Informing and showcasing researchers' projects and impact case studies

The University of the Sunshine Coast helps to tell researchers' success stories using Esploro.

About the University of Sunshine Coast

The University of the Sunshine Coast was established in 1996 and has grown rapidly. They focus on advancing ground-breaking research and championing sustainability with a commitment to increasing knowledge and finding solutions focused on ensuring healthier people and a healthier planet.

The UniSC Research Bank, the institutional repository for the University of the Sunshine Coast, offers open access to the university's scholarly research, making it available to local and global communities.

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> **"We recognized the potential in Esploro beyond simply replacing our previous repository. We're now adapting it into an impact repository, enabling us to track evidence for impact case studies."**
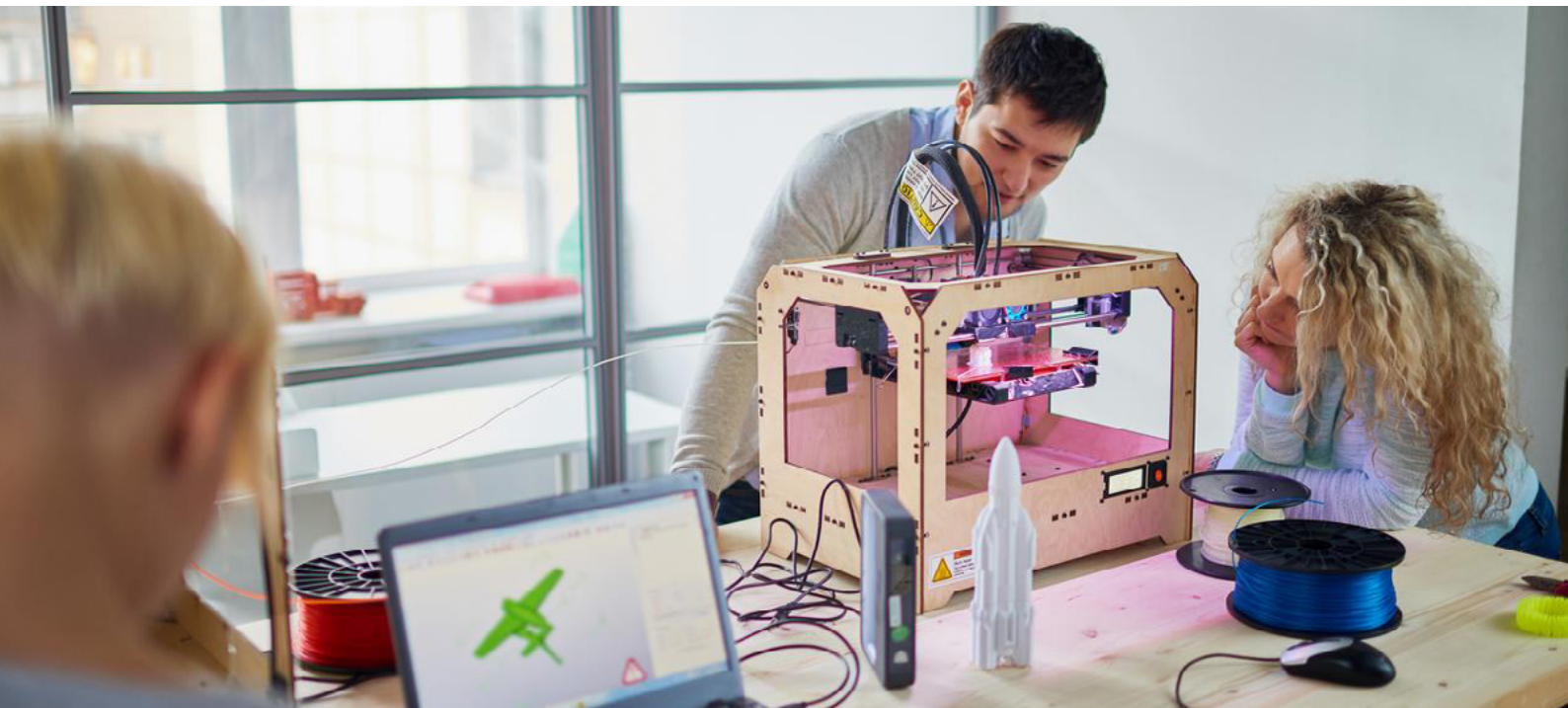
Floris van der Leest,
Manager of Research Performance Information,
University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia

The challenge of showcasing and tracking research impact

Like many institutions, Australia's University of the Sunshine Coast (UniSC) sought to improve the visibility and reach of its scholarly research output and more effectively track the impact of its research. With a growing body of research output, UniSC needed a solution that could manage the increasing volume of data and ensure that their research was easily discoverable.

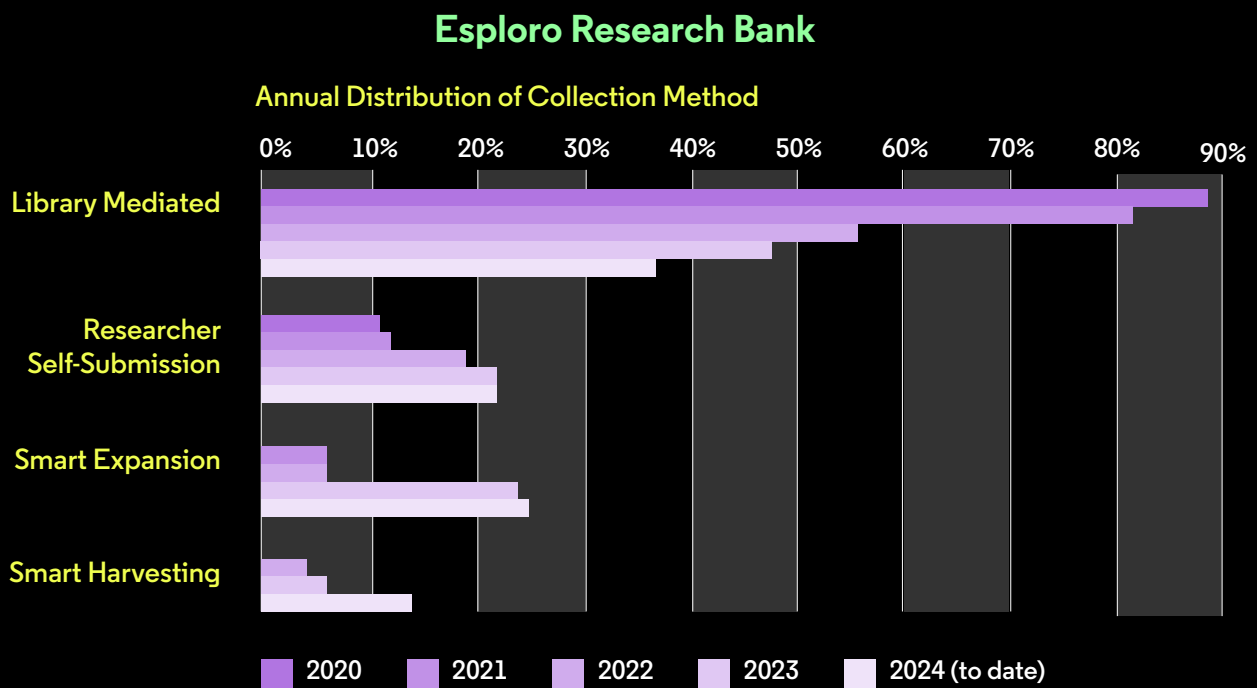## Implementing Esploro to boost research exposure

Tackling the issue head-on, UniSC adopted Esploro, a comprehensive platform that extends beyond traditional repositories. With Esploro's research profile management and open-access capabilities, UniSC significantly boosted the global visibility of its research.

Reducing administrative burden

By leveraging Esploro's advanced features like automated data capture and Smart Harvesting AI for metadata enrichment, UniSC significantly reduced the need for manual data entry, keeping researcher profiles both comprehensive and up to date. The impact is clear: between 2023 and 2024, library-mediated collection efforts were nearly halved as Esploro's Smart Expansion and Smart Harvesting took over. As machine learning continues to optimize these processes, the efficiency will only increase, further easing the administrative burden on the library.

"Thanks to advancements in machine learning, Smart Harvesting has become incredibly accurate," said **Rebecca Cooke, Senior Digital Library Officer at UniSC**. "This means librarians now spend less time managing asset deposits and can focus more on enhancing Esploro's Researcher Profiles with other entities like grants, supervision, projects and media mentions."

Esploro Research Bank

Annual Distribution of Collection Method

Library Mediated, Researcher Self-Submission, Smart Expansion, Smart Harvesting

Legend: 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 (to date)

Strengthening researcher profiles

Additionally, Esploro's integration with UniSC's existing systems facilitated seamless data flow, enhancing the management of research outputs, and updating these directly in researcher profiles, including grants, contracts, and HDR supervision. This integration reduces time and effort of the researcher and increases the comprehensiveness of each profile by providing a complete picture of the researcher's contributions. Additionally, through the integration of Pivot-RP with Esploro, researchers can access tailored funding opportunities directly from their Esploro profile page.

A repository for impact stories and case studies

By repurposing Esploro's Project entity, UniSC researchers are creating detailed case studies and impact stories with comprehensive evidence trails. They associate support such as grants and student contributions, output like publications, and other relevant files with their projects. Researchers enrich these narratives by including testimonials, press releases, and additional materials, effectively showcasing the real-world impact of their work. This functionality helps UniSC researchers highlight the broader influence of their research on society and engage more effectively with stakeholders.

'We are using Esploro Projects to capture case studies for researchers. Most of the information needed is already in their profiles, so linking it to their stories is straightforward. Initially, a few people will create these stories, then five to ten will join in, and soon, everyone will want their own,' says Mr. van der Leest."

The power of Esploro

The implementation of Esploro has transformed how UniSC manages and showcases its research output. With automated data capture, enriched researcher profiles, and seamless system integrations, the institution has improved the visibility and accessibility of its researchers' work and reduced administrative burden, empowering their researchers to focus more energy where it belongs: on their vital work.

"UniSC's implementation of Esploro demonstrates its commitment to showcasing its impactful research and providing a versatile platform for its academic community. By leveraging Esploro's features, UniSC enhances collaboration, visibility, and evidence, based impact tracking."

Floris van der Leest,
Manager of Research Performance Information,
University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia

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