



# University of HUDDERSFIELD

## University of Huddersfield Repository

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Report on the University Repository Survey, October-November 2010

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## Report on the University Repository Survey, October-November 2010

### 1.0 Background

The University Repository is now in its fifth year of operation. The Repository contains well over 8,000 items including over 250 PhD theses and over 3,000 peer reviewed journal articles.

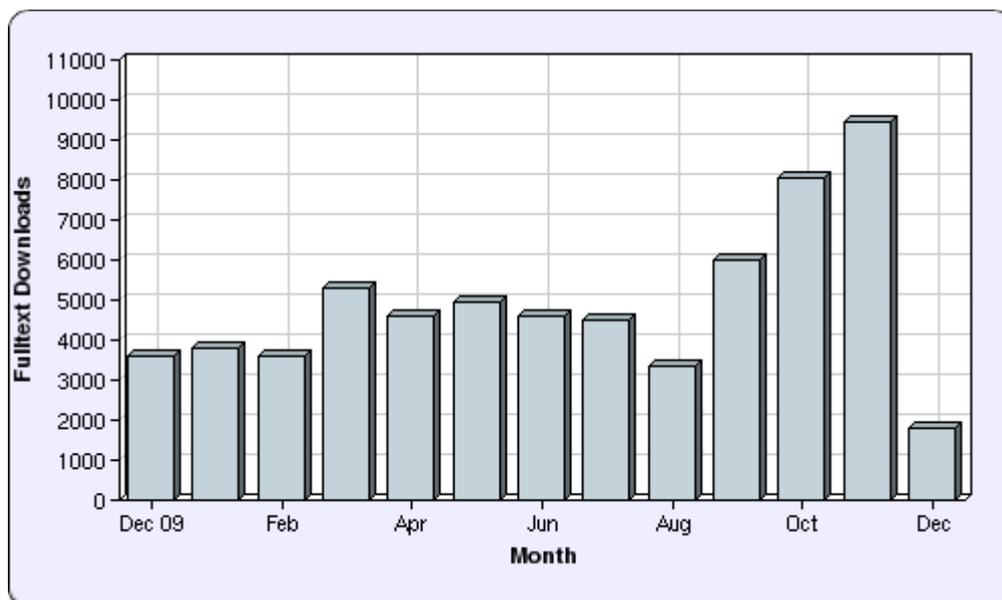
The current economic climate, the recent Comprehensive Public Spending Review and the Lord Browne's Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance<sup>1</sup> are all putting pressure on Universities to maximise use of their resources and ensure value for money. In parallel, the University is preparing for the Research Excellence Framework (REF),

*'As part of the REF, the funding bodies aim to identify and reward the impact that excellent research has had on society and the economy, and to encourage the sector to build on this to achieve the full potential impact across a broad range of research activity in the future'.<sup>2</sup>*

The Repository is ideally placed to make the University's research accessible to the research community and general public on open access.

November 2010 saw a record number of full text open access downloads from the Repository, 9,122. Downloads have been rising steadily over the past year to 62,694. Greater awareness and more full text research on open access will help to increase this, which will in turn help to keep the repository ranked highly in the UK.

There is still work to do, to date only 29% of the Repository is available as full text and only 20% of items are available on open access, this figure rises to 35% of content published since 2008 on open access.

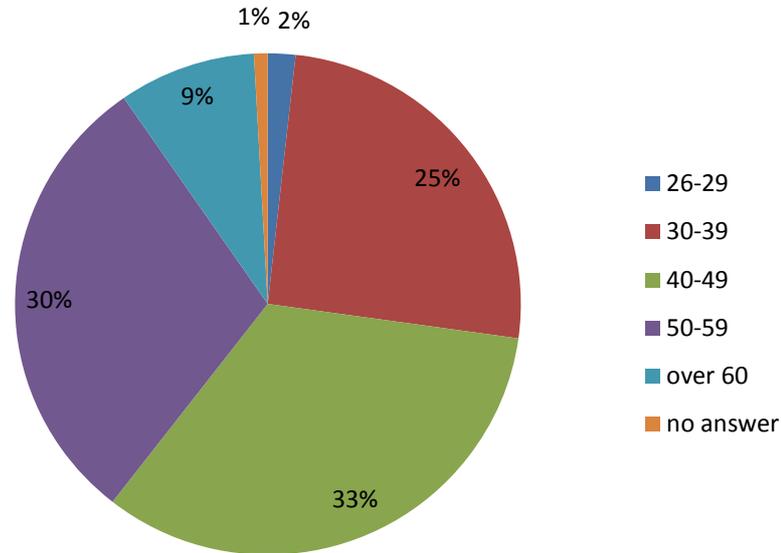


As part of International Open Access week (<http://www.openaccessweek.org/>), the Repository Team organised a survey on the attitudes of staff and researchers to open access and the Repository. 114 responses were received in total.

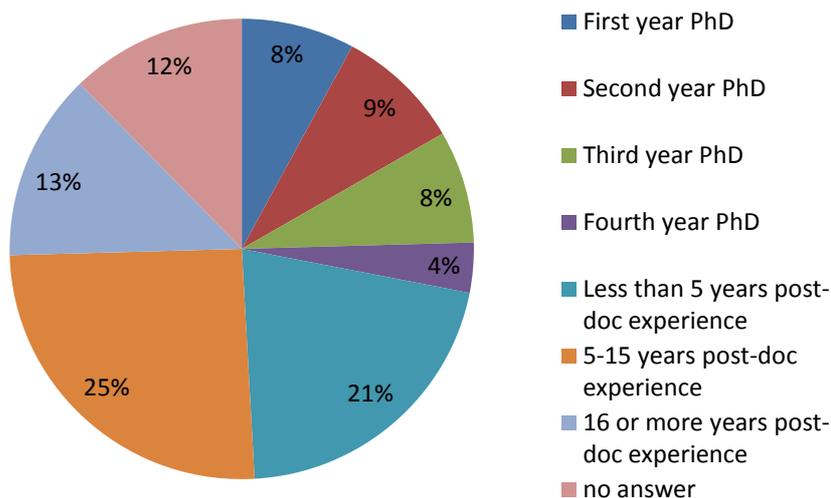
## 2.0 General information

Questions 1-3 asked some general questions about the background of those answering the survey. Questions 1 and 2 used a scale recently agreed after discussion about the 25 Research Things online course (<http://25researchthings2010.wordpress.com/>) with the Research Information Network. This scale could be used to benchmark data against other surveys in the University or externally.

### 1. Your age group

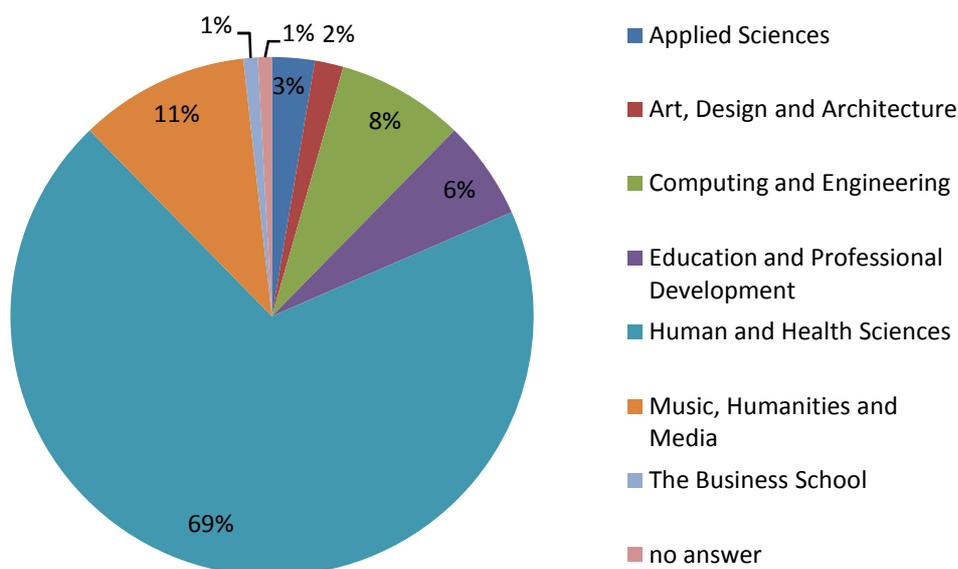


### 2. Where are you in your research career?



29% of responses came from PhD students, while the majority of responses (46%) came from staff with 1-15 years post doctoral experience.

### 3. What school are you in?



The survey was publicised by the Research and Enterprise Directorate and the subject teams in Computing and Library Services over a period of one month, however, the majority of staff who returned the survey were from the School of Human and Health Sciences. Table 1 shows the approximate percentages of items in the Repository for the Schools. Although total survey returns from many of the schools were disappointing, there is some similarity between those schools with the largest number of items in the Repository and those that returned the questionnaire.

School	# of items in the Repository
School of Applied Sciences	12%
School of Art, Design and Architecture	6%
School of Computing and Engineering	17%
School of Education and Professional Development	9%
School of Human and Health Sciences	35%
School of Music, Humanities and Media	14%
The Business School	5%
Other (CLS, R&E etc.)	2%

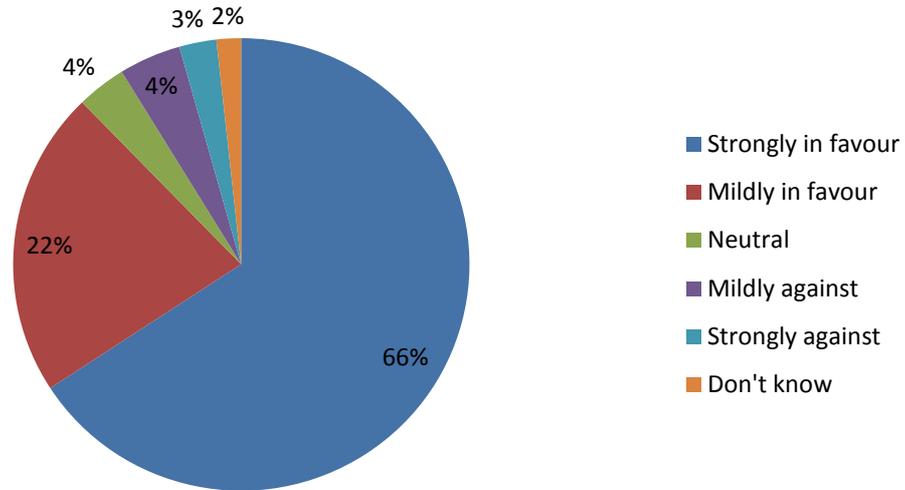
Table 1 Percentage share of Repository items by School

### 3.0 Views on the Open Access movement

Open Access publishing allows access to scholarly publications via the Internet in such a way that the material is free for all to read, and to use (or reuse) to various extents.

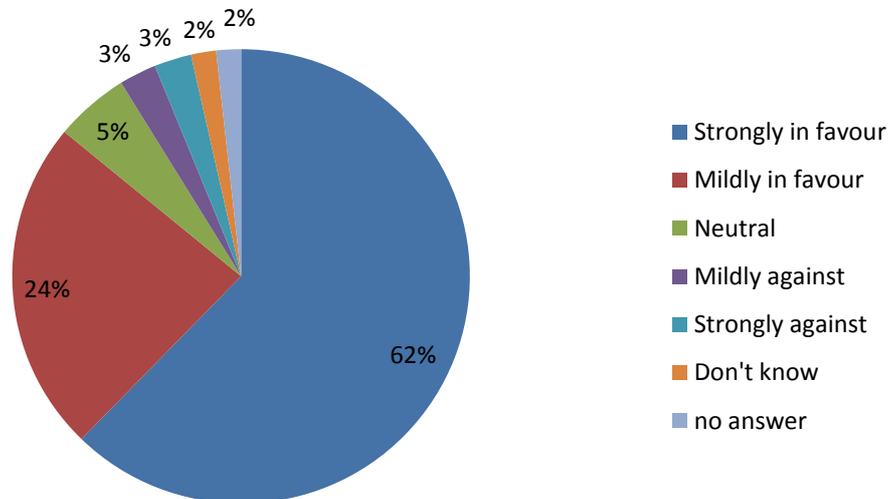
The second section of the questionnaire asked a number of general questions regarding the Open Access movement in order to gauge the attitude of staff and researchers in the University.

### 5a. How do you feel about the principles of Open Access?



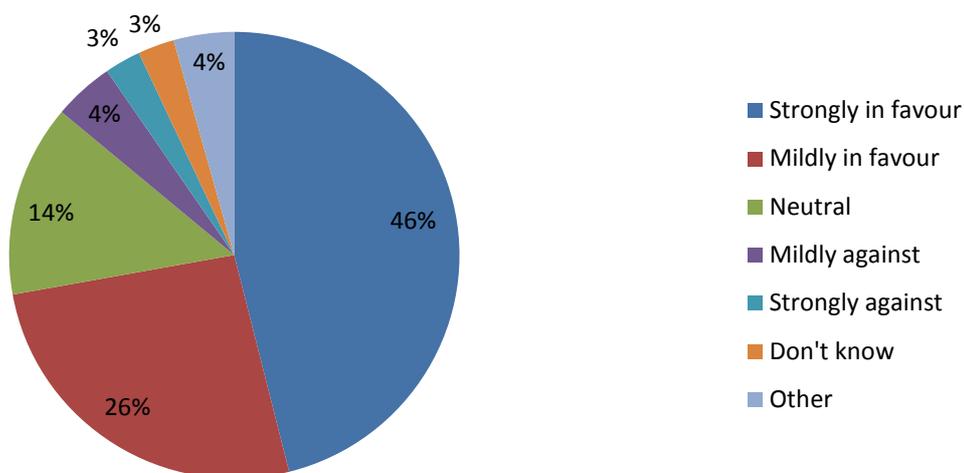
88% of those who responded were in favour of the principles of Open Access and 86% were in favour of adding their research to an Open Access Repository. This compares to only 29% of content which is available in full text in the University Repository.

### 5b. How do you feel about using Open Access repositories?



Three replies stated they were strongly against using Open Access Repository, one each from the Schools of Human and Health, Applied Sciences and Computing and Engineering.

### 5c. How do you feel about publishing in Open Access journals?



A further 72% were in favour of publishing in open access journals, however, there were some comments regarding concerns over peer review and impact factor of open access journals.

#### Recommendation

- In general, advocacy needs to concentrate on how to make research outputs available on open access rather the arguments for or against**
- Work needs to be done on publicising peer reviewed high impact open access journals such as those published by Biomed Central**

#### 4.0 Research Funding

This section asked that if researchers were applying for a grant from a funding body (e.g. EPSRC /NERC/Wellcome Trust) could they make provision for publication charges within the funding. Only 68% answered the question regarding research funding, of these 65% answered no. Of those that answered yes, some did not know how this was done. Two comments: 'It may be difficult to justify the charges' and 'Never tried this - good idea' showed that there was a lack of awareness about what funders require and how to go about budgeting for Open Access publishing in the bid writing process.

#### Recommendation

- Advocacy needed on funder requirements on open access, including advice on how to submit proposals for publishing research on open access at the bidding stage.**

#### 5.0 University Repository

It was reassuring that 96% of respondents had heard of the University Repository and 75% were currently making the metadata of their research available in the Repository as a minimum (14% did not reply to this question). Items being made available were:

Item Type	No. of replies*
Journal articles:	86
Book chapters:	37
Books:	13
Monographs, e.g. working papers, reports etc.:	26
Conference papers:	56
Shows/exhibitions:	7

Performances:	5
Art work:	4
Sound/video recordings:	6
Data sets	2
Other	8

\*multiple types could be selected for this question

Those that were not making their research available cited the following as reasons why:

- Copyright restrictions 4
- Not yet published 5
- New to the University 1
- 'Old fashioned' 1
- On other websites 1
- Time 1
- Expected the corresponding author to do so 1

It is clear that there is still some misunderstanding about the copyright implications of adding research to the Repository, in fact all items can be added to the Repository as metadata and the majority can be added in full text on open access. It is useful to know that those who have not yet published are at least aware that their work can be added to the Repository.

27% of replies stated that they self deposited items into the Repository. 62% did not; the majority of these sent them directly to the Repository Team, this backs up anecdotal evidence that the method of self depositing is often seen as confusing or too time consuming.

When asked if alternative Repositories were used, 94% of respondents did not use an alternative, and of those that did, 100% also deposited in the University Repository. This result is interesting when compared to question 5a, where 86% were in favour of putting research into an Open Access repository. Clearly there is a discrepancy between those that agree it is a good idea and those that do it; otherwise the University Repository would have more than 29% full text.

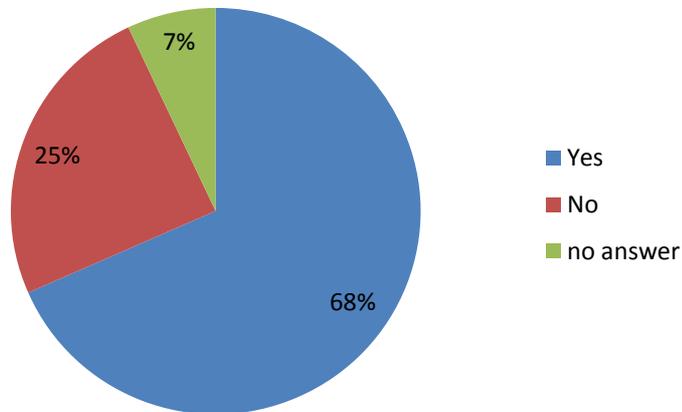
### Recommendation

4. **Further advocacy work is required regarding copyright restrictions and the Repository**
5. **Make staff and researchers aware of how to self deposit material in the Repository**
6. **Investigate alternative methods using Web 2.0 technologies to make the adding of items to the repository more straightforward**

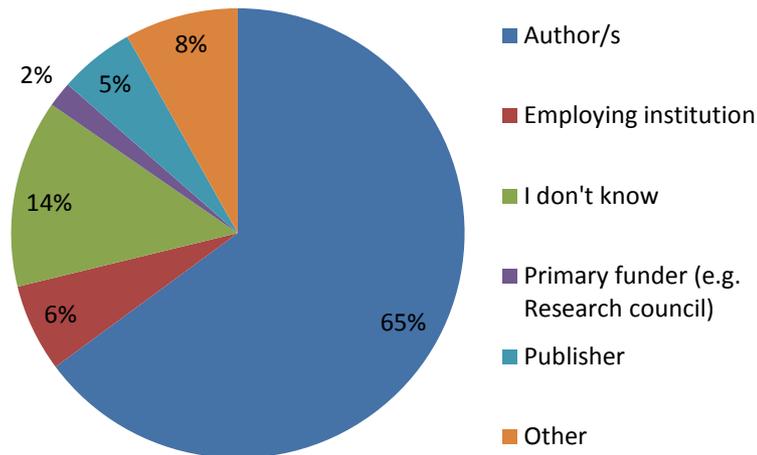
### 6.0 Copyright

The section on copyright gave some interesting results. 74% of those who responded thought that copyright should stay with the author, employer or funding council and of those who said 'other', the majority thought that copyright should be shared. However, 25% did not read the copyright transfer agreement which usually transfers all copyright to the publisher. Of the 68% who did read the copyright transfer agreements, the results from question 12 imply that they did not necessarily agree with what they were signing.

**11. Do you read the copyright transfer policy you sign before submitting an article to a journal?**



**12. Who do you think should own the copyright of research publications?**



Many authors seem unaware that they are transferring their rights. There are alternatives to the copyright transfer agreement and many publishers will accept a 'licence to publish' or Creative Commons licence, which allow the author to retain rights.

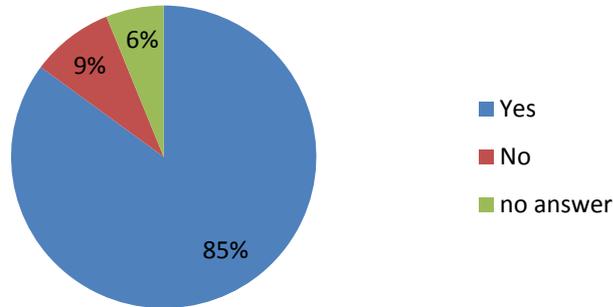
**Recommendation**

**7. Further advocacy required on author's rights and alternative copyright agreements**

**7.0 Publishing your research**

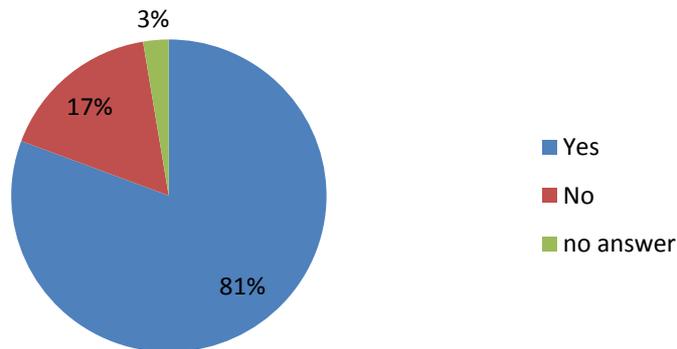
Publisher's copyright conditions often allow repositories to make the 'author final version' of research available. The 'author final version' is the author-created version that incorporates referee comments and is the accepted version for publication, but does not contain publisher typesetting. 85% of those surveyed replied that they kept this version of their research. Of those that did not, two will now do so in future. Others were concerned about minor differences between this version and the published version or published in journals that have their own formatting and copy-editing procedures.

**13. In the process of producing a journal article for publication do you keep your own copy of the manuscript that is the same in all respects as the published?**



81% stated that they would be prepared to deposit the author version in the Repository. It is hoped that the very positive response to this final question will help to increase the amount of open access research available in the Repository and that this will help to show the public impact of the University's research in future years.

**14. Would it be acceptable to you that an "author final version" is held in the Repository?**



**Recommendation**

- 8. Advocacy to further embed the depositing of 'author final versions' into the Repository as part of the research process**

## **8.0 Recommendations**

- 1. In general, advocacy needs to concentrate on how to make research outputs available on open access rather the arguments for or against**
- 2. Work needs to be done on publicising peer reviewed high impact open access journals such as those published by Biomed Central**
- 3. Advocacy needed on funder requirements on open access, including advice on how to submit proposals for publishing research on open access at the bidding stage.**
- 4. Further advocacy work is required regarding copyright restrictions and the Repository**
- 5. Make staff and researchers aware of how to self deposit material in the Repository**
- 6. Investigate alternative methods using Web 2.0 technologies to make the adding of items to the repository more straightforward**
- 7. Further advocacy required on author's rights and alternative copyright agreements**
- 8. Advocacy to further embed the depositing of 'author final versions' into the Repository as part of the research process**

## **9.0 Conclusion**

These recommendations will be taken forward to create a comprehensive advocacy plan in conjunction with the Research and Enterprise Directorate to further embed the Repository within the Post Graduate Research induction and growing research community

This survey was adapted from survey results recently released by the University of Edinburgh, in keeping with the Open Access movement the raw data from this survey will be made available to other Repository managers as part of International Open Access Week. There has already been some interest from other universities in the survey.

## **10.0 References**

1. Lord Browne's Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance:  
<http://hereview.independent.gov.uk/hereview/>
2. Research Excellence Framework impact pilot exercise: Findings of the expert panels. A report to the UK higher education funding bodies by the chairs of the impact pilot panels:  
[http://www.hefce.ac.uk/research/ref/pubs/other/re01\\_10/re01\\_10.pdf](http://www.hefce.ac.uk/research/ref/pubs/other/re01_10/re01_10.pdf)

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