

Loughborough University partners with Figshare, Symplectic and Arkivum to create UK's first integrated research data management solution

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Loughborough University today announced a joint venture to deliver an integrated solution for their research data management. With impending funder guidelines set to come into effect, UK institutions have to take measures to ensure their research data is stored securely and persistently, with appropriate metadata and made freely accessible on the Internet.

Loughborough University's solution will enable staff, students and researchers to meet funding-body requirements for open access to data while providing a secure, long-term space for a wide range of content; all on a platform that encourages collaboration. The solution will also allow for the easy citation and re-use of their digital data by making it discoverable, citable and shareable from anywhere.

Arkivum, the provider of large scale, long-term, and guaranteed digital archiving solutions; Figshare, the research data management platform that specialises in 'active data'; and Symplectic, the leading software company specialising in developing, implementing and integrating research information systems, will be working in partnership to deliver this pioneering solution to the University.

This innovative integrated solution meets the key requirements set out by Loughborough University; the lowering of operating costs; the provision of a highly reliable service from suppliers with established reputations in the UK, and compliance with RCUK funding guidelines and UK legal requirements. The solution will support the storage of primary data generated during original research projects, alongside derived and summarised data used to support publications.

Peter Townsend, Director of the Research Office commented, "The future of our research data is of huge importance to Loughborough University. Loughborough were looking for a solution that didn't just deliver minimum levels of compliance, but also provided a highly visible showcase for the top quality research carried out at the University. The service that we have commissioned from our new partners is highly innovative, and will place Loughborough at the very forefront of developments in Research Data Management. We made a critical decision to implement a solution which not only gives us the flexibility to access and manage our active data, but also the long term archiving of valuable datasets. Getting our strategy right today, means that we'll see benefits across our research sooner and it will be preserved for the future."

"In delivering this solution, Arkivum, Figshare and Symplectic have demonstrated their commitment to providing a managed service to Loughborough University that provides compliance, data access and integrity", said Nik Stanbridge, VP of Product Marketing at Arkivum. "Working closely with Loughborough University's research data management programme, we know that we are giving their students and staff easy access to securely archived data".

news release

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About Loughborough University

Loughborough is one of the country's leading universities, with an international reputation for research that matters, excellence in teaching, strong links with industry, and unrivalled achievement in sport and its underpinning academic disciplines.

It has been awarded five stars in the independent QS Stars university rating scheme, putting it among the best universities in the world, and was named Sports University of the Year 2013-14 by The Times and Sunday Times. Loughborough is consistently ranked in the top twenty of UK universities in the Times Higher Education's 'table of tables' and has been voted England's Best Student Experience for six years running in the Times Higher Education league. In recognition of its contribution to the sector, Loughborough has been awarded seven Queen's Anniversary Prizes.

In 2015 the University will open an additional academic campus in London's new innovation quarter. Loughborough University in London, based on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, will offer post-graduate and executive-level education, as well as research and enterprise opportunities.

About Figshare

Figshare is the research data management platform used by the world's leading researchers, institutions and publishers. Founded by Dr Mark Hahnel in 2011 who, whilst studying for his PhD in stem cell biology at Imperial College, London became frustrated at not being able to publish all his scientific research. The platform allows any file format to be made visualisable in the browser so that figures, datasets, media, papers, posters, presentations and filesets can be disseminated in a way that the traditional scholarly publishing model does not allow.

Figshare is a portfolio company of Digital Science. For more information, visit figshare.com and digital-science.com.

About Arkivum

Every bit archived.

Arkivum is the leading provider of assured long-term and large-scale data archiving solutions to higher education and biomedical institutions in the UK. The company provides the only system on the market to guarantee 100% data integrity irrespective of the retention period by storing multiple data copies in disparate UK data centre locations in addition to an offline escrow copy.

Arkivum uses proven storage technology and open standards to deliver fast, efficient and secure online data access. Strong links with the University of Southampton IT Innovation Centre ensure that Arkivum has direct access to state-of-the-art research in digital preservation

Arkivum is certified and regularly audited to ISO27001 and the Arkivum service is connected to the UK Janet and N3 networks.

About Simplectic

Symplectic is a world-leading software development and service company specialized in the delivery of integrated research information management systems. Founded in 2003, the company combines years of experience in the academic sector with a collaborative approach to development to help research institutions collect, manage and showcase their research and scholarly activity.

Their flagship system, Elements, is used by some of the world's leading institutions including the University of Cambridge, Duke University, Cornell University and the University of Melbourne.

Symplectic is part of the Digital Science portfolio, visit symplectic.co.uk and digital-science.com to find out more.