

# MONASH UNIVERSITY EPRINT REPOSITORY

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### **Abstract**

The e-print repository or archive was initially developed to provide a means by which researchers could make their work available for comment to other researchers without having to go through the lengthy and time consuming publication process. The repository was also established to address threats to the sustainability of traditional scholarly communication, the increasing prices of journals and the lack of access to the volume of research produced. The term e-print describes any electronically published research paper. An e-print archive may contain both pre-prints, which is material available for comment that has not been peer-reviewed and post-prints, which have been peer-reviewed and are updated versions of works published as journal articles or conference papers.

University libraries are seen as the key players to administer an institutional repository, providing quality checks on submitted documents and metadata, enforcing repository policies, and assigning persistent identifiers. Libraries already have the experience and frameworks in providing digital library services e.g. repository services, index services, collection services, naming services, and user interface services.

Several universities have implemented e-print repositories and are gauging levels of use and demand. There is also a proposal for DEST funding to develop a national e-print facility and by establishing our own repository Monash University Library will be well placed to participate in this facility. Australian National University has developed a specification for the implementation of an Australia wide e-print facility to provide guidelines and encouragement to other Universities to set up and initiate e-print repositories. Given this, Monash University Library believes that the environment and time is right to move further down the digitisation path to the establishment of a Monash University Library e-print repository.

The establishment of an e-print repository will provide enormous benefits for the University research community by:

- Providing a central collection of research
- Increasing the visibility, and usage of research
- Increasing access to existing research materials not available elsewhere, or which is available in titles to which Monash does not subscribe.
- Providing a search mechanism to locate specific research, by subject, keyword, author and title

### ***The trial***

The purpose of the trial is to determine the feasibility of and demand for an e-print repository. At this stage there is no commitment to a full repository.

The trial will provide an opportunity for researchers to showcase their work via the e-print repository. The trial will be used to demonstrate a working e-print repository to the academics and the research community, to gauge their acceptance and demand for an e-print repository, identify issues associated with the repository that have not already arisen, allow library staff to gain experience managing an e-print

repository, and to document resources required to support such a service in the medium to long term. The repository will accept and store electronic copies of pre-prints (material available for comment that has not been peer reviewed), post print (published articles), book chapters, working papers, draft or final conference papers and any other form of research output, apart from theses.

**Keywords**

*E-print, repository, scholarly communication, research, electronic publishing, archive, e-prints*

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