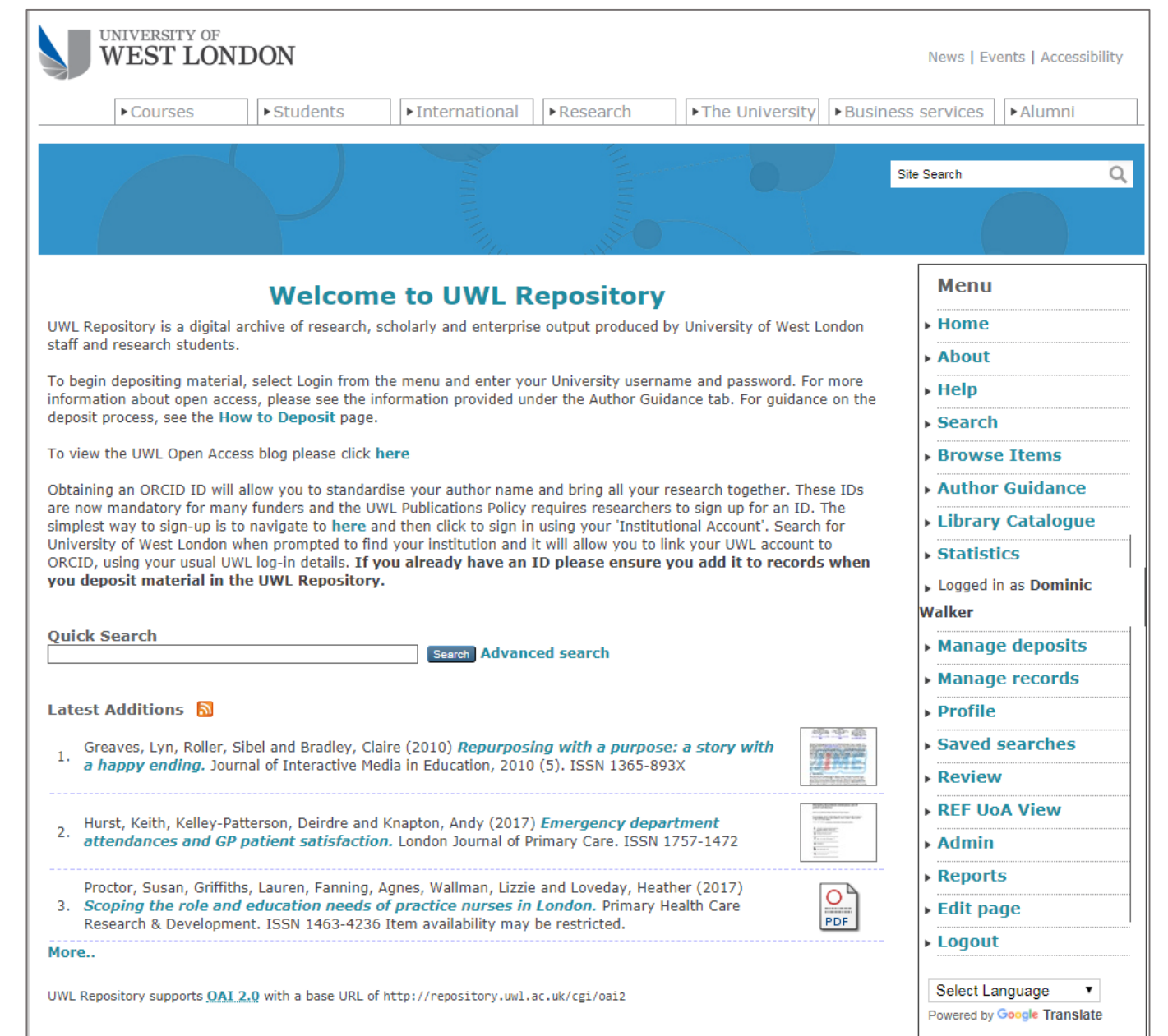


Introduction

The UWL Repository is the university's digital archive of research, scholarly and enterprise outputs. It is intended to contain records, and the full-text where possible, of outputs including: journal articles, book chapters, conference papers, arts items, and learning materials.

By providing and supporting this resource, the Library opens the potential for UWL research to be more widely accessible to researchers and students around the world. The repository also allows researchers to meet the requirements of various open access policies, including the HEFCE open access policy for the next REF. In addition, open access material through repositories offers various benefits for both undergraduate and postgraduate students.



UniWestLondonLibrary @UWL_Library · May 5
Happy #IDM2017 @UWL_CNMH! Take a look @jancis_shepherd's series on becoming a #midwife: [repository.uwl.ac.uk/view/creators/...](http://repository.uwl.ac.uk/view/creators/) #MidwivesDay @UWL_Repository

Benefits of OA for students

- Free access to a wider range of resources than available through the library's subscriptions and print collections
- Students are more likely to find useful resources for dissertations and research projects: OA materials integrate well into Google Scholar search results
- OA matches well with student research habits: work that is easily available via search engines is more likely to be used
- A better user experience: students can more easily access resources off-campus, rather than being faced with pay walls or time-consuming log in procedures
- Research between and after degrees: if students are not currently registered at a university, they can still access research. After graduation, perhaps as professionals, they can continue to get access to the work they need [1]
- PhD students: doctoral theses are some of the most downloaded items from repositories, and students' ongoing work can be made more visible when available OA.

Integrating OA into teaching

Lecturers can promote OA resources to students to help them find a wider range of items than in the library's catalogue:

- Add links to open access resources on reading lists
- If you recommend your own articles, make sure the item is available open access via the UWL Repository
- Open access discovery tools: OA Button (<http://openaccessbutton.org>), Core (<http://core.ac.uk>), Unpaywall (browser extension: <http://unpaywall.org>), Google Scholar (<http://scholar.google.com>)

Researchers: if you make your work available open access, then lecturers around the world will be more easily able to recommend and teach your research.

Teaching open access: support for open access at UWL

- The UWL Repository is promoted and open access skills taught through training sessions organised with academic schools, weekly drop-in sessions, a regular programme of training workshops for new PhD cohorts via the Graduate School, and through various online channels
- New academics are provided with an introduction to the repository via email, reminding them of open access policies in particular
- Extensive information about OA is offered via the UWL Library website (<http://uwl.ac.uk/library>) and LibGuides (<http://uwl.libguides.com>)
- On-demand support via email, phone and Skype

More recently, the repository has been promoted via social media:

- The UWL Repository Twitter account (@UWL_Repository) aims to link open access publications in with prevailing news stories to help drive general traffic to the repository
- The general UWL Library Twitter (@UWL_Library) aims to drive student traffic to the repository by linking accessible articles in with national or international events, such as the International Day of the Midwife
- An open access blog highlights popular articles in the repository: <https://uwlopenaccess.edublogs.org>

We also ensure wider access to our resources through discoverability improvements. For example, we have ensured as many records as possible include abstracts and keywords; file names are constructed where possible for SEO; and, we have implemented various technical improvements to improve indexing on Google Scholar [2] [3].

To find out more:

- repository.uwl.ac.uk
- library@uwl.ac.uk
- @UWL_Repository

References

- [1] *Why open access*, Right to Research Coalition (n.d.), website: <http://bit.ly/2tnfXUN>
- [2] *Reviewing repository discoverability with Strathprints* (2017), Macgregor, G., website: <http://bit.ly/2rIbZsH>
- [3] *UWL Repository and open access for researchers* (2017), Walker, D. & Phillips, D., website: <http://repository.uwl.ac.uk/id/eprint/3458>

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