

ORA Collections

Developing themed research portals within the institutional repository

Introduction

Sharing academic research in the digital world is an essential task for an institutional repository. The repository interface can be a powerful tool to increase engagement, help build relationships in common research area themes, and make research accessible to those producing policy and research practice. ORA Collections look to highlight areas of research undertaken at the University of Oxford and where the outputs from that research are made available via the repository.

When initially developing ORA Collections, research themes were selected in areas that were seen as topical within the research community and global public and could attract attention from a range of audiences – in the first instances COVID-19 and Climate Research. These were then presented as portals within the existing ORA website and communicated as part of events and internal marketing to encourage engagement and promote the collections.

Collaboration in creation

Though the ORA teams receive and process research content on a daily basis, they are not immediately involved with the research or those undertaking it. It was therefore important that researchers and academics were engaged in the research collection design and development.

ORA is managed by the Bodleian Libraries, a clear route for engagement was therefore with the Heads of Subject Libraries and Subject Librarians, who are knowledge experts themselves as well as working regularly with research staff and students from within their areas.

The Bodleian Communications team and user experience experts were engaged in the design of the collection portal. Together the group agreed a template for development and responsibilities for template content.

Portal template and structure

Each of the collection portals has a templated 'home page'. The homepage template is comprised of an opening section, which includes a title and background image representing the collection theme, a search box restricted to the specific collection content, and introductory text to the collection.

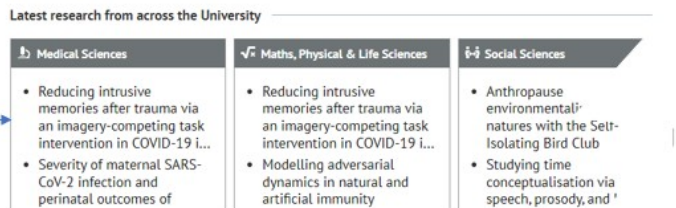


The middle sections of the template start to surface the content of the collection. This is made up of 'featured articles' or research papers that have been selected by subject specialists, or as a default to the most downloaded paper that month, and a section showing the latest papers deposited to ORA from across the four main academic divisions of the University.

Featured articles:
selected by Subject Librarians and updated regularly from suggestions.



Most recent additions across the University of Oxford main academic Divisions

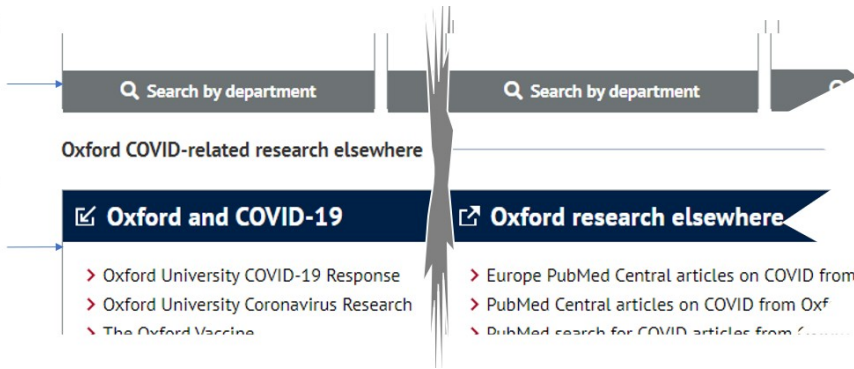


The lower section of the latest papers within the division has the option to search within these categories. By selecting 'Search by department' filters are pre-applied to the collection search section.

The homepage template completes with a section aimed at highlighting some of the key places to find further information on the research being undertaken at the University of Oxford on the collection theme. This includes links to the main University of Oxford webpages, and department sites, but also subject repositories and other locations in which research from Oxford academics can be found.

Search by University of Oxford Division / Department applies a filter to the search function.

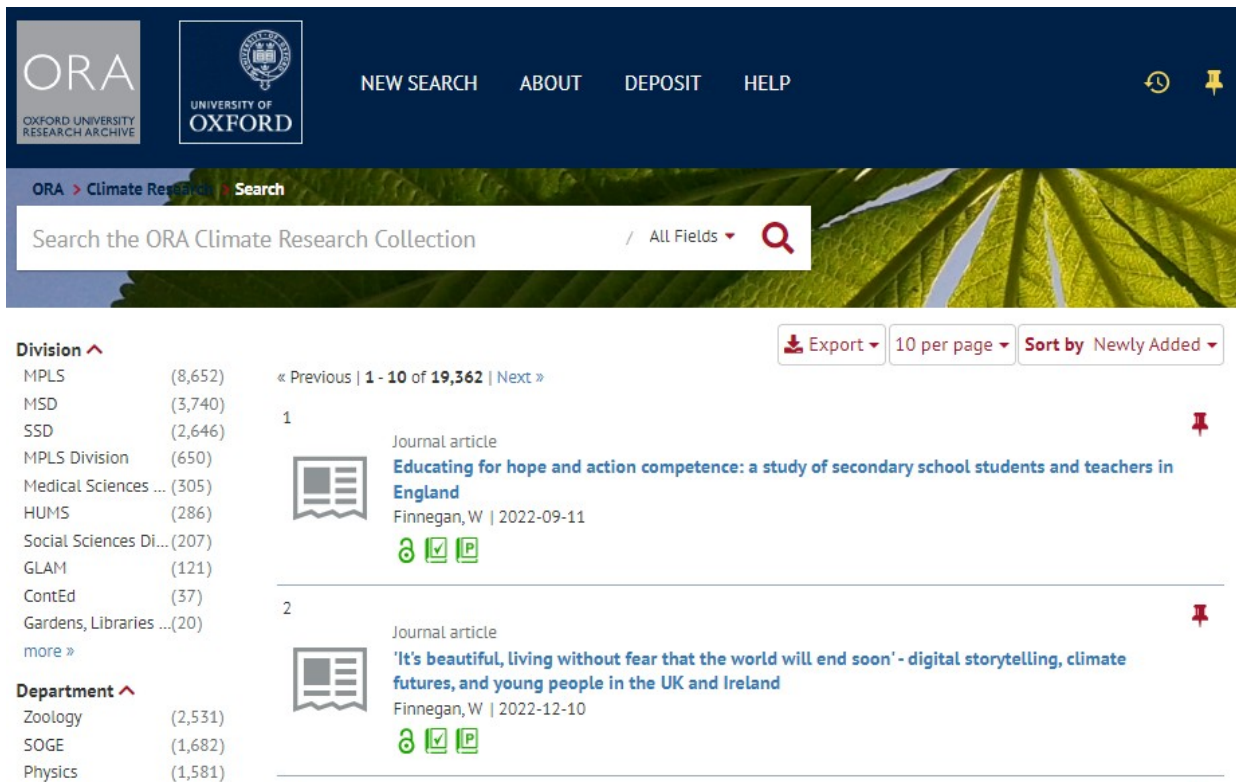
Links to information on the research theme from within the University and links to research stored elsewhere in subject repositories.



The latter sections were restricted in the number of links to prevent the page from being overly long. The links selected were therefore focused on pages that provide a further gateway to research in the University.

Search

Once a user has undertaken a search in a given portal, they are presented with a results page which can be further filtered (including by whether there is a file available to download), bookmarked or exported as desired.



Search results from the ORA Climate Collection. Filters to the left can be applied to the content.

An object selected from within the portal or arrived at by another action (e.g., via a general ORA search or via an external system, such as Google) allows the user to see that the object selected is part of a collections, as well as providing a link to the collection portal.

ORA OXFORD UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ARCHIVE

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

NEW SEARCH ABOUT DEPOSIT HELP

Back to Search

ACTIONS

ACCESS DOCUMENT

AUTHORS

BIBLIOGRAPHIC DETAILS

ITEM DESCRIPTION

TERMS OF USE

METRICS

Journal article

'It's beautiful, living without fear that the world will end soon' - digital storytelling, climate futures, and young people in the UK and Ireland

Abstract: This research explores two questions: how do young people imagine futures shaped by climate change and our collective response to the climate crisis, and what is the impact on young people of creatively engaging with the future? The participatory action research method of digital storytelling was adapted to explore climate futures, with thematic, visual and narrative analysis of the resulting videos. Young people articulated positive, negative and more complicated visions of the future, in...

Publication status: Published

Peer review status: Peer reviewed

Expand abstract

Actions

Email Cite Tweet Print

Access Document

Files: Finnegan_2023_its_bea... (Version of record, pdf, 1.9MB)

Part of the Climate Research Portal Export

Example ORA record included in the ORA Climate Collection. Links to the collection portal at the top right of the record.

Design and user experience

The design of the collection portal pages, and search results were aimed to be simple, easy to navigate, with a smooth user journey, whilst keeping with the 'brand' recognition of ORA and being visually appealing.

Internal user testing was completed by members of the Bodleian Libraries Resource Discovery User Group (RDUG) to assist with the design development and to ensure that the portal was responsive and understandable to users.

By designing the research collection portals in this way, using a template, it makes the process easy to replicate to the next collection theme.

The main effort in the generation of an ORA research collection is then in defining the search parameters for inclusion in a collection theme.

Building a collection

Each of the themed collections is built by applying search criteria and filters to the content within ORA. It was determined that 'curating' a collection by individually selecting what records and content should be included in a theme would take a lot of time and effort in creation, and ongoing maintenance, e.g., adding new content.

By using a defined search across the existing content via keywords and filters this allows a large amount of content to be identified readily in the collection without specific curation. This also allows the collections to be self-updated, with new papers being automatically added to each of the collections as it is taken into ORA and the paper meets the search criteria of a collection.

```
+ filter_query: "indexing_all_text:(\"CLIMATE\") OR indexing_all_text:(\"climate\") OR indexing_all_text:(\"g  
(\"carbon\") OR indexing_all_text:(\"weather\") OR indexing_all_text:(\"environmental sustainability\") OR i  
indexing_all_text:(\"biogeography\") OR indexing_all_text:(\"ecology\") OR indexing_all_text:(\"green econc  
material resources\") OR indexing_all_text:(\"sustainable buildings\") OR indexing_all_text:(\"sustainable p  
carbon management\") OR indexing_all_text:(\"sustainable travel\") OR indexing_all_text:(\"food waste\") OR
```

Example snippet of the search query for the ORA Climate Collection.

Refinement can then be made on the search results, and where necessary individual records do not meet the theme, but appearing based on search criteria can be excluded as identified.

In addition to the search-based collections, ORA also maintains the ability to generate curated collections. In such a case, a team or individual would select a set of objects within ORA to be part of the collection theme. The collection would then comprise these objects, and only these objects – although there would be the option to add new objects over time. This would have advantages over a collection where search results might yield results unspecific to the collection theme, or where the objects chosen for the collection relied on metadata not held in our system. For example, ORA does not store metadata relating to the gender or ethnic identity of authors. However, we might want to create a collection to celebrate Black History Month, and a curated collection would allow this.

Communication and promotion

ORA is available to the global public and can be accessed directly or through a number of sources and mechanisms including search engines such as Google, Bing, Baidu, etc. The research collections are available as part of ORA.

As each portal is a work of collaboration with subject specialists, effort has so far also been made to launch a research collection in partnership with these groups by either selected distribution of details about the portal or at an event discussing the research that is included in the collection. This also included Open Scholarship Support teams in communications through Social Media and in organising and running events.

The ORA COVID-19 Collection was the first research portal made available. This was shared via a number of internal communications, inclusion in newsletters, staff updates, and a blog post (<https://openaccess.ox.ac.uk/2022/02/07/ora-covid-19-collection/>). It was also used as an opportunity to make contact with researchers and research groups in encouraging further deposit of their research in this area to the repository, and to highlight the importance of surfacing research early, and how this can contribute to the seed and development of research – such as in the development of vaccines.

The ORA Climate Portal was linked in with International Open Access Week, which had the theme ‘Open for Climate Justice’. An online talk was held as part of the week - “Opening Oxford’s climate research” at which the ORA Climate Collection was launched in addition to lightning talks presented by University of Oxford researchers about their research, their interaction with open practices and the International Open Access Week theme.

To further promote the ORA Climate Research Collection and encourage the early sharing of research and research data on which research publications are based. The collection was included in a session as part of the Oxford Festival of Open Scholarship (OxFOS), “Climate research and open data at Oxford”. The session promoted the ORA Climate Research Collection, as well as included lightning presentations

from University of Oxford researcher focusing on how discovery, access and re-use of research and research data can help to better inform key areas of climate research.

The Collection and events were also 'tweeted' and shared on social media.

Reach and impact

ORA makes content freely available to the global public, removing barriers to research such as paywall, login, or subscription. There are currently >280k records and >108k downloadable files available via ORA. A large number of this content is 'grey literature' (such as theses, working papers, reports, research data) - where the content may not be available elsewhere on the internet.

The COVID-19 Collection contains >2,500 records and ~2,300 downloadable files, and has had, since going live in September 2021 >71,700 views of content, an average of 3,262 views per month.

The ORA Climate Collection contains ~20k records, with ~10k downloadable files available, and since launch in October 2022 has had over 201,000 views of content, an average of 22,411 views per month.

Access to the collections and content is available globally outside of institutions. This means that content is available to academics, researchers, the global public, and policy and practice makers - providing access to research in this way means that decisions can be made based on actual academic knowledge and practice.

One of the positives about bringing researchers together to talk about their work in conjunction with promoting the collections and repository is the opening up of sharing in more detail the work being undertaken in the research theme, initiating conversation, and promoting collaboration. One of the speakers involved in the OxFOS session (March 2023) noted in response to question of using Open Access repositories as a source to research - "Open access repositories are key." and notes further that "people from outside academia have read my open access papers and have contacted me to discuss (or praise)."

Another commented that although it is unclear as to who is accessing content that "I have uploaded policy briefings, one of which links to a preprint of a yet to be published article. The latter, which is on SocArXiv papers has been downloaded 477 times, and I have been approached by the Danish Ministry of Transport to speak about this research at the end of August. So that is a definite example of open research engagement beyond the original audience..."

When asked what role making content openly available will have in the future of the research area: "Policy usability depends on Open Access. Also, creating academic dialogue with the Global South depends on Open Access. These two are central to my work so I place high value in Open Access."

Another again acknowledges that it can be hard to determine where communication originates from but that they "... have been approached over the last year by other local policymakers and councilors about issues related to my research." And "I definitely see a lot of value in creating open outputs that are intended for audiences outside academia in future, and I think it can help to have this on ORA so that it has a DOI, etc."

Within the sector it's a good example of how Oxford University is sharing knowledge and decisions.

Strategic objective

The portals fit within the CORE policies of the University, linking into both 'research engagement and dissemination' and in the case of the Climate Collection, 'environmental' objectives.

Future developments

The existing research collections will organically continue to grow as more research content is added to ORA on the topic area. Staff within the subject area also continue to look at the portals and recommend research to be included and highlighted as 'featured' research.

Further ORA research collections are in development and are hoped to be made available soon. Each build on the previous templates and portals created, looking at research themes around 'Race', and 'Artificial Intelligence'.

The collection template is also being used by ORA to better showcase ORA's 'grey literature', such as theses, working papers, reports, and research data – content that may not be available elsewhere on the internet.

Research collections are something that can be replicated at other institutions and can serve as a good example of practice.

ORA (Oxford University Research Archive) is the institutional repository for the University of Oxford. ORA was established in 2007 as a permanent and secure online archive of research materials produced by members of the University of Oxford.

ORA aims to provide access to the full text of as much of Oxford's academic research as possible. This includes articles, conference papers, theses, research data, working papers, posters, and other content types.

ORA is maintained by Open Access Collections and the Digital Libraries Systems and Services teams within the Bodleian Libraries.

More information can be found at: <https://ora.ox.ac.uk/about>

Jason Partridge, Bodleian Libraries
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