



# Haplo Repository

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**University of Westminster  
Case Study**

## The Challenge

The University of Westminster had a hybrid repository solution in place since 2015, using Haplo for their ingest workflow in conjunction with EPrints for their public repository interface. This was managing open access publications and PhD theses adequately however the public repository interface was dated and author browsing was ineffective.

The University was looking to move to a one-repository solution for open access publications and theses which could also support research data including the management of practice-based research. The team saw the need for a more comprehensive and cohesive system to manage a wider range of repository requirements and the streamlined user experience and attractive user interface of the Haplo Repository was highly appealing.

Security was one of the University's top priorities. Their existing repository solution didn't allow managed access to secure datasets, which had become a key requirement. Haplo already had systems in place to ensure this level of security as well as the reassurance of being ISO27001 certified, which addressed concerns about security within the University.

A key driver for the timing of the move, was to ensure the University was prepared for the next Research Excellence Framework exercise (REF2021). Most critically, the organisation wanted to ensure they could effectively capture practice-based research in dynamic portfolios.

“ The potential to manage practice-based research outputs and dynamic portfolios was a huge driver, as it has allowed us to work with our practice-based researchers in creative arts and architecture, to provide functionality that enables them to build their portfolios. ”

**Jenny Evans**

Head of Research and Scholarly Communications, University of Westminster

Despite some resistance to leaving EPrints behind, in discussing their needs with the Haplo team, the University found that they'd soon be able to respond to policy changes faster, better support non-text based research and more effectively manage their budget by paying for just one repository.

## The Process

Haplo worked closely with stakeholders at the University of Westminster, taking the time to address concerns throughout the process. The University Research and Scholarly Communications team presented a business case that highlighted the unequivocal benefits of migrating to a Haplo Repository, articulating the significant risks of choosing not to migrate, and consulting experts in the field, such as Jisc, to develop system requirements that while meeting the needs of the University of Westminster, also met relevant interoperability and metadata standards in place across the sector.

The University had been using Haplo's commercial products – PhD Manager, Ethics Monitor and Research Manager – for some time, and this created a foundation of confidence in moving fully to using

Haplo's open source repository and in the Haplo team's ability to develop an unparalleled Repository system with enhanced interoperability.

Working in partnership throughout the development process, Haplo and the University team created a strong relationship, allowing them to exchange information, articulate priorities, maximise available functionality and respond to feedback, all in a timely, open and receptive way. Weekly meetings, either face-to-face or using Google Hangouts, Jira and email conversations all allowed the University's Research and Scholarly Communications team to foster an in-depth understanding of the software and recognise unforeseen possibilities, inspiring confidence and making rollout much simpler.

## The Results

“ We have already received our first request using the 'request a copy' functionality for a file under temporary embargo. The author was happy to share, but wasn't aware until she received the request that this was permissible. She now knows she can do this, and also that someone is interested in her work. ”

**Nina Watts**

Open Access and Repository Advisor, University of Westminster

The University of Westminster is enjoying the myriad benefits of its new Haplo Repository, from applying different levels of 'open' to research data sets and using a system carefully tailored to different disciplines and output types, to the fresh, user friendly interface and intuitive search and browse functions.

Engagement has increased, moving from a mediated deposit service to one where 99% of outputs are added directly by the researchers themselves. Thanks to the configurable workflow, outputs can easily be passed between the Research and Scholarly Communications team and the researcher to request further information, improving user education along the way.

“ It is rare that we can deliver a hugely improved user experience whilst making a significant budget saving - this implementation has resulted in both. ”

**Caroline Lloyd**

Director, Student and Academic Services, University of Westminster

For example, making REF open access compliance information available to researchers increased understanding, awareness and conversation around the policy. Discussions opened about research outputs and portfolios, and workflow has improved between researchers, administrators and departmental editors.

“ Haplo's dynamic portfolios are amazing. ”

**Jenny Evans**

Head of Research and Scholarly Communications, University of Westminster

Haplo provided the University with complete flexibility in the visual appearance of the public repository interface, enabling them to use their institutional branding throughout and integrating the repository visually into the rest of their public website.

The introduction of Research Excellence Framework administration functionality (that compliments the repository functionality) and a REF template that sits beneath each non-text based portfolio record – will enable Haplo to provide streamlined support to the organisation when preparing for the UK's Research Excellence Framework exercise. All critical information about research outputs are held in one place – accessible by the researcher, Research and Scholarly Communications team, and colleagues preparing the REF submission, using Haplo's fine-grained access permissions to provide appropriate levels of access.

“ The branding was easy to implement - and very quickly we had a public repository that matched our branding in a way that would have been impossible to do before. ”

**Jenny Evans**

Head of Research and Scholarly Communications, University of Westminster

Researchers use Haplo to update the information displayed on their record in the University's public website researcher directory. Before this researchers would have to log a call with IT for every minor amendment, but with the management of profiles in Haplo core information is automatically updated (e.g. School, email address) and academics can manage biographical information and their profile photo in a familiar interface.

“ Reducing the barriers to updating profiles and streamlining the process means our researcher web profiles are more comprehensive and up to date, and require less time to maintain from IT. ”

**Iqbal Hussain**

Business Relationship Manager, Information Systems and Support,  
University of Westminster

## The Future

“ This has been a great opportunity to work as a partner with Haplo on developing a cutting edge repository that addresses many of the challenges which the sector faces. ”

**Caroline Lloyd**

Director, Student and Academic Services, University of Westminster

The University of Westminster is already planning future improvements to the system working in collaboration with Haplo and other institutions adopting the Haplo Repository. With plans to build on user engagement with workshops on copyright and managing practice-based research

outputs, together with a forthcoming integration with the Jisc RDSS Connector to Archivematica/ Arkivum for preservation, and Primo for discoverability, the University are busy taking advantage of every new opportunity created by their adoption of the Haplo Repository.



[www.haplo.com/repository](http://www.haplo.com/repository)

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