A Trust Wide Publications Repository
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Introduction

Discussions have been ongoing for some time within the Non-Medical Research Leads Group regarding the use of repositories to manage the research publications within the organisation. It was also realised that the purpose and function of the said repository was limited (Carter & Squ, 2018).

A business case was put forward to establish an ongoing resource to inform, establish, enhance and celebrate the research, service improvement and development output within the Trust, within a managed centralised efficient repository in line with other Trusts/Universities. This is a requirement of CQC future assessments. The next review is due 2021.

Background to Repository Development

Institutional repositories (IR’s) first appeared around 2002, mainly within universities to capture the scholarly activity of staff and students. (Lynch, 2003) and have been used for Higher Education Funding Council of England “Research Excellence Framework (REF)” monitoring and bidding for funding grants, known as REF2020(REsearch England, 2019).

With the inclusion of publication/research output in future CQC assessments and to support the focus that “research active institutions help develop physicians and improve patient care” (van’t Hoff and Selvaratnam, 2019) along with transparency, NHS Trusts have been engaging in greater innovative work and publication activity and as a consequence have purchased such repositories.

Definition of Repository

Defined by the Cambridge Dictionary as

“a place where things are stored and can be found”

And an example of usage

“as the repositories and guardians of knowledge, libraries have been indispensable resources for universities throughout history”

Why Set Up a Repository at RWT?

Currently there is no single repository for recording published article(s), books, chapters, presentations at conferences of staff affiliated to the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust to support the expectations of future CQC and NIHR inspections.

Collation of such information has been carried out ad hoc by members of the Research and Development Department and Library and Information Services, using either an excel spreadsheet or referencing software Endnote (approx. 3,000 references, with approximately 150 items added per year at present). It is suggested that this method is capturing less than 10% of publications by RWT staff and has very limited access by only a few members of staff within the trust and in some cases duplication of staff time, of the two departments. It is not a true record of publications within the trust.

With the CQC, and the NIHR focussing on the role of research within a trust and the acknowledgement that the impact of research will help raise the overall standard of patient care, it seems appropriate that such a repository is in need of development (Lintern, 2019).

Further, such a repository underpins the Trust’s Vision and Values and the findings of the recently published Topol Report (Topol, 2019).

Advantages of a Repository to the Trust

- All RWT publications in one easily searchable place.
- Readily searchable both locally and globally, giving increased visibility and prestige of the institution.
- Can be used as a marketing tool to attract additional research/innovation funding.
- Attract potential new employees with a specific interest in research.
- Store grey literature (power point presentations, posters), sources of research output that are often lost.
- Allows the creation of personalised publications lists.
- Aids the public understanding of research endeavours and activities.
- References are complete and checked by experts.
- Updated monthly with new material.
- Faster dissemination of research into practice.
- Content will be indexed by Google, Google Scholar and other leading search engines.

What Are Other NHS Trust Doing?

There are 23 known NHS Trusts across the UK that have a publications/research repository, including the Christie NHS Trust, Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Trust and Amber – NHS Ambulance Service England.

The Christie Trust have 7000 plus items included in their repository, dating back to 1933. They currently have had 97,496 page visits, with 8,300 full text downloads, with an average download per month of 500-600 items.

University Hospitals Birmingham’s repository dates back to 2014 and contains 2,302 items. There have been 14,396 page visits and 368 full text downloads. The average downloads per month is between 200-300. 13,018 items have been directed to by Google.

How Can You Get Involved?

Have you published recently – article, book, chapter?

Have you presented a PowerPoint at a conference?

Have you displayed a poster about your research?

- Then forward the details and a copy of the item to the Bell Library for inclusion in the repository.
- Supply a short biography about your work and photo for inclusion in the repository’s profile page.
- Once live, the repository will have an electronic submission form.

Contact

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References