

**Neil Stewart**

## Coming late to the game: how to create a totally integrated (!) repository system

### Conference presentation

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# **Coming late to the game: how to create a totally integrated (!) repository system**

Neil Stewart, Digital Repository Manager, City University London

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## Introduction: We're not really perfect!

- City had the curse/ blessing of developing a repository relatively recently.
- This meant we could start from a blank slate.
- Also meant we could apply lessons learnt from elsewhere.
- While this means we have achieved some level of integration, we could be doing better.

# City Research Online (CRO): the basics

## Our set-up

- Symplectic Elements Current Research Information System (CRIS), contains c. 17,000 publication records.
- Eprints open access full text repository, contains c. 800 papers.

## Developments to date

- Establishing a presence on City's main website.
- Using data held in the open access repository to feed web services.
- Developing use of the CRIS to support REF 2014.
- Storing and serving City's electronic PhD theses.
- Social media usage.



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## Lessons learnt (1): general lessons

**Automating metadata harvest and transfer is good.** It saves on cataloguing time, and means you can concentrate on doing more interesting things.

**Using hosted services is also good,** since they tend to be secure and stable, and allow for nimble development.

**Branding is important.** We quickly learnt that our users get confused when we used brand names- using the service's name in a thoroughgoing way is very important. Only refer to software names in the context of technical explanations!

## Lessons learnt (2): managing 2 systems

### Having two systems doing similar things can be difficult:

- Managing systems integration.
- Managing a tripartite relationship.
- Explaining the way in which systems interact to users.

### But it also has its advantages:

- Allows for the automated metadata transfer.
- Different systems can be used for different purposes-differentiation!
- As a result of this differentiation, separate development of the two systems can be engaged upon.
- Though Eprints now has CRIS-like functionality, Symplectic Elements has been designed from the ground up as a CRIS.



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## The “I” word

**Two pieces of work on this that caused me to think about integration:**

- William Nixon’s idea of the “Invisible repository”
- The RSP “Embedding Repositories” toolkit

**Three ways of thinking about integration (or are there?):**

- “Integration” as a matter of systems development
  - “Integration” as a matter of policy
  - “Integration” as a matter of cultural change
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- **How integrated is CRO?**

## CRO's integrated future?

- Perhaps integration is really about service delivery?
- If so, we're in a pretty good place, since CRO now has a steering committee and four major work packages:
  - Research data management
  - Open access journal publishing
  - Archiving and serving working paper series
  - Author profiling services
- Integration more than just getting systems to talk to one another!



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# Thanks! Questions?

**This presentation:**

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<http://openaccess.city.ac.uk/>

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[publications@city.ac.uk](http://publications@city.ac.uk)

@City\_Research

**Me:**

[neil.stewart.1@city.ac.uk](mailto:neil.stewart.1@city.ac.uk)

@neilstewart