Haplo

Haplo
Repository

**Rothamsted Research
Case Study**

The Challenge

The Library team at Rothamsted Research – a world-leading non-profit agricultural research centre whose scientists publish hundreds of papers a year – approached Haplo when they wanted to modernise their existing repository.

One of the team's imperative requirements was the ability to create a custom workflow with approval stages to support the submission of papers by researchers, replicating electronically the circulation processes of the current paper form.

Alongside this was the need to sync XML metadata automatically with the team's library management system, and to automate and streamline much of the team's administrative processes. These included the ability to export metadata into reporting templates prescribed by Researchfish and UK Research and Innovation, automatic user database synchronisation, Shibboleth authentication, and the creation of custom research output categories to accurately represent the research undertaken at Rothamsted.

This small, busy team was in need of a cost-effective, hosted solution with system development support during the build process and beyond. That's why they looked to Haplo.

Tim Wales
Head of Library & Information Services, Rothamsted Research

> We wanted to replace a paper form-based process for registering staff publications with Library & Information Services with an online equivalent which would also synchronise with our Soutron library management system to avoid the need for either manual data entry and rekeying, or retrospective data importing.

The Process

As this project would implement a radically new system, it was challenging for the Rothamsted team to conceptualise their final solution at the start of the project. This led to an agreement with Haplo to work in a "perpetual beta" approach, developing the system collaboratively through a series of design, test and refinement cycles. This approach was made possible by the flexibility of the Haplo platform and particularly the Haplo data model.

With continual improvement in mind, the Haplo and Rothamsted Research teams worked closely on every aspect of the platform. Through extensive discussion, creative approaches and workflow analysis, fresh ideas came to light, such as a mini-delegate facility to resolve any bottle-necks in workflows for outputs that were not progressing.

> We've had the joy of seeing quick wins go live which solved local problems – a good example of something Haplo produced quickly for us is the introduction of a Preferred Name Citation format field for staff (e.g. Wales, T. B.) which solved the problem of staff using multiple different versions of their name.

The Results

Branded as HARVESTIRR (Harvesting Rothamsted Research), the new repository has quickly been adopted by researchers across the institution as an intuitive and streamlined way to submit publications to their institutional repository.

> We used our weekly Institute coffee morning to promote the system with a stand, promotional items and hand-outs and then took a roadshow around every Science department meeting.
> A key internal selling point we were using was Single Input, Multiple Outputs (SIMO), especially the fact that recording an output in HARVESTIRR meant that it would appear automatically in a researcher's publications list on the external Institute website.

A valuable yet unforeseen benefit of the Repository is that it has encouraged a more consistent, accurate and systematic use of external funding grant citations in journal articles. HARVESTIRR reporting provided the Repository team with examples of data omissions which helped them improve their guidance to researchers on the data they needed to submit. In addition, the submission workflow is providing heads of department with the ability to see pre-publication versions of papers more regularly, giving them the opportunity to highlight any omissions and improve the consistency of data being submitted.

> The main benefit is that it has reduced library staff time spent processing papers by about 75%, now that we are able to administer a system with more standardised menus and data entry points.
> One example of time saving is that we are now getting systematic electronic copies of outputs uploaded, where previously we would have to scan printed out papers stapled to forms. We are also getting a richer set of project metadata first time, without chasing, than we ever got with our manual system.

The Future

Haplo continue to work with the Rothamsted Research team to enhance the repository. ORCID integration has been added now that funders and publishers are increasingly requiring scientists to register for ORCID IDs. The Research team hope to further incentivise the sign-up process by offering scientists the ability to link their HARVESTIRR and ORCID accounts together and thereby populate their ORCID profiles with their Rothamsted affiliated publications automatically.

Similar integrations are also on the horizon, all aimed at reducing administrative effort and maximising the use of shared metadata. The team also hopes to develop automatic status updates to outputs from publishers, removing the need to manually check and alter statuses submitted or in press, saving the team even more time.

But the most important and exciting development (and a natural evolution from the current set-up), is Haplo and Rothamsted's work on a public version of HARVESTIRR. This offers an open access gateway to the rich collection of publications and datasets created by Rothamsted during their 175 years of scientific discovery, fully discoverable and indexable by external search and repository crawlers to maximise research dissemination.

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