Achieving an ‘enlightened’ publications policy at the University of Glasgow

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Open access and repositories at Glasgow

- Interest in open access at Glasgow since 2001
- Successful bid for funding to JISC FAIR Programme – DAEDALUS Project
- Ran 2002-2005
- Developed repositories for Glasgow and explored cultural, legal and technical issues
- Opportunity to introduce the concept of open access to authors and university management
DAEDALUS Project

- Developed the Glasgow ePrints Service – a repository of peer reviewed published material
- Numerous tactics adopted during the project to encourage and persuade authors to deposit content
- Became very clear that voluntary deposit would only ever result in relatively low levels of full text being deposited
Post-DAEDALUS: development of Enlighten

- Wanted a clear break between project and service
- Aim was for the name of the service to encompass support offered as well as the repository itself
- Enlighten chosen as an all-encompassing name (not an acronym!)
University senior management support

- University management briefed on and reminded about repository developments on a regular basis by Library management
- Support for the repository from Vice Principal for Research at the end of the project
- Successful bid made for posts based in Bibliographic Services to do repository work
- Release of a University statement on open access
University Statement on Open Access

• Made publicly available in April 2006
• ‘Strongly encouraged’ the deposit of published work into Enlighten
• Sent to all academic staff
• Resulted in a flurry of interest and new deposits
• In support of the 2004 Scottish Open Access Declaration
• But not a mandate!
Related developments

• Work had been ongoing in pursuit of a mandate for the deposit of e-theses
• Major hurdles to overcome, but mandate was agreed by University Senate in January 2007
• Support of VP for Research was vital
• Important step towards mandate for research publications
The Research Assessment Exercise

- Library staff tasked with delivering the RA2 element of the University’s RAE return (publications details)
- Major challenge, as no central publications database in existence
- Successful delivery of the data critical in gaining further credence with VP Research
- Also highlighted need for a central University publications database
- Part played by Enlighten in making some publications available
A central University publications database

- Various possible models
- How to position Enlighten within this context?
- Concern that Enlighten would be side-lined if decision was taken to use a different database
- But also concerns that an open access repository would turn into a publications database with very little full text
Enlighten as the central publications database

- Potential benefits outweighed disadvantages
- Positioned Enlighten as key University service
- No confusion for staff, as only one database for publications data and full text
- Knew that we would be able to import data from existing databases
- Opened up opportunity to discuss a possible mandate with senior management
Local attitudes changing

• Undertook a programme of meetings with University departments to assess views on Enlighten as a central publications database
• Also introduced idea of requiring full text deposit
• Staff very positive indeed – recognised benefits of wide availability of research publications
• ‘How?’ rather than ‘Why?’
Mandate discussions

- Discussions informed by Harvard decision – important influencing factor for VP Research; also other Scottish mandates
- Management persuaded of benefits of making research publications as widely available as possible, particularly in relation to forthcoming REF
- Recognition that academics were also persuaded of the benefits of making full text available in Enlighten
- Changing local climate and attitudes
- Final request for mandate came from VP to Library – not the other way around!
Key drivers for open access in the University

• Increased impact for research made openly available
• Public presentation of the University’s research profile
• Compliance with funding body policies on Open Access
  – Wellcome Trust
  – Research Councils UK
• Effectively managing our research publications
Elements of the mandate

• Requires staff to deposit the full text of peer reviewed journal articles and conference proceedings (where publisher agreements permit) from start of 08/09 session

• Encourages deposit of other types of research publication

• Incorporates requirement for bibliographic details for all research publications from 2008-

• Also includes requirement for standard form of address for journal articles
Senate approval of Mandate

- Proposal presented to University Senate by VP in June 2008
- Passed with no objections – only supportive comments, and practical questions about how policy would work
Terminology

• Word ‘mandate’ deliberately not used at all in proposal to Senate
• Felt that ‘mandate’ has negative connotations
• Pushing at an open door, so no need to antagonise staff
• Policy also includes more than just full text requirement
• Decision therefore taken to refer to the ‘Publications Policy’
Copyright question

• Discussed issue of requiring authors to detain copyright with VP Research
• Felt that this was too big a step, and would be likely to be detrimental to what we were trying to achieve
• Aware of authors likely reaction to University trying to “control” copyright of research publications
• Agreed not appropriate to propose this at the current time
Practicalities

- Different models of deposit – self deposit, deposit by admin staff on behalf of academics and mediated deposit (full text sent via e-mail)
- Necessary because some departments want to provide bibliographic details via imports from local publications databases (Reference manager, EndNote etc.)
- Practicalities still being worked through, e.g. linking to/harvesting from subject repositories (UKPMC, arXiv etc.)
Immediate future

- Lots of work still to be done to publicise policy and make it work in practice
- Recognise from experience of other institutions with mandates that it is still not a guarantee of getting anything like all full text
- Upgrading to latest version of ePrints software
- Working with University web team to use Enlighten as way of making lists of staff publications available on staff pages
- Working with MIS on unique identifiers/staff numbers
How did we get here

- Patience and perseverance!
- Repetition of message to management and authors
- Developing relationships with key people in the University and gaining their respect and confidence
- RAE and REF factors
- External influence of decisions made by other institutions/funders
Success?

- Adoption of the policy is just the beginning
- Will be some time before we know if the policy is working or not
- Question of non-compliance has not been addressed

However -
- Policy highlighted in recent VP Research update to Senate as KPI for International Excellence in Research within University’s strategy
- Achievement of a mandate is the results of several years of advocacy – we hope we are well on the road to achieving open access ‘enlightenment’