Haplo Repository

University of Westminster Case Study
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.

Head of Research and Scholarly Communications, University of Westminster

Jenny Evans

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.

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.

Director, Student and Academic Services, University of Westminster

Caroline Lloyd

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

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.

Haplo’s dynamic portfolios are amazing.

Head of Research and Scholarly Communications, University of Westminster

Jenny Evans

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.

Open Access and Repository Advisor, University of Westminster

Nina Watts

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Head of Research and Scholarly Communications, University of Westminster

Jenny Evans

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 Future

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 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.

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www.haplo.com/repository
westminsterresearch.westminster.ac.uk