UNIVERSITY OF Hull

in Hull

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OR11 Conference, Austin TX, June 2011

Status quo ante

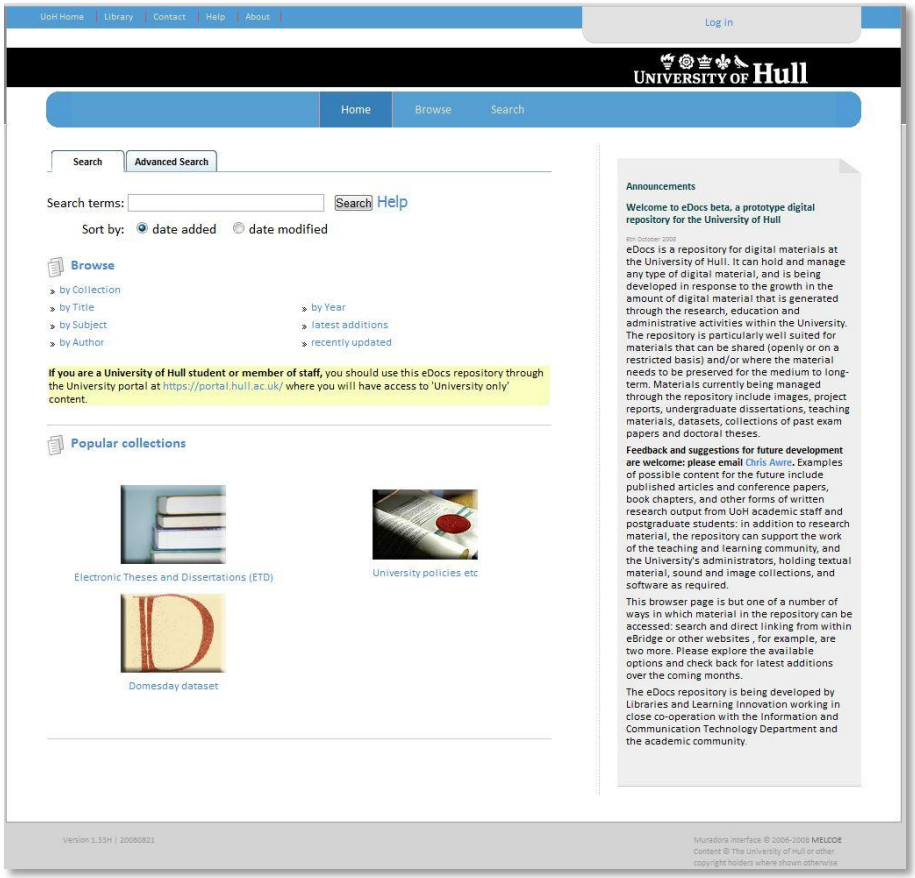
Before entering into the Hydra in Hull project the University had a functioning, Fedora-based, institutional repository: eDocs

- Test instance late 2007; live (though unadvertised) 9/2008
- Grown to a core service by 9/2010

Wide range of content to deal with

- Exam papers
- e Theses & dissertations (ETDs)
- Journal articles
- Meeting papers or minutes
- Policies or procedures
- Dissertation (undergraduate)
- Photographs
- Presentations
- Books
- Book chapters
- Regulation
- Reports
- Conference papers or abstracts
- Leaning materials
- Handbooks
- Internet publications
- Newsletter articles
- Datasest
- Sound
- Moving image
- Guidance documents
- Licences
- Posters
- Events
- Letters
- Artwork
- Diagrams
- Maps
- Software
- etc (!!!)

eDocs home page



- Search (including full-text) and advanced search options
- Browse by collection (anecdotally, heavily used)…
- …or title/subject/author (rarely used)
- Icons are quick links to popular searches

A dilemma and a solution

- Muradora became a *cul de sac* for development when funding was withdrawn before a community could build up around it

- Fortuitously we were put in contact with the University of Virginia and Stanford University by Thornton Staples, of the Fedora team

A meeting of minds

- The US universities were both seeking a long-term, open source, repository solution integrated with their wider information architecture – which sounded familiar to us!

- From this grew the Hydra Project…

New and better integrated

- Hull is using its collaboration in the Hydra partnership to build a successor to eDocs – a new Hydra-compliant repository.
- It will launch in late September 2011. This time using software with community backing (community source).

A new Hydra IR head

The new institutional repository ‘Hydra head’ is capable of full ‘CRUD’ (create, read, update delete) but is not alone in the world…

Other sources of content

The repository also receives content from other sources which the IR head can subsequently edit and display:

- content created in our Research Information System
- content from Sakai (our learning management system)
- SharePoint

(Note: we have code that allows two-way interaction between the repository and each of Sakai and SharePoint)

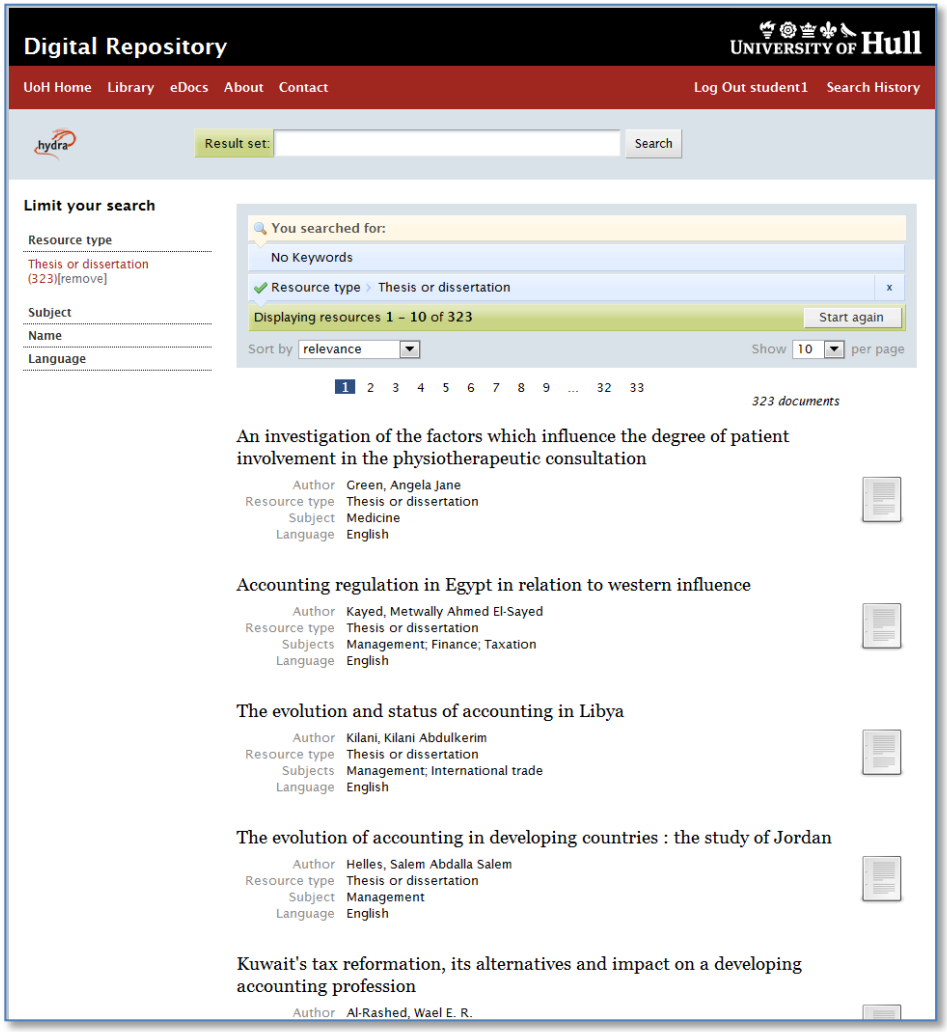
Hydra in Hull home page

- The home page is a fusion of the existing repository home page and a fairly standard Blacklight layout
- The repository security is multi-level and you only see what you are allowed to see. This is the 'public' view (note the resource types and 'canned' searches).
- *NB: all the screenshots are from our development server with only limited content for testing and currently missing the 'advanced search' option*

Hydra in Hull home page (student)

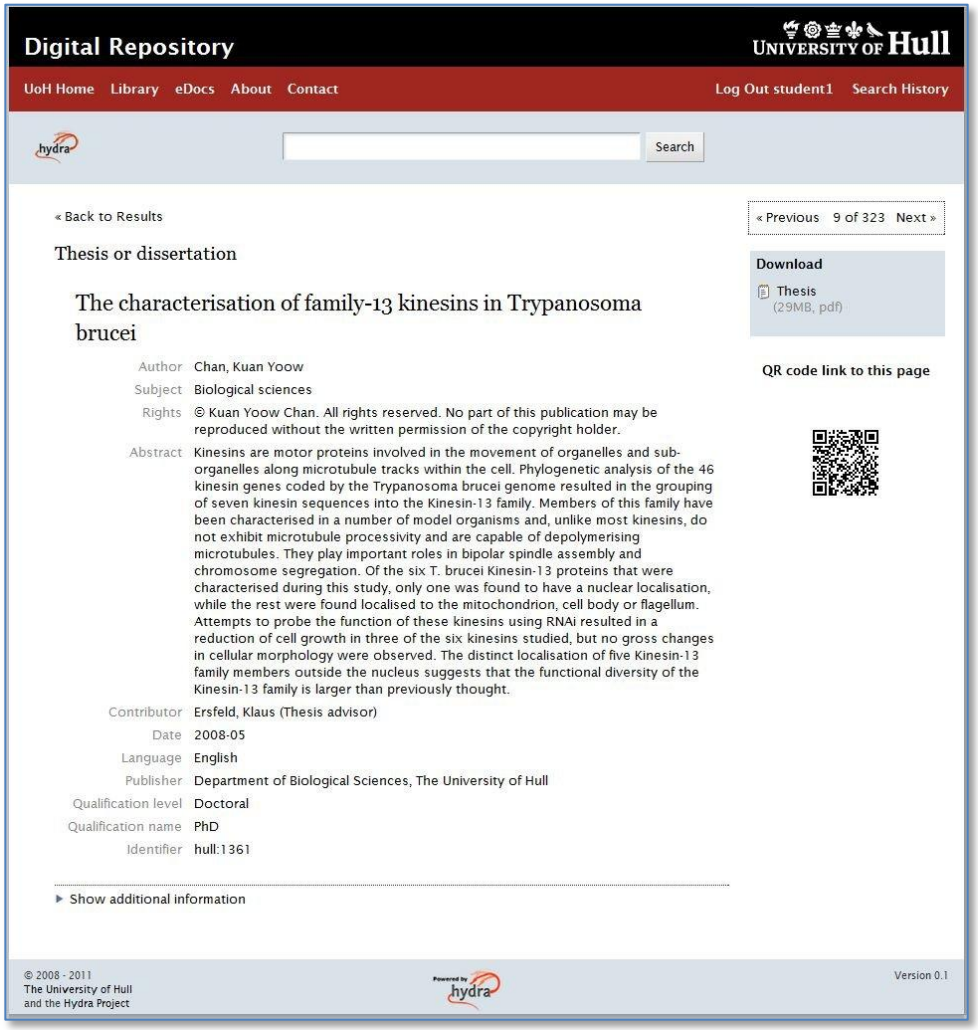
- Logged in (here as a student) I see more.
- Examination papers have appeared in the resources facet and I have more journal articles listed
- The ‘canned’ searches are different – chosen to match students’ needs

Hydra in Hull search return



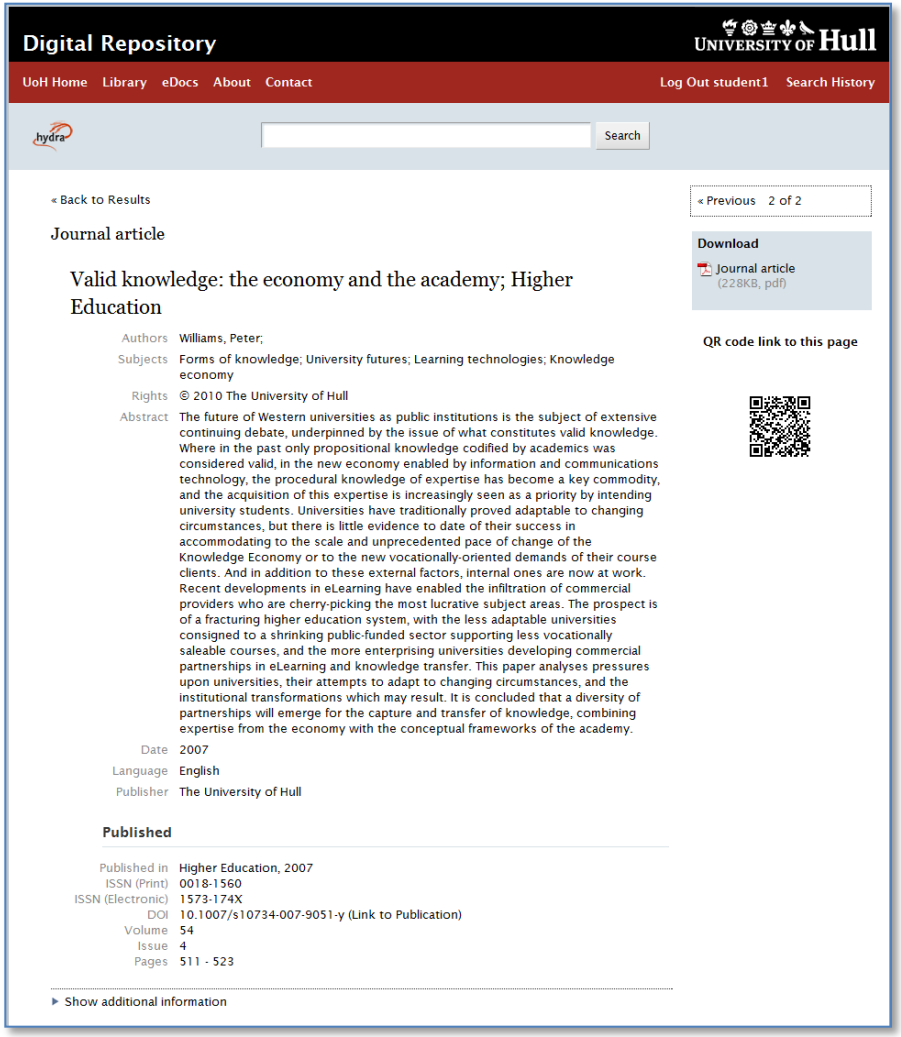
- Choosing a facet (here theses) generates a search return
- I can refine my search by choosing more facets and/or using the search bar.
- Normally the search bar starts a new search – but on a search return page it searches within the result set

Hydra in Hull splash page



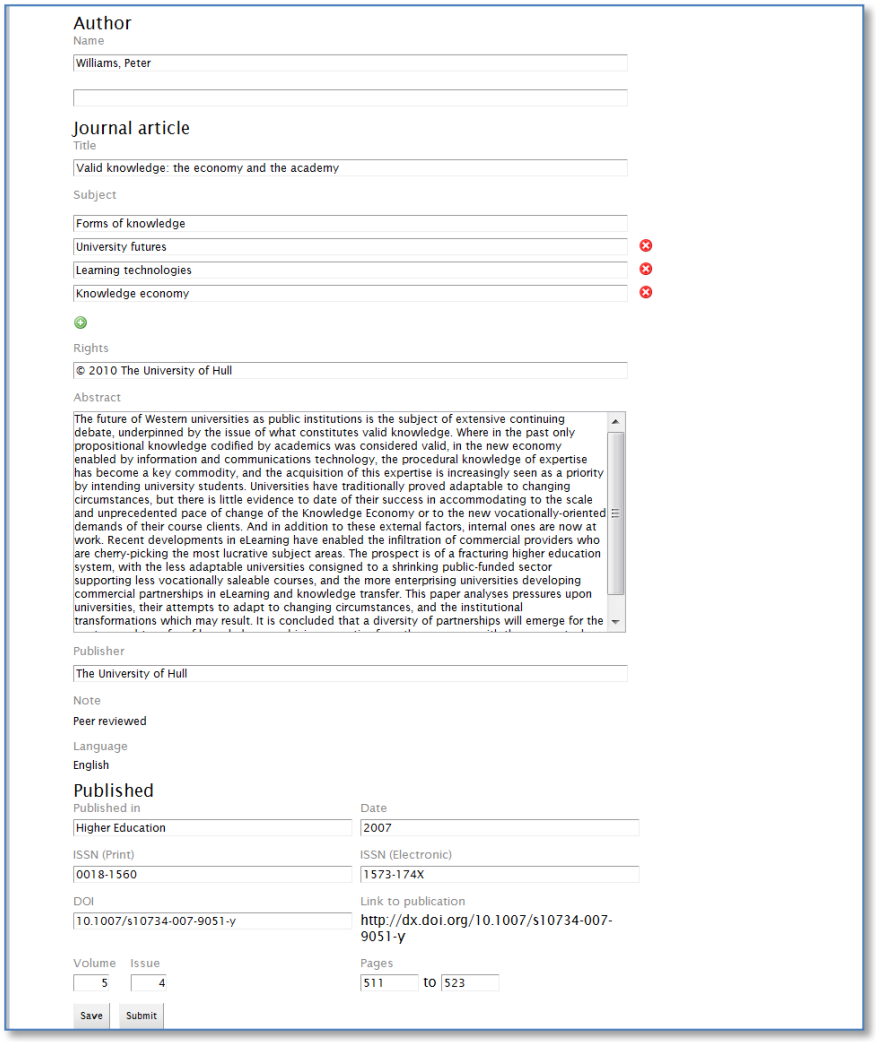
- Choosing an item gives me its ‘splash page’.
- Different splash page layouts for different content types (here a PhD thesis)…
- Link(s) at the right download the resource(s)
- ‘Show additional resources’ lets you view metadata in different formats

Hydra in Hull splash page



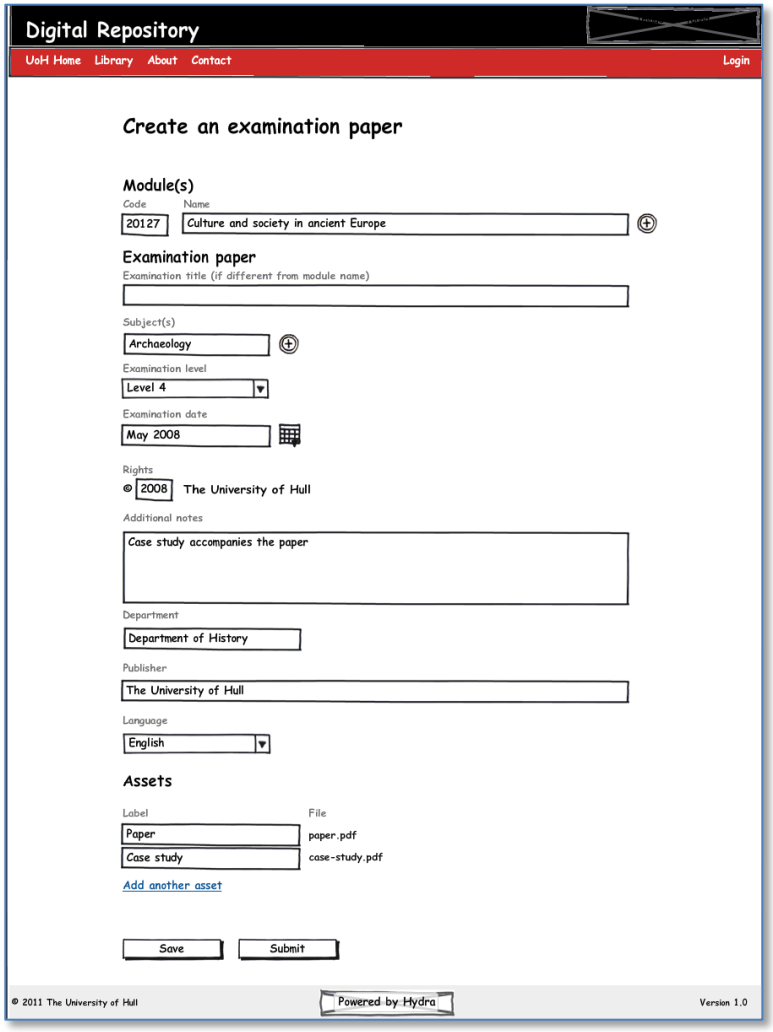
- … here a splash page for a journal article (note the publication information at the bottom)
- For images (say) the splash page will be different again
- The QR code resolves to the splash page URL

Hydra in Hull QA



- Before content is exposed it goes through a QA procedure. With an appropriate login, editing is available. Whilst splash pages normally show a sub-set of the available descriptive metadata, the QA team see it all.
- This is part of the QA screen for the previous journal article.

Hydra in Hull 'create'



- Similar, but highly guided/customised pages will be available for object creation
  - currently being programmed
- User sees a form only for the metadata we need from them and can upload only file types appropriate to the form of resource
- When they submit an object it goes into the QA queue before being made available to end users
- Extra metadata (MIME-type, filesize, etc auto-generated) 'behind the scenes'

Hydrangea in Hull

- We have been fortunate to secure a small grant from the JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee) in the UK to help fund the implementation and migration processes – in return for which…

- …we hope Hydrangea in Hull (the JISC project name) will provide
  - a UK reference implementation
  - "local" knowledge that others in the UK can tap and learn from
  - the basis on which to establish a UK Hydra community

A bit of help from our friends

In addition, the University has a contract with our Hydra partner MediaShelf LLC to 'pump prime' some of the development work and, in so doing, *to train our own software developers*

… an investment for the future

Contacts and links

Project Director: Chris Awre (c.awre@hull.ac.uk)
Project Manager: Richard Green (r.green@hull.ac.uk)

Blog: hydrangeainhull.wordpress.com

Temporary test site: hydra-test.hull.ac.uk

Watch this space: hydra.hull.ac.uk (currently the original proof-of-concept site but will become the production site)

(Current repository: edocs.hull.ac.uk)

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hydra