

PROWE

Personal Repositories Online Wiki Environment

'How To/Questions to Ask' Guides



Guide Six:

The Users' Perspective

Part Three – content and collaboration

Overview

Many aspects of the user/content interaction are dealt with by long established and seldom questioned habits and practices, many coming under the category of personal resource management strategies. These do not necessarily correspond to best or most effective practice (see Guide One). Indeed, users may never ask the questions in this guide (though they should) but nonetheless institutions need to be prepared for them to do so; they should also consider the responses themselves since those answers will have a bearing on how potential system users will evaluate the system when deciding whether or not to join in.

Critical issues

Critical questions arise in relation to the nature of **content** in the system, **storage, access** and **ownership**. Many questions are impacted by users' **personal resource management strategies** – either recognised or not.

Ownership and Intellectual Property Rights

- Is storing online OK?
- Will it last? Will storing my work online keep it safe?
- Will I be able to access my work when I want it?
- What does my contract say about online ownership, storage etc?
- What happens to ownership if other people collaborate with me or reuse and develop my work?
- How does ownership work for multiple editions of the 'same' material?
- Who can access my work? Must my colleagues? My supervisors? My students?
- Can I decide (administer permissions for) who can access my work?

Content

- Why should I create and store content here?
- What is suitable content?
- What formats can be stored? Are there any that can't be kept in this system?
- What if I want to store draft versions?
- What if I want to store stuff I intend later to publish in print form elsewhere?
- Are there quality issues about what can be stored?
- How is content classified?
- Do I need to know about metadata or any kind of labelling?
- Can I tag my own stuff?



Sharing

- Is sharing OK?
- Who can I share with? Who should I share with?
- What does the institution think of sharing?
- What advantages are there to sharing?
- How can I make sure the quality of anything done with my original work is maintained?

Personal resource management strategies (PRMS)

- What are my PRMS habits?
- Do I want to try and do something to modify my habits?
- What happens to all this stuff if I want to move? When I retire or resign?
- Who/what can help me sort out my PRMS?
- Is it all backed up?
- How can I make sure it is all safe?

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