

Bringing a buzz to NECTAR

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1. Project aim and objectives:

Aim:

- To enhance researcher engagement with [NECTAR](#) by implementing the sector's best repository tools, services and procedures.

Objectives:

- To modify university procedures for submission to NECTAR to increase researcher involvement, encourage the deposit of full content and further embed NECTAR in researcher **workflows**.
- To implement technical and procedural changes to ensure NECTAR is compatible with the British Library's thesis service, **ETHOS**.
- To implement technical and procedural solutions to ensure NECTAR is ready to support the Research Excellence Framework (**REF**).
- Through implementation of the Eprints Kultur plugin and rebranding of the repository **interface**, to better display the creative research outputs of the institution and to visually embed NECTAR within The University of Northampton's new university website.
- To implement the sector's best ideas for new '**added value**' services from NECTAR to increase the perceived benefit of NECTAR.
- To provide a programme of appropriate training, **advocacy** and promotional activity to support the changes described above.
- To **collaborate** with colleagues in the sector to ensure that best practice is followed.

2. Project outputs - workflow

- Changes to data entry procedures have been implemented and promoted. Researchers in most Schools now enter their own work into NECTAR.

3. Project outputs - website

- NECTAR has been rebranded to match the university website.
- Eprints Services have implemented the Kultur extension in NECTAR. There is now a scrolling display of images on the home page and reformatted item pages which present full content (if available) before metadata.
- Other changes to the home page include the replacement of the 'top 5 papers' list with a 'latest additions' list and minor changes in response to researcher feedback.

4. Project outputs – value added services

- Researchers are now notified by email when their items are deposited in live NECTAR.
- NECTAR bibliographies on School Research web pages have been revised in response to researcher feedback
- Personal NECTAR bibliographies are now output to staff profile pages.
- Improved statistics for NECTAR usage are gathered on a regular basis (using Google Analytics and IRStats).

5. Project outputs - REF

- Following an upgrade to the underlying Eprints software, NECTAR now has the capacity to support the university's REF submission.
- Training for Unit of Assessment leaders is being arranged.

6. Project outputs - eTheses

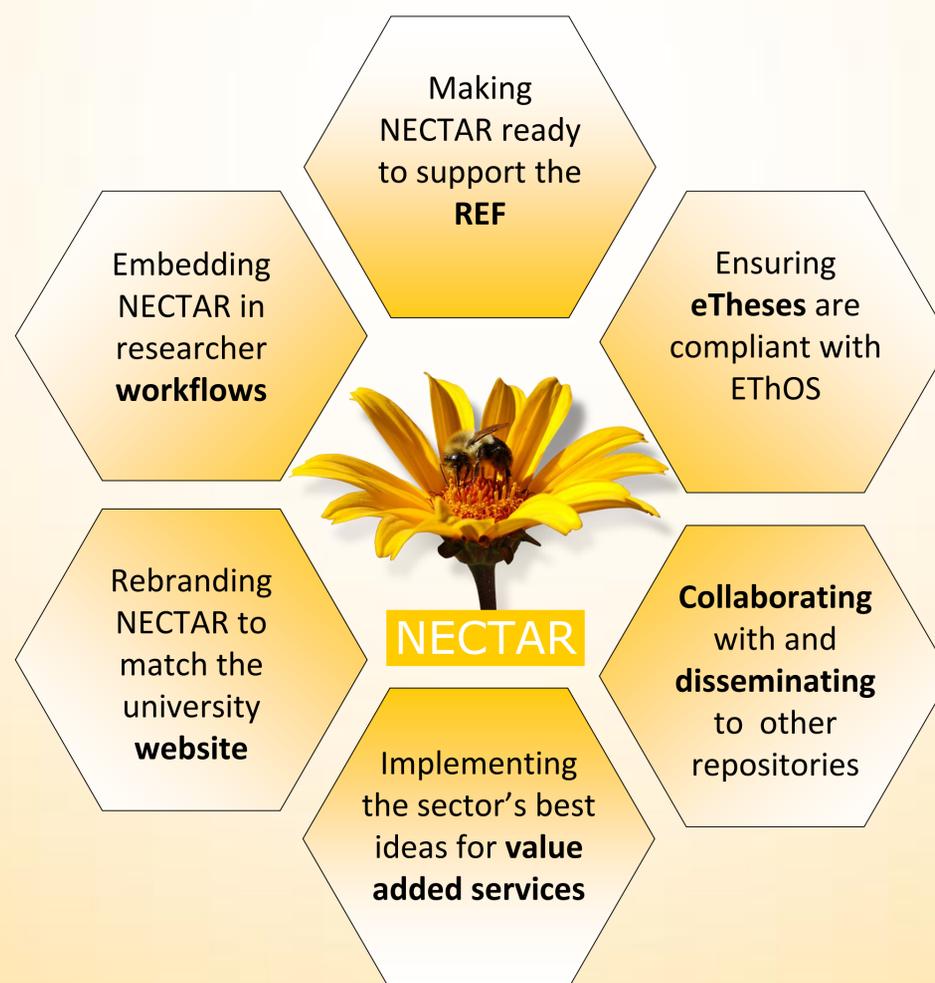
- In conjunction with the university's Graduate School:
 - Metadata (including Abstracts) have been uploaded to NECTAR for all University of Northampton theses.
 - Procedures for submission of electronic copies of theses have been updated and approved by the University's Research Degrees Committee.
- Technical changes have been made to enable NECTAR to be harvested by the British Library's thesis service, ETHOS.

7. Project outputs – advocacy and dissemination

- Local advocacy activity has included presentations to research groups and School Research Forums – where possible with School NECTAR administrators in attendance.
- The project report, two technical notices, one published journal article and a series of conference presentations have facilitated dissemination to the sector.

8. Project outcomes

- The ability to enter their own work has increased researcher engagement, and the likelihood of full text being uploaded.
- The publications lists on staff profile page have gone down particularly well, prompting queries to the NECTAR team and increased interest in the repository.
- Research managers and administrators value the information they can derive from NECTAR.
- The need for additional support for NECTAR has finally been recognised; Nick Dimmock was appointed in December as 'Research Information Specialist'.



Elements of the 'Bringing a buzz to NECTAR' project

We are grateful to the JISC for funding this project.