



Efficiency and automation pay off with broad global reach for student and faculty scholarship

The University of Otago moves away from open-source platforms, relying on Esploro to bring their scholarly work together.

About the University of Otago

Established in 1869, the University of Otago is New Zealand's oldest university. With a mission to address societal challenges, Otago emphasizes ethical standards and social responsibility. Otago is ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions in the world by QS World University Rankings. The University of Otago is home to New Zealand's first medical school and only school of dentistry.

A transformative solution

The challenge

The University of Otago sought to modernize its research repository to better support researchers and administrative staff. Their previous bespoke open-source repository, while functional, required extensive internal management and IT resources, making it challenging to meet the institution's evolving needs. The open-source solution relied heavily on manual processes that impacted efficiency and limited faculty engagement. The lack of interoperability across systems led to, inefficiencies and duplicated effort with researchers tasked with uploading content to multiple platforms by hand. The university and library required a more efficient system to manage and showcase research outputs while reducing manual workloads and improving research visibility.

"We wanted a system that would automate as much of the process as possible."

Mike Wall,
University Librarian, University of Otago

The solution

To alleviate the burdens of the open-source repository, Otago implemented Esploro, a research portal that automates data capture and enriches researcher profiles. The AI Smart Harvesting process in Esploro allowed Otago to automatically populate profiles using DOIs and ORCID IDs, greatly reducing manual workloads for researchers and administrative staff. The interoperability with Otago's existing systems eliminated the need for duplicate data entry, streamlining the overall process.

Esploro also efficiently manages Otago's student theses and dissertations, making them accessible and compliant with institutional open access requirements. The Esploro functionality has ensured that research outputs are collated and easily discoverable in one location.



Expanding research outputs

Soon after implementing Esploro, Otago more than doubled the number of research outputs in its archive, thanks to Smart Harvesting AI. The platform's connection to Ex Libris Central Discovery Index (CDI) of five billion records allowed Otago to locate research assets that were impossible to populate before.

"We more than doubled the amount of research outputs in OUR Archive within a month after going live."

Lisa Chisholm,
Manager, Library Research Services, University of Otago

Key benefits for Otago

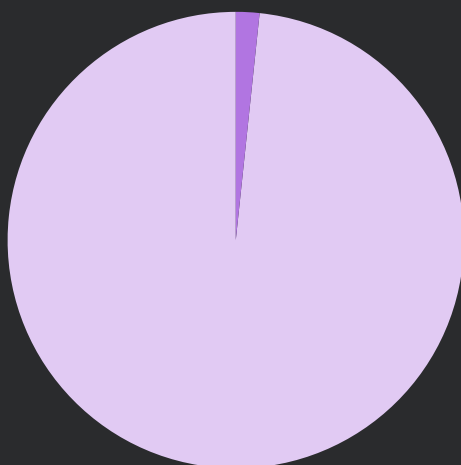
Comprehensive metadata management

Esploro supports the collection and management of diverse outputs, from publications and grants to student theses, while ensuring open access compliance.

Improved system

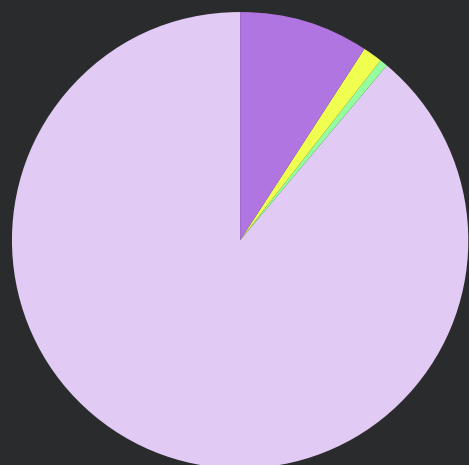
Esploro is interoperable with existing systems, reducing the need for redundant data entry and improving overall workflow efficiency. A stark increase in the productivity of staff was clear; manual deposits went from ~1,700 per year to over 25,000 in the first six months of Esploro use, in which less than 500 were manually deposited.

Non-Thesis Research Deposits to Prior Solution
1-year period; n = 1,735



■ Librarian Deposit: 1,702 ■ Researcher Deposit: 33

Non-Thesis Research Deposits to Esploro
6-month period; n = 25,656

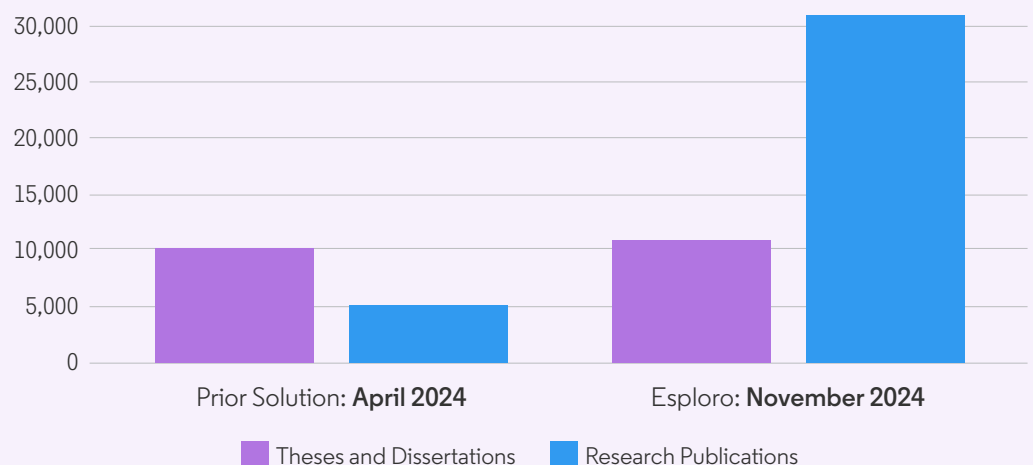


■ Smart Expansion: 22,741 ■ Librarian Deposit: 390
■ Smart Harvest: 2,353 ■ Researcher Deposit: 172

Increased research outputs

Utilizing Esploro's Smart Harvesting and Smart Expansion functionality has enabled Otago to dramatically increase the number of research outputs in the repository/ OUR Archive in a very short timeframe. During the first four months of implementing Esploro the research assets in OUR Archive grew by 168%. With ongoing Smart Harvesting Otago research is added quickly and doesn't rely on the manual data entry of researchers.

Contents of OUR Archive by Type: Prior Solution vs. Esploro



Research is visible to a global audience

Through a new and vibrant portal, Otago research outputs are easily searchable and visible to the world. Users can find outputs by division, faculty, school, department and easily locate specific researchers associated with a particular field/discipline.

Collections

Through the creation of Collections, Otago can highlight and showcase particular research programs and research of national significance in OUR Archive.

https://ourarchive.otago.ac.nz/esploro/collections?institution=64OTAGO_INST

Taking Esploro further

Looking ahead, Otago plans to continue to use Esploro Smart Harvesting AI to capture a broader range of research outputs, including non-traditional formats like music scores. The University is also focused on integrating Esploro with its Alma-Primo library management and discovery platform to improve system communication and share reporting capabilities between the two platforms. This integration will allow for more efficient workflows and better analytics, particularly for open access and compliance reporting. By continuing to automate and streamline their research management processes with Esploro, the team at Otago is looking forward to even more improvements with faculty and student engagement and global visibility.

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