reportable

Data courtesy of Arthur Sale
Questions?