NECTAR: Initiatives and Development 2008-2016

NECTAR launch (2008)
NECTAR (Northampton Electronic Collection of Theses And Research) was launched in June 2008 as an Eprints-based showcase and repository of University of Northampton research outputs.

Outputs were originally deposited using a ‘gatekeeper’ system of nominated admin staff within academic schools.

Bringing a BUZZ to NECTAR (2011)
This JISC-funded project enabled author deposit to NECTAR, enhanced the look and feel by adopting university styles and introducing the Kultur multimedia plugin. It encouraged engagement and added value through exported staff bibliographies, improved communications and a program of advocacy.

The export of staff outputs from NECTAR to the university web pages was particularly well received, and the introduction of self-deposit resulted in almost 300 staff accounts being created by January 2012 (Pickton, 2012).


Quarterly reports (2013-)
In 2013 the NECTAR team began compiling faculty-based quarterly reports on repository activity – specifically, new deposits within each faculty or research centre. Delivered to deans and research leaders, these reports raised awareness of school activity at higher levels. Significant increases in deposits were observed following the release of these reports, and the NECTAR team were invited to present to various schools and research groups on the relevance and benefits of the repository.

http://library.northampton.ac.uk/nectar/reports/qr

REF 2014
The introduction of the Eprints REF plugin supported the university’s submission process, and enabled detailed reporting to deans and heads of research. The NECTAR team provided advocacy sessions for all academic schools, and the repository saw a doubling of full-text deposits in 2013.

Open to Open Access (O2OA) (2014-2016)
O2OA was a collaborative JISC-funded project between Coventry University, De Montfort University and the University of Northampton. Northampton’s focus was on Open Access publishing. Staff focus groups highlighted various concerns and misconceptions around OA, which informed the development of promotional materials and advocacy programs designed to raise awareness of gold and green OA publishing practices and their significance to the post-2014 REF. The Act on Acceptance message has been particularly well-received.

The University also established an Open Access Policy in 2015, requiring deposit of all research outputs (http://wp.me/p2eVC1-2nn).

Post-2014 REF
The NECTAR team have devoted considerable time to raising awareness of HEFCE requirements for the post-2014 REF. RIOXX and compliance checker plugins for Eprints have been installed, and the team have presented widely within the university on topics such as OA, timely deposit of text deposits in 2013.

Beyond HEFCE
Future challenges for the NECTAR team include integration with the University’s proposed CRIS, improving provision of full text theses, implementing FAIR data principles and developing Northampton’s culture of Open Access to move beyond compliance into active engagement.