

Transcript of Dr Catherine Hobbs (Head of Research, School of Technology, Oxford Brookes University), talking about the benefits of RADAR

I see RADAR as being a really beneficial aspect of life at Brookes, particularly for the research community, in that it will be able to disseminate our research to a wider audience. We can do the best research in the world, but if people don't know about it, then we won't see the benefits, both for ourselves and in future research assessment exercises, and so on. So I think the main benefit will be that an online database that people from anywhere can search will allow our research to be more visible in the outside world.

There are other benefits as well: one particularly, I think, nice aspect of RADAR is that it will enable us to *link digital objects together*. So for example when a researcher publishes a paper it is sometimes constrained by the number of pages they are allowed to have within the journal. Well on RADAR, we can put a larger, a longer version of a research article. We can link in data files that the researcher may have produced that pertain to the article, and also software: particularly in the School of Technology, we often have associated software that goes with the research article and we can link that in via RADAR, I think that will be very useful.

And a third benefit, which is particularly relevant to those of us developing web pages within the university, is that we can use RADAR as a database to populate our web pages. So, for example, if you have the personal web page of a researcher in the School, you can use RADAR to immediately populate that page with their publications, rather than having to manually implement...put those publications in for each person. That I think will be a very great benefit to those of us producing web pages.

And you can do other nice things: so for example using the metadata in RADAR, you can link research articles with a particular research group, and then for example pull up all the publications of a given research group.

For the practical implementation of RADAR within our School, the first task at the moment is to put our back catalogue onto RADAR, so all the publications we have up to now; it's, as you can imagine, a very large task. We've got our research administrator working at the moment, putting information into a database that can be read directly through onto RADAR.

Robin Abbi, our web technologist has developed code that enables us to do that quite nicely. We're working through a large list at the moment of all the back publications from our researchers. Eventually what we see is the more streamlined approach where researchers themselves should be able to upload information through this database and put it onto RADAR, having gone through the necessary checks of course about copyright and consistency etc.

For more details see www.brookes.ac.uk/go/radar