#### SHERPA-LEAP

InfoSci@ECU
Institutional Repositories Roundtable
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London Eprints Access Project (SHERPA-LEAP): a consortial approach to

building institutional repositories

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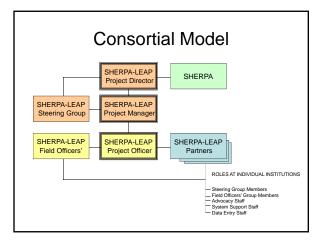
#### Background

- Established 2004
- Lead by UCL (University College London), sponsored by the University of London's University Libraries Committee and the Vice Chancellor's Fund
- University of London is a federation of 19 self-governing Colleges, each diverse in size and mission
- SHERPA-LEAP partners represented this diversity, constituting a mixture of large research-extensive colleges and smaller but highly specialised institutions

#### **Project Aims**

- Install eprint repositories for University of London institutions, hosted on a central server at UCL
- Populate repositories through collaborative advocacy (networking and experience sharing)
- Develop a consortial structure to govern and guide project partners

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#### **Technical Structure**

- Developed initially as a centrally hosted service at UCL
- GNU Eprints software selected due to the availability of support from SHERPA Technical Officer
- Repositories configured as discrete archives operating under a single (shared) copy of Eprints
- Each partner responsible for configuring/customising own archive's functionality and interface

"SHERPA-LEAP model allowed for local technical and policy repository decisions: aim was to disseminate good practice rather than impose consistency"

(Moyle, M., Stockley, R., Tonkin, S., 2007)

## Project Outcomes: 2004-2008 13/19 University of London institutions members of SHERPA-LEAP • 10,000 full text deposits Further funding received in 2007 to build a research showcase for the University of London (PKP OAI Harvester) Pilot interface tested 2008, with improvements to be considered in future projects (2009-2010 MERLIN Project) Lessons Learned: **Consortial Advantages** Shared technology: reduced server maintenance; allowed collaborative configuration opportunities Hosted service: quick way to initiate a repository; limits risk through pilot testing (test-bed for decision making) • Joint funding opportunities: ShibboLEAP, SHERPA DP · Networking/experience sharing opportunities Focused advocacy strategies: consortium lead conferences and workshops Lessons Learned: Consortial Disadvantages · Shared code environment risked archive stability · Sustainability: how far had the supporting contributions of SHERPA-LEAP prevented those skills from being developed in-house?

#### Repository Sustainability: EMBRACE findings (2007-2008)

- JISC funded project led by UCL and SHERPA-LEAP
- Aim: investigate the barriers to repository sustainability via a series of interviews and working sessions by RAND Europe
- Recognised 6 barriers to repository sustainability: repository novelty; cultural inertia, burdensome deposition processes; complexity of HEI environments; limited incentives to participate; reputation concerns
- Identified 3 strategies for overcoming these barriers: clear vision; communicate benefits; provide incentives
- Full report available UCL Eprints: http://eprints.ucl.ac.uk/13963/

#### LEAP forward: future of IRs at UoL

- Research Councils of UK (RCUK) mandates: compulsory deposition of research outputs into defined institutional or subject repositories
- Strategic institutional commitments to IRs required: 2009 UCL Open Access Policy
- Future of SHERPA-LEAP: continue through its strengths – networking and experience sharing
- More information available at http: www.sherpa-leap.ac.uk