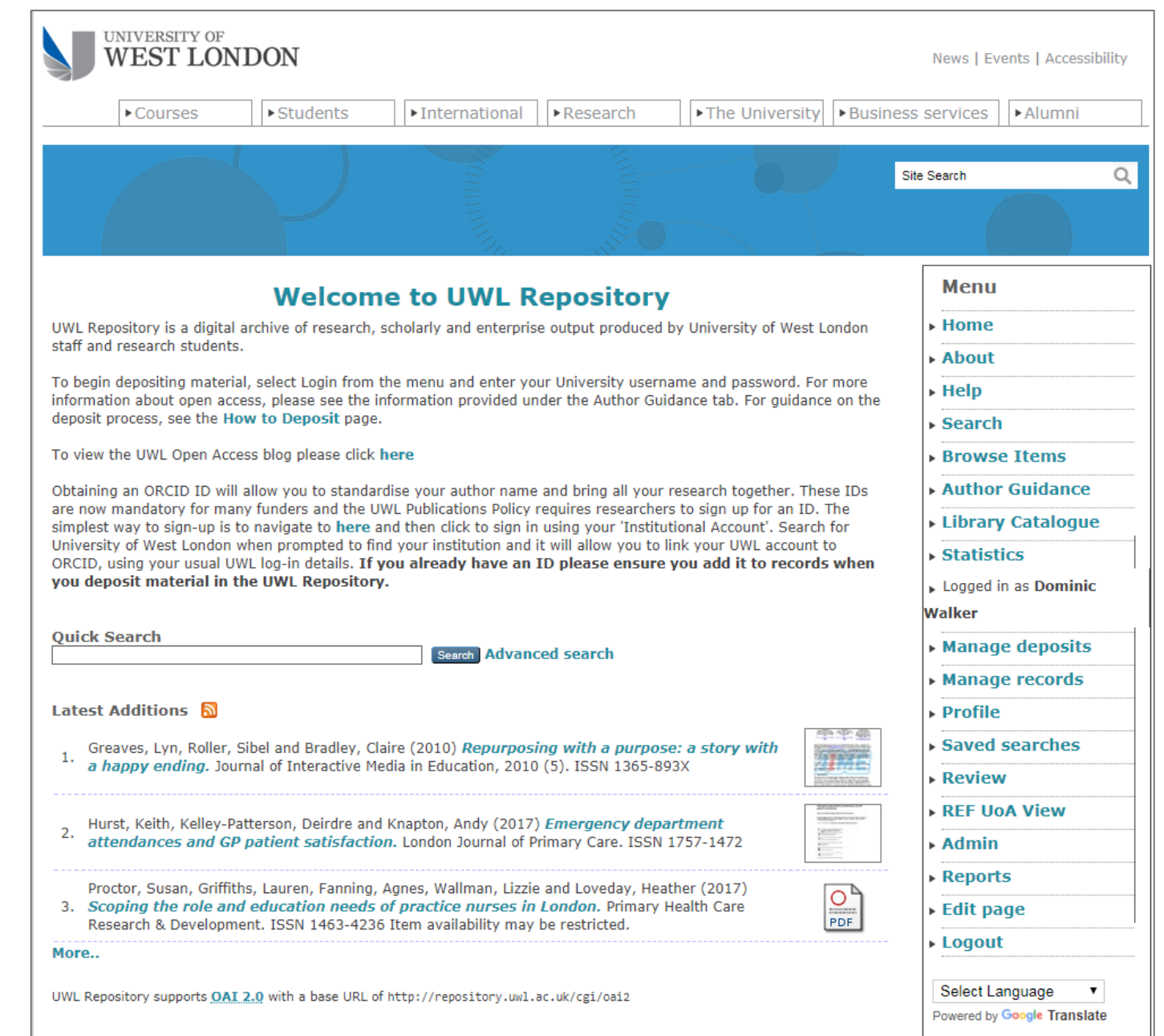# UWL Repository and Open Access for Researchers

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.

Benefits of OA for researchers

- **Compliance**: making your work available through the repository enables you to comply with policies such as HEFCE's OA policy for the next REF, the UWL Publications Policy, and research funders and charities' OA policies
- **Permanence**: repositories provide permanent, legal and stable locations for OA work. Commercial social networking sites like ResearchGate and Academia.edu offer no guarantee that uploads will not be removed in the future
- **Wider access**: OA makes your work more accessible for other researchers around the world (especially in developing countries), students (who might only access work they can find for free), NGOs, practitioners, policy-makers and journalists (who will tend to use work that they can find quickly and easily), businesses (especially those with limited research budgets), and the general public
- **Academic advantage**: many studies have shown that OA articles are more likely to be cited than those behind paywalls [1]. OA also allows other outputs, such as book chapters, to be more easily promoted and shared. You may also find new collaborators for future research projects.

Open access support

- Drop-in sessions are held weekly at St. Mary's Road and every other week at Paragon, Details can be found at http://repository.uwl.ac.uk
- Detailed guidance is available via the UWL Library website, UWL Repository and UWL LibGuides
- On demand support available via email, phone and Skype
- PhD training sessions via the Graduate School
- School training sessions can be organised as required (refresher or introductory sessions)
- New academics are provided with an introduction to the repository via email, reminding them of open access policies in particular.

Improving discoverability of OA research

We have aimed to improve the discoverability of research available via the UWL Repository by:
- Ensuring full and accurate metadata (e.g. abstract, keywords, author name order) for older deposits
- Altering the EPrints URL structure to enable better indexing on Google Scholar
- Requesting a re-indexing of the repository via Google Scholar
- Re-registering the repository with OpenDOAR
- Where possible, ensuring file names are optimised for SEO
- Promoting articles on social media where they fit into trending news topics or campaigns
- Adding Core Recommender (a resource discovery plug-in) to the repository
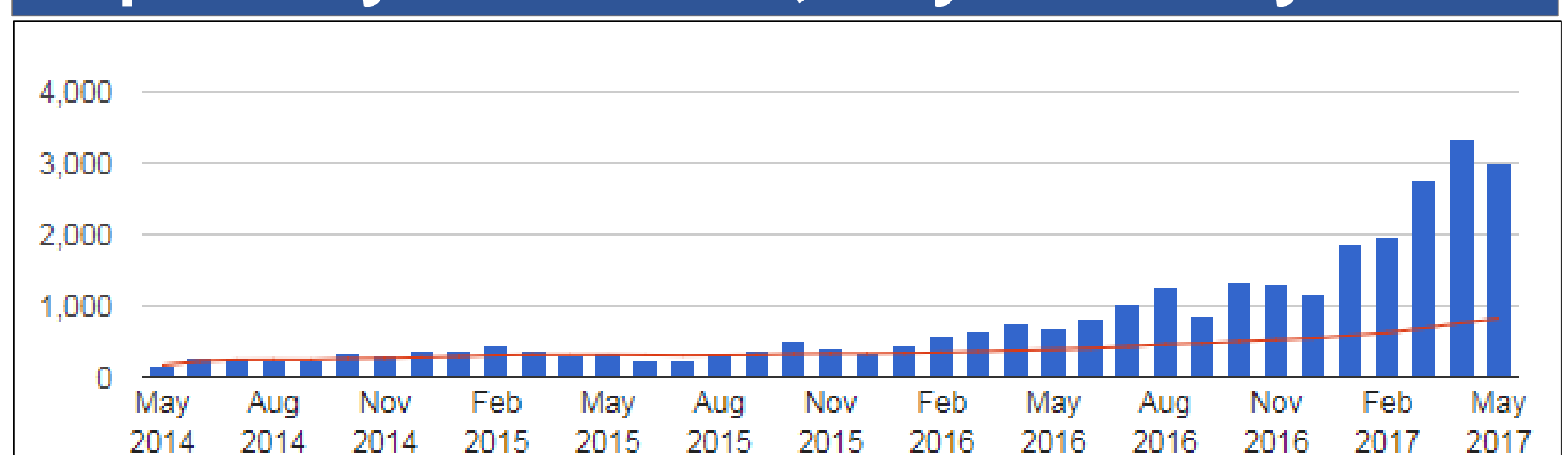- Installing Google Analytics, so we can begin to track traffic to the repository

References: [2] [3] [4] [5]

With these actions, from March 2017 to May 2017 repository indexing rates were increased from 3.75% to 41.5%, respectively. This has helped to encourage an increase in downloads from around 700 in May 2016 to around 3000 in May 2017.

Repository downloads, May 2014-May 2017

To find out more:

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

References

[1] *The Open Access Citation Advantage Service (OACA)* (n.d.), SPARC Europe, website: http://bit.ly/2oDvqwQ
[2] *Reviewing repository discoverability with Strathprints* (2017), Macgregor, G., website: http://bit.ly/2rIbZsH
[3] *Indexing repositories: pitfalls & best practices* (2015), Acharya, A., website: http://bit.ly/2rHIc3D
[4] *Invisible institutional repositories* (2012), Arlitsch, K & O'Brien, P.S., DOI: 10.1108/07378831211213210
[5] *Open access: discovery, usage and impact* (2016), Jisc, website: http://bit.ly/2sGTPXG

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