



, and new skills for  
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Research Support Librarian

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# Research Support at Keele Library

- Work within Academic Services Team – report to team leader who oversees broad range of Library services
- At Keele since 2007 – Digitisation services initially, then School Liaison Librarian until 2014
- Research Support Librarian since 2014, plus Scott Chesworth, Liaison Librarian Science Faculty, 0.33
- Research and Innovation Support team – Hannah Reidy, Research Support Assistant – oversees CRIS system
- Senior Assistant Librarians – contribute some hours each week for repository work

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# Who are the Researchers?

- Get to know researchers in my own institution
- Open access – dealing with a range of policies
- Link with Research Support staff – ask questions about things you don't know about
- Researcher training and development team – 'Academic Development'
- Discussed and explored themes for researcher training with academic developers

# Open Access – First Steps

- What is it? Read the **Peter Suber** “Open Access” book! (MIT Press)
- Open Access policy documents (UKRI, RCUK, Funders)
- Repository system training – I learned enough to get started – systems were all there beforehand
- Community resources e.g. SHERPA-Romeo/Juliet
- **United Kingdom Council of Research Repositories** (UK-CORR) – joined, JISC newsgroup very useful
- Event networking – get perspective of others e.g. JISC events, Mercian Group, RDM
- Twitter – lot of OA discussion here – learned a lot by following people, groups, organisations

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# Researcher Development

- Created links with Academic Development team
- Learned about the **VITAE** Researcher Development Framework ([www.vitae.ac.uk](http://www.vitae.ac.uk))
- Identified relevant researcher development themes
- With Scott Chesworth, devised sessions, themes and learning outcomes
- Programme of development sessions
- Now embedded in new researcher training programme – providing
- Summer schools

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# Researcher Training Session Themes

- Some familiar ones but also some new
- Literature searching
- Current awareness services
- Open access
- Research dissemination, scholarly communication tools, social media strategies, ORCID etc.
- Impact factors – using the Web of Science
- RDM – new theme for this year

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# Research Data Management (RDM)

- Invited to join RDM Working Group, then tasked with working on new repository
- Still learning about this area
- With colleagues in research support and IT, set up new data repository (Eprints hosted system)
- Joined Mercian RDM Support Group
- Digital Curation Centre – ([www.dcc.ac.uk](http://www.dcc.ac.uk)) valuable introductory resource
- Wrote RDM policy with help of Keele's Research Governance Manager
- Advising on RDM for grant applications

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# Self-Development

- Lot of academic works on research support, repositories, metadata, OA out there
- Development opportunities at your university?
- Improving teaching practice through staff development opportunities
- Sought help from fellow Librarians – get a handle on resources outside my subject area (e.g. medical)
- Enhanced my practices around devising and delivering training
- There's real scope to develop the post yourself
- Be guided by the key local objectives and determine what is achievable, take small steps

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# Make Connections

- Accepted invitations to join research-related committees
- Cultivate contacts – if time permits go along to local events (impact showcases etc.) and useful sounding ones outside the institution
- Use scheduled events to signpost other training and/or support available
- Bespoke marketing (website, leaflets) for researcher development activities
- Twitter is an active OA forum

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# Challenges

- Some previous internal disagreements on repository, technical support not readily offered etc.
- Researcher engagement with/understanding of OA
- Establishing the role within the Library team
- Librarian role – getting involved beyond publications/RDM?
- Learning the research publication environment
- Technology
- Organisational changes and re-structures
- Time pressures – small team, other responsibilities
- Learning and self-development
- Managing expectations – agreeing objectives

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# Open Access Challenges

- Managing the policy takes a lot of staff time
- Depositing – right versions, capturing and/or correcting metadata
- Checking recent or pending publications – chasing researchers for accepted manuscripts
- Symplectic Elements CRIS is okay at identifying publications but we have to chase
- Checking publisher alerts or Web of Science
- Often have to go back and manually update records
- Systems aren't mature – JISC Publications Router a potential benefit

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# Technical Challenges

- Diversity of systems (CRIS, repository)
- User's interaction with systems – training offered but they try and get you to do it for them
- Appropriate safeguards built in? GDPR, policies around open data?
- Liaising with hosted services and IT
- They promise a lot, and they charge a lot too
- APIs – need to upgrade our knowledge or try to work with people with “developer” knowledge

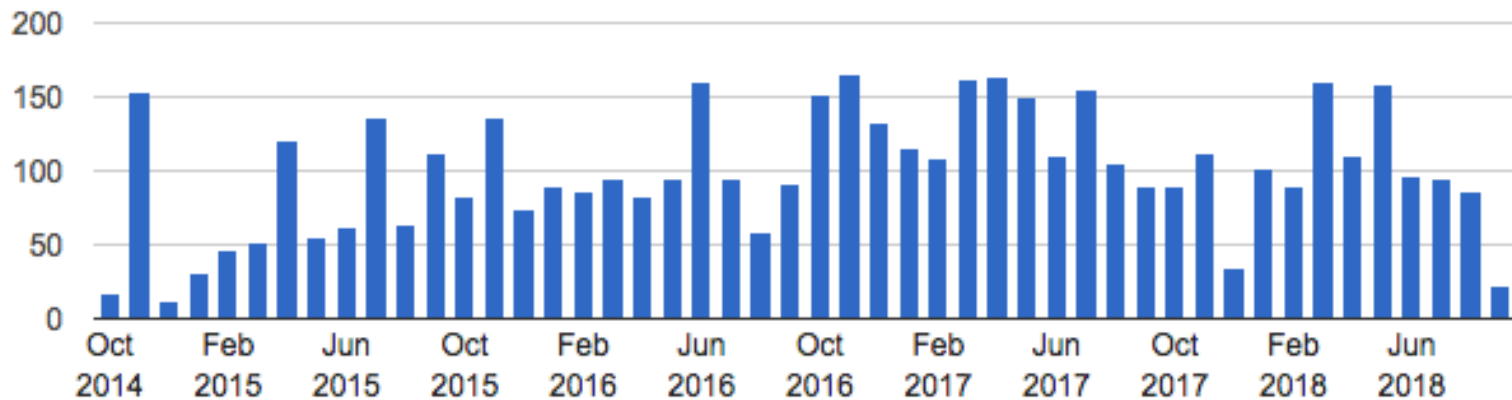
# Successes

- Steady rate of repository deposit – REF compliance above 80%
- Good attendance and positive feedback from researcher development sessions
- Strong links with researcher development team - training now embedded in scheduled development timetable and in PG programmes
- Data repository development – senior management are supportive
- Early RDM adopters through existing work on open access

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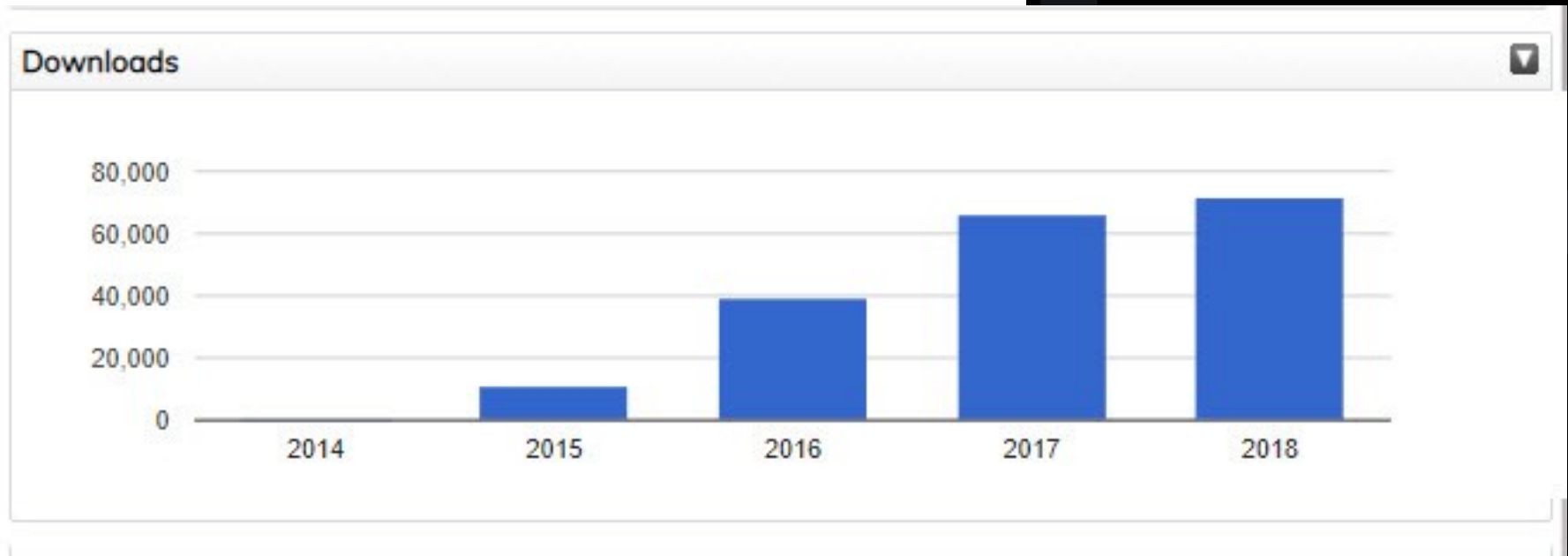
# Repository Deposits

Deposits (Archive)



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# Repository Downloads



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# Future Aims

- Launching data repository – evidence of further engagement with open research?
- Budget for CRIS/Repository system enhancements – making case
- Better marketing of our offering to researchers?
- REF compliance and the future shape of REF policy (UKRI review, Scholarly Communications Licence?) – working with REF colleagues
- Audit our skills for future development
- Re-evaluate our service offering, assess feedback
- Engaging further with open research – going beyond REF compliance

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