Building A Single Repository To Meet All Use Cases: A collaboration between institution, researchers and supplier

Jenny Evans, University of Westminster  
Tom Renner, Haplo  
Nina Watts, University of Westminster

evansje@westminster.ac.uk  
ltom.renner@haplo.com  
n.watts01@westminster.ac.uk

Building on a history of collaboration, Haplo and the University and its research community have built a single, open source repository meeting multiple use cases including text-based and non-text based outputs, portfolios and research data. This has enabled us to capture both practice-based arts research and traditional research.

Going beyond the single-use case approach historically used by repositories has been made possible through the flexible technical architecture of the Haplo platform which enables different vocabularies for different output type templates while remaining interoperable with external standards.

Researchers can gather together a collection of outputs to publish as a portfolio of related research. Portfolio records draw together the metadata and files from the individual outputs within the portfolio - images, text files, or datasets - and encourage readers to ‘Explore this collection’ to find related research. Researchers gain control of the public view of their research. Eight months on from going live 45 portfolios have been created.

A research institution may create many different types of research. To store all outputs, a repository needs to have a sufficiently flexible metadata schema, support workflow variations, and provide a range of visual display styles.

Success indicators
- Increase in self-deposit
- Positive feedback from researchers, particularly practice-based researchers in the creative arts
- Increase in submissions and breadth of outputs
- Researchers able to manage their own output records

Iterative cycles and close collaboration between the repository team, researchers and Haplo were key to successful deployment.