UCARIS – Making the most of your current resources

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UCARIS – Making the most of your current resources – 14th May : CRIS 2014- Rome, Italy
Output
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Background

• UCA as an active research institution

• Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)

• Research Excellence Framework

• 2008 Submission

• Successful BUT… still a few bits to improve
UCARIS – the beginnings

• Institutional Repository to hold research outputs
  ✓ UCA Research Online setup in 2009
  ✓ [http://research.ucreative.ac.uk](http://research.ucreative.ac.uk)
  ✓ Currently holds 700+ Research Outputs

• System to support subsequent submissions
  ✓ [http://ucaris.ucreative.ac.uk](http://ucaris.ucreative.ac.uk)
  ✓ Completed and signed off in November 2013
Schedule

• Phase 1 - Planning

• Phase 2 - Development

• Phase 3 - Deployment
Phase 1 - Planning

• Focused on investigating requirements both for the REF and appropriate solutions

• Technical enhancements to institutional repository’s underlying infrastructure

• Installation of additional tools

• Identifying and meeting skills requirements
Phase 2 - Development

• Focused on the technical implementation and development of the approved solution

• Gathering relevant information and documentation from specified fields within university databases in accordance with the REF requirements

• Making the data available in one single secured place and testing the approved solution
Phase 3 - Deployment

• Focused on interface, security tests and bug fixes
• Training key stakeholders
• Supporting the final submission process
Rationale

• The institutional Repository played a key role in the submission process, therefore it made sense to use the underlying software for UCARIS

• Flexibility of software (EPrints)

• Harvest content from specific databases or subsets of databases

• With EPrints, we could even gather data using the CERIF model and exporting the data using CERIF or CERIF4REF XML formats
Outcomes

- Project successful in its overall objective to support the University’s submission to the REF
- The system was used to collect information from the different systems and send it securely to the HEFCE Submission System
- Increased institutional efficiency reducing repetition of data entry
- Saving time in checking and organising information
Lessons Learned

• Narrow your requirements

• Often, it doesn’t matter if your software can be used for other purposes – there will be other projects, proposals, etc where you can fit this

• Don’t reinvent, collaboration is everywhere – including external service providers, software firms, etc
Conclusions

• UCARIS has ensured that the university had a system not only capable of generating its research outputs but also enhanced and enabled the deposit of these and related data into the (HEFCE) Submission System.

• UCARIS is able to gather specific information from different areas and departments and therefore provide a single point for analysing institutional data
References

• UCA (2014). University for the Creative Arts http://www.ucreative.ac.uk (retrieved 8th April 2014)


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• Constance Howard Resource and Research Centre in Textiles: Slide Collection. Available at: http://vads.ac.uk/collections/CHS.html [Accessed on 01 March 2013]

