Centre for Research Communications and the SHERPA Services

Jane H Smith
SHERPA Services Development Officer, Centre for Research Communications, University of Nottingham.

Describes the work of the SHERPA Services in relation to Open Access and Institutional Repositories.

Centre for Research Communications

The Centre for Research Communications (CRC) was formed in April 2009, to help to support and inform the changes and new ideas in the way that research is communicated around the world. Research communications are changing rapidly, opening up access for more people to more research, than has been available before. The CRC houses a portfolio of open access projects, services and initiatives currently undertaken by the University of Nottingham.

These include the home of the SHERPA (http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/) partnership; the SHERPA services RoMEO, JULIET and *Open*DOAR; the Repositories Support Project (RSP), and the University's contribution to the European and International projects Dart-Europe and NECOBELAC. Project and service funders include JISC, the European Commission, the Wellcome Trust and SPARCEurope. The CRC also acts as a focus for new work in the area both within the university and nationally.

In this article, I will focus on the work of the SHERPA Services.

Open Access & Repositories

The SHERPA Services are aimed at aiding both academics and library staff, in the area of Open Access (OA). OA is the name given to several approaches to overcome the problem of access to published research which would otherwise only be available to those who can afford to subscribe to the journal in which the research is published. OA allows research articles to be made available online and free of charge to the reader, an advantage with increasing journal costs.

Open Access can be achieved in several ways:

- Publishing in Open Access Journals (OAJ)

- Self-archiving on the authors own website, or in an institutional or subject repository

Articles in OAJ undergo peer-review, in the same way as traditional print publications. Some OAJ charge authors fees (often paid buy their institution or funding agency), rather than charging the readers, who then have free access to the content of the journal.

OA repositories hold digital duplicates of published research and library collections and make them freely available to users. Subject to copyright, authors can deposit copies of their finished articles in repositories alongside their publication in normal journals.

SHERPA Services

The CRC maintains the following SHERPA Services:

- RoMEO (http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/), which provides publisher policies on self-archiving and open access

- JULIET (http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/juliet/), which provides funding agency policies on open access

- *Open*DOAR (http://www.opendoar.org), which provides a list of open access repositories containing full-text

RoMEO

RoMEO was originally an output of the Rights MEtadata for Open archiving (RoMEO) project carried out at the University of Loughborough (http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/ls/disresearch/romeo/). In 2003, SHERPA took over and started to develop the service. RoMEO provides a searchable database of publisher policies on the archiving of journal articles on the web and in Open Access repositories, also known as self-archiving. RoMEO currently lists over 670 publishers from around the globe.

If an academic author wants to put their research articles on-line, they are faced with an increasingly complex situation. Evidence shows that citations to articles made openly accessible in this way are taken up and cited more often than research that is simply published in journals (1). Also some funding agencies increasingly require OA archiving for their research, to increase the use and visibility of the research information generated by their funding.

However, some publishers prohibit authors from using their own articles in this way. Others allow it, but only under certain conditions, while others are quite happy for authors to show their work in this way.

Users can search by journal title, common journal abbreviations, ISSN/eSSN and publisher name. Each entry provides a summary of the publisher's policy, including what version of an article can be deposited, where it can be deposited, and any conditions, or embargoes that are attached to that deposit. Results can be restricted by RoMEO colour or funding agency compliance. Journal title, ISSN and eSSN information is provided by Zetoc (http://www.zetoc.ac.uk/), Entrez (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/citmatch_help.html#JournalLists) and DOAJ (http://www.doaj.org/), thereby covering both traditional and open access journal titles.

The versions that are covered are:

- Authors' pre-peer-reviewed version

- Authors' post-peer-reviewed version

- Publishers version/ PDF

Conditions may include providing a full citation for the article, linking to the published version of the article or the journal website. Embargoes and other restrictions, include time delay in making the archived version available online, asking for permission and the charging of fees.

The RoMEO service uses a simple colour-code to classify policies and inform authors of what can be done with their articles.

Green - can archive pre-print *and* post-print or publisher's version/PDF

Blue - can archive post-print (i.e. final draft post-refereeing) or publisher's version/PDF

Yellow - can archive pre-print (i.e. pre-refereeing)

White - archiving not formally supported

Several publishers have created Paid OA options, where authors are charged for the right to make their article open access and to deposit in repositories, in particular where required to deposit by a funding agency (2). In several cases these options run alongside, self-archiving policies, enabling authors to bypass an embargo period by payment of a fee. Where available each entry notes the presence of these Paid OA options. In addition, to providing this information in each publisher entry, RoMEO provides a list of these Paid OA options, with the latest information on costs. Additional RoMEO provides lists of publishers that allow the use of their PDFs in Institutional Repositories.

RoMEO also provides an RSS feed to enable users to be alerted to new additions to the service, this information is also summarised at the end of each month in an email alert service and on a separate page on the RoMEO site itself.

A machine-machine interface in the form of an Application Programmes Interface (API) is provided, which enables RoMEO to be searched from within a locally hosted service, including the deposit process of the institutional repository.

JULIET

Increasingly funding agencies are requiring their fundees to make the results of their research (both publications and data) available in an OA manner. JULIET is a companion service to RoMEO, providing a list of over 50 funding agencys' OA requirements. Each entry provides a summary of the funding agency's policies on the self-archiving of publications, data and the use of open access journals. This list includes all of the Research Councils UK and several major charities, as well as funders from several countries around the globe.

JULIET enables academic researchers and others parties to access clear information on what is required by each funder. The service allows comparison of policies across funders, and evaluates the policies against open access ideals. JULIET is used internationally and is widely recognised as part of the essential support infrastructure of the open access environment. Where possible multilingual names of the funders are provided as are links to policy documentation in different languages.

RoMEO ties into JULIET, but a brief summary within each RoMEO entry, which indicates the compliance with appropriate funding agencies that are listed in JULIET.

***Open*DOAR**

*Open*DOAR was started in 2006 and provides a quality-assured listing of open access repositories around the world. Each of the repositories has been visited by *Open*DOAR staff to ensure a high degree of quality and consistency in the information provided. Users of the service are able to analyse repositories by location, type, the material they hold and other measures. *Open*DOAR currently lists over 1500 repositories, each containing full-text items.

*Open*DOAR provides a repository policy generation tool, to enable repository staff and University management to draft policies to suit their institutions aims. This tool brings up various issues relevant to repositories, including the distribution of metadata, content, submission policies and preservation.

*Open*DOAR's search service (using Google Custom Search) enables users to search through the content of the repositories listed in *Open*DOAR, with the assurance that each of these repositories has been assessed by *Open*DOAR staff. In addition, *Open*DOAR provides a mediated e-mail distribution service, to enable users to contact administrators of the repositories registered in the service.

SHERPA is also involved in the following projects:

Repository Support Project (RSP) (http://www.rsp.ac.uk/**)**

RSP provides an active outreach programme of advice and information. RSP targets institutions that are yet to take the first step, as well as giving more advanced institutions guidance on embedding existing repositories within institutional strategies.

NECOBELAC (http://www.necobelac.eu/en/index.php**)**

NECOBELAC is a European project to improve the production and dissemination of scientific information in public health, between Europe and Latin American-Caribbean Countries. It is coordinated by the Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, and funded under the 7th Framework Program of the European Commission.

DART Europe (http://www.dart-europe.eu/**)**

DART-Europe is a partnership of research libraries and library consortia who are working together to improve global access to European research theses. DART-Europe provides researchers with a single European Portal for the discovery of Electronic Theses and Dissertations, and partners participate in advocacy to influence future European e-theses developments.

References:

1. Eysenbach G (2006) Citation Advantage of Open Access Articles. PLoS Biol 4(5): e157 http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.0040157

2. RoMEO - Publishers with Paid Options for Open Access http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/PaidOA.html [Accessed 11 January 2009]