2.2 Research report of best practice

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P1623 : Supporting non textual
or non digital research outputs

Findings and recommendations from:
Investigation of UK and Australian HE online support & guidance
Review of KAPTUR and KULTUR
Visits to UK HE Institutions
Meetings with Kent academic researchers
Current digitisation support

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Investigation of UK HE
online support & guidance

Katie Edwards

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UK Webpages

Southampton (LibGuide and PureGuide Word doc for Non textual items)
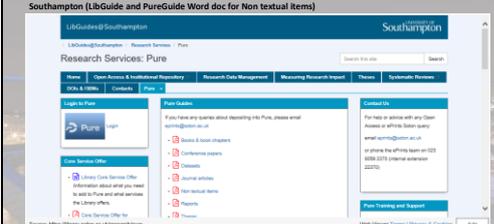
Southampton has a dedicated guide for best practice works 'Non textual form deposit guide'
There is a lot of information on the Pure Libguide
http://library.soton.ac.uk/research/pure and training guides (powerpoint and video)
It covers 'guidelines' for researchers, rather than have a policy for how the University systems handle practice research works.

Whilst it is positive these works have been recognised within the repository webpages and guides, we felt the layout was quite text heavy and not easily visible to access the dedicated guide

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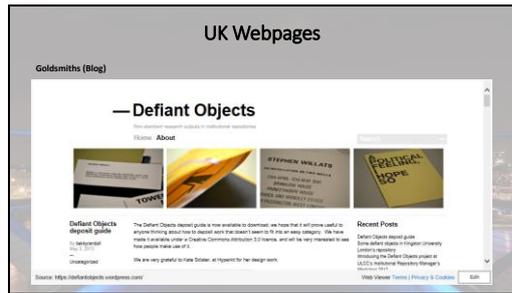
The guide for best practice research outputs is not easily located as it is not visible within the University webpages. It was located on an old KAPTUR project blog – last updated in 2013 defiantobjects.wordpress.com (follow link in blog through to guide).

However within the guide we can see it is available to download via the repository pages.

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The deposit guide is laid out in tables and whilst covering a lot of information, it is a useful and easy to navigate 1 page document. As Goldsmiths is also a multidisciplinary institution, this would be a very useful starting point for reviewing the guideline we hold in KAR and KDR for practice research works.

It covers 'recommendations' for researchers, rather than have a policy for how the University systems handle practice research works.

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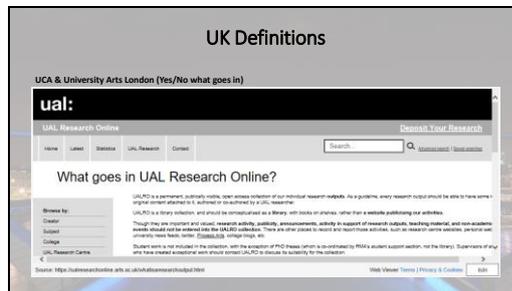
UCA and UAL institutions contain the same guidelines about what should/should not be entered into the University repository. This is in a table and is easy/quick to identify the different types of Practice Research works and how these would fit into the repository. Should we do something similar at Kent?

Both institutions do not have a dedicated webpage for Practice Research works . UAL uses a libguide 'Libguide: scholarly communications' and links through to repository guidelines. UCA's information is located in the research support webpages and then through to the repository pages.

UAL has a nice summary report including 'item types' statistics which includes practice research works, this is made public as an annual report. It could be good to produce something similar at Kent for KAR/KDR advocacy and reporting.

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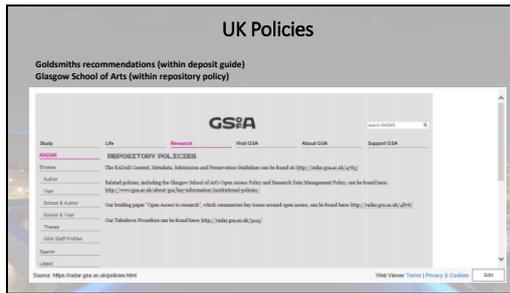
Goldsmiths recommendations in the deposit guides covers short and clear definitions of all of the possible item/object types that could fit into the repository. The guide is split into sections and information is easy to locate and navigate. This would be a helpful guide to assist with updating the KAR and KDR guidelines/support

GSA has a PDF repository guide which includes links to a very useful looking practice research works guide and template. This powerpoint template follows an easy step-by step process and can be used by researchers at GSA to assist in describing practice research works.

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As an Arts institution, GSA do not have a dedicated webpage for practice research works but they have thorough support and guidelines available through their RADAR repository guide – this includes types of outputs accepted for deposit, help with file formats, metadata etc. this would be an interesting guide to assist with updating the KAR and KDR guidelines/support.

The repository RADAR also has its own blog, keeping researchers up-to-date with any developments, advice etc.

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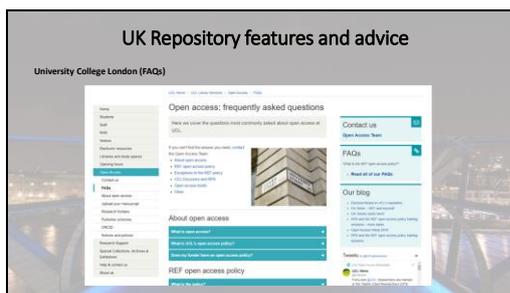
The support and guidelines for practice research works is not visible/ not easy to locate on the University or repository webpages. Even within an FAQ about what types of works can be made available, there is not mention of works outside of the books, articles and conference papers.

UCL does however provide a digitisation service and non-digital research data can be digitised. The researcher is advised to contact the Digital Curation Manager for advice. It may be interesting to investigate further when considering Kent's digitisation offer.

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Other interesting findings

• Glasgow School of Arts Practice Based Research Template http://radar.gsa.ac.uk/5649/ - This template can be used by researchers at GSA to describe practice-based research outputs

• Oxford Artistic & Practice Based Research Platform http://www.oarplatform.com/about/

• UAL summary report including 'item types' statistics made public UALRO Annual report (p.12) http://arts.ac.libguides.com/ld.php?content_id=26563159

• Goldsmith's Impact Hub https://www.gold.ac.uk/research/discover/impact/ - How Goldsmiths research makes a tangible difference to public life in the UK and globally

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Investigation of Australian HE online support & guidance

Josie Caplehorne

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Why Australia?

Australian Government
Australian Research Council

The Australian Research Council (ARC) is responsible for administering Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA), Australia's national research evaluation framework.

• creation of new knowledge and/or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way to generate new concepts, methodologies, inventions and understandings.

• Synthesis and analysis of previous research to the extent that it is new and creative.

• "Creative and systematic work undertaken in order to increase the stock of knowledge – including knowledge of humankind, culture and society – and to devise new applications of available knowledge"1 as defined in the ARC funding rules."

http://www.arc.gov.au/sites/default/files/filedepot/Public/ERA/ERA%202018/ERA%202018%20Submission%20Guidelines.pdf

Australian HEI's became the focus of attention for non-UK based institutions supporting practice research. This is because the of 'Excellence in Research for Australia', which act's in the same way as the Research Excellence Frame (REF), but unlike REF includes a framework for practice research. Fourteen Australian HEI's were researched as part of this project

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Non-UK Webpage

Charles Sturt University: Comprehensive and intuitive content
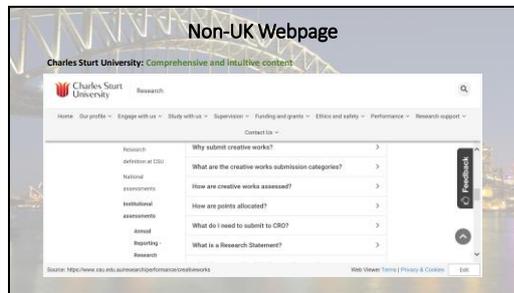
The content of Charles Sturt University's webpage on supporting creative works is comprehensive and intuitive. It offers clear, structured information ranging from explain Excellence in Research Australia and why creative works should be submitted, to creative work categories, copyright and information about using the institutional repository.

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Non-UK Webpage

University of Newcastle: Limited information
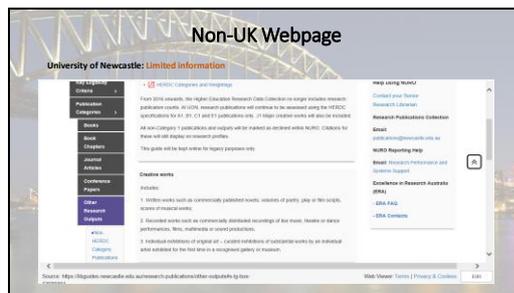
By comparison to Charles Sturt University, the University of Newcastle provides limited information about what constitutes creative works, and a link to secondary document listing creative work categories and weightings. Its lack of information about why submitting is so important, and how the university supports these principles are not addressed, and offer no forward facing support to academics.

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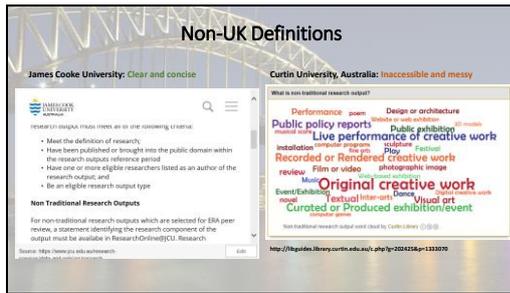
The approach to defining practice research was varied and inconsistent across all fourteen university's.

James Cook University was superior to its competitors and offered a clear definition of research, for the purposes of ERA, including definitions of research output types. It is accessible and comprehensive.

However, the Curtin University offers a creative definition of non-tradition research outputs. It is inaccessible, challenging to read and lacks detail.

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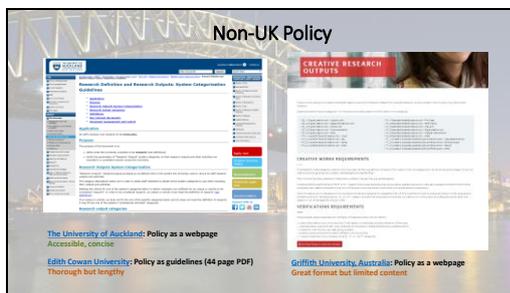
The approach to policies for practice research was also varied and inconsistent across all fourteen university's.

The University of Auckland embedded policy as webpage content. It is clearly structure, accessible and concise in its coverage.

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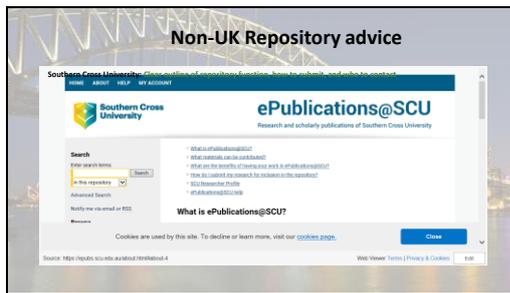
Sourcing information about repositories was challenging across the majority of Australian HEI's.

Southern Cross University offers a clear explanation of the role of their repository and the research works its is designed to support and promote. They provide clear guidance on how submissions can be made to the repository, and contact information for further enquiry.

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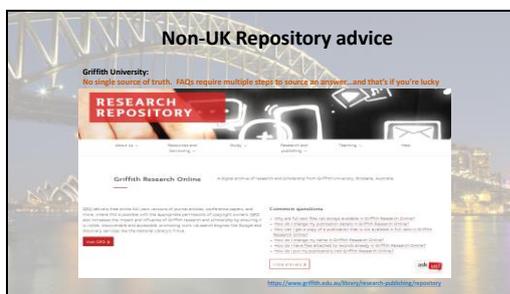
However, Griffith University repository 'advice' does not offer a single source of truth or a navigable path to information about the support on offer. A number of links appear to offer a route to further information, upon clicking them the user is taken to a page of FAQs. When reviewing the FAQs repository advice is not available. Instead a search was made from this page for more advice, but only to be redirected to the page where the search started.

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Other interesting findings

- **The University of South Africa submits research using the ERA evaluation process:**
  "Non-traditional Research Output Submission Guidelines, October 2015"
  An NTRO Working Party meet twice a year, to conduct peer review and processing of NTROs.

- **Edith Cowan University has a decision tree to help researchers identify if their NTRO is for advancement of knowledge or an extension of knowledge or innovation(s):**
  http://intranet.ecu.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/735767/Decision-Tree-for-NTROs.pdf

- **University of South Australia uses *My Data Management Plans (myDMP)*,** an *"easy-to-use self-service facility that allows researchers to generate their own data management plans, and allows researchers to self deposit metadata (descriptive information) about a project that is not already in the University's research system (Research Master)."* Login required.
  http://i.unisa.edu.au/askresearch/data-management/mydmp/

- **Digitisation?**

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KAPTUR V KULTUR

Helen Cooper

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NTRO Research Data Management Projects	
KULTUR: http://kultur.eprints.org/	**KAPTUR:** https://vads.ac.uk/kaptur/
• Create a transferable and sustainable institutional repository model for research output in the arts • JISC funded to 2009 • Focussed at a technical level (eprints) and institutional level • Delivered a framework for effective practice in managing and promoting non-text based research outputs • Eprints plugins and recommendations for metadata and deposit workflow and for showcasing deposited items	• To discover, create and pilot a sectoral model of best practice in the management of research data in the visual arts • Led buy VADS and JISC funded to 2013 • Model approaches to RDM for the arts – business case templates • Training and advocacy • RDM policy examples and approaches
What can we take from these?	
• Metadata and workflow adaptations within a recognised standard specifically designed for the Eprints platform • Changes to the look of KAR records that are useful for non-arts as well as arts/cultural works – e.g. thumbnail size • Vocabulary options – e.g. is JACS a better subject option than LoC? • Can be adapted for Kent needs – doesn't need to be adopted as a whole piece	• Vocabulary • Training and advocacy materials • Policy and business case examples • Case studies

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Visits to UK HE Institutions

Roz Bass

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Findings from visits and conferences

- **Kultur – Goldsmiths and UCA but issues**
- **Digitisation services**
- **Tool to preserve websites as pdfs**
- **Practice Research Action Group (PRAG)**
- **Portfolios for the REF**
- **Humanities Special Interest Group of ARMA**
- **Advocacy – new staff**

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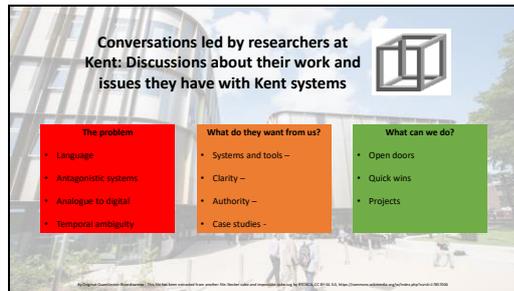
Interviews with Kent researchers collated

Types of output

Outputs are produced in multiple media and while most of the researchers also produce articles and books most of their creative effort is manifest in other formats with accompanying challenges for a digital recording and archival system. These include, but are not limited to:

- **Performances** associated with creative writing – unique, spontaneous, in various venues where the researcher cannot control the environment (pub back rooms, outside, Tate Modern gallery)
- **Initiatives** and innovative learning experiences - Outreach and funded programmes with primary schools, editorship of journals, work derived from a book publication – judging a writing competition and collaboration on a prize giving with the Turner Gallery. These also include online learning packages that are the result of research into learning.
- **Collaborative** pieces - Co-curation of exhibitions, consultations, accompanying pieces for other works. Where the researcher may not contribute to the main work, but their work forms a significant piece of work in itself.
- **Installations** – where the audience interaction is a part of the work
- **Physical artefacts** – art works, sculpture – including public art – things that change, grow develop over time.

- **Multiple media** – research output that is manifest in many forms – interdependent with no 'main' work.

Issues

- **Ground-breaking** research is unpredictable – not recognised until its happened/happening. No controlled research environment and by its nature unreproducible.
- **Analogue** experience must be 'reduced' to a digital record. Does this capture the work? Also requires equipment, knowledge and expertise. Also needs a place to store and release the digital surrogate.
- **Legal issues** – including copyright ownership of the work and the recording of the work.
- **Social media** – how to preserve and report social media as part of the response to the work, also, where the response as part of the work itself.
- **Rigid systems** to record and report – do not allow the 'genius' of the research to be recorded or demonstrated.

How they think IS can help

Provide an archive for this work – with a framework to recognise this type of work – a more holistic capture of all the research effort. An archive to preserve and keep the 'evidence' of the research is needed. Give clarity regarding what support we offer and what systems do.
Provide information on how to digitise, describe and prepare research for archiving. Help and advice around copyright and "ownership" of work and data. Advice on/access to equipment for recording and digitisation. Including help to capture web sites. Advice on file formats – preservation/access issues.
Advice on how to describe the work in terms of 'research'. What is a legitimate output, how

to use terms invented for publishing to describe other type creation life cycles. Case studies for using KAR/KDR to store/disseminate/ record video/audio files. IS "taking ownership of uploading" is a good thing.

Next steps
We can identify from this actions that we can usefully do that will meet the needs of the researchers and help make their relationship with the repository and other research systems more pleasant. We can divide these into:
Things we do now but need to give information about, or to talk about in a different way – open doors
Things we could easily do now but need to form into an offering, involving policy change or workflow tweaks – quick wins
Things we will need to work on, involving new projects, budget and maybe the development of new services – long-term objectives

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Digitisation

Clair Waller

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Digitisation Support

- Our staff are able to advise on digitisation of research data and outputs. Researchers can contact researchsupport@kent.ac.uk for support

- We will be producing a webpage containing details of how researchers can get support, along with some basic guidance information about digitisation standards and preferred formats

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