Conference or Workshop Item

Title: Bringing a buzz to NECTAR

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http://nectar.northampton.ac.uk/4572/
Bringing a buzz to NECTAR
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1. Project aim and objectives:
Aim:
• To enhance researcher engagement with NECTAR by implementing the sector’s best repository tools, services and procedures.
Objectives:
• To modify university procedures for submission to NECTAR to increase researcher involvement, encourage the deposit of full content and further embed NECTAR in researcher workflows.
• To implement technical and procedural changes to ensure NECTAR is compatible with the British Library's thesis service, EThOS.
• To implement technical and procedural solutions to ensure NECTAR is ready to support the Research Excellence Framework (REF).
• Through implementation of the Eprints Kultur plugin and rebranding of the repository interface, to better display the creative research outputs of the institution and to visually embed NECTAR within The University of Northampton’s new university website.
• To implement the sector’s best ideas for new ‘added value’ services from NECTAR to increase the perceived benefit of NECTAR.
• To provide a programme of appropriate training, advocacy and promotional activity to support the changes described above.
• To collaborate with colleagues in the sector to ensure that best practice is followed.

2. Project outputs - workflow
• Changes to data entry procedures have been implemented and promoted. Researchers in most Schools now enter their own work into NECTAR.

3. Project outputs - website
• NECTAR has been rebranded to match the university website.
• Eprints Services have implemented the Kultur extension in NECTAR. There is now a scrolling display of images on the home page and reformatted item pages which present full content (if available) before metadata.
• Other changes to the home page include the replacement of the ‘top 5 papers’ list with a ‘latest additions’ list and minor changes in response to researcher feedback.

4. Project outputs - value added services
• Researchers are now notified by email when their items are deposited in live NECTAR.
• NECTAR bibliographies on School Research web pages have been revised in response to researcher feedback
• Personal NECTAR bibliographies are now output to staff profile pages.
• Improved statistics for NECTAR usage are gathered on a regular basis (using Google Analytics and IRStats).

5. Project outputs - REF
• Following an upgrade to the underlying Eprints software, NECTAR now has the capacity to support the university’s REF submission.
• Training for Unit of Assessment leaders is being arranged.

6. Project outputs - eTheses
• In conjunction with the university’s Graduate School:
  • Metadata (including Abstracts) have been uploaded to NECTAR for all University of Northampton theses.
  • Procedures for submission of electronic copies of theses have been updated and approved by the University’s Research Degrees Committee.
• Technical changes have been made to enable NECTAR to be harvested by the British Library’s thesis service, EThOS.

7. Project outputs – advocacy and dissemination
• Local advocacy activity has included presentations to research groups and School Research Forums – where possible with School NECTAR administrators in attendance.
• The project report, two technical notices, one published journal article and a series of conference presentations have facilitated dissemination to the sector.

8. Project outcomes
• The ability to enter their own work has increased researcher engagement, and the likelihood of full text being uploaded.
• The publications lists on staff profile page have gone down particularly well, prompting queries to the NECTAR team and increased interest in the repository.
• Research managers and administrators value the information they can derive from NECTAR.
• The need for additional support for NECTAR has finally been recognised; Nick Dimmock was appointed in December as ‘Research Information Specialist’.

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