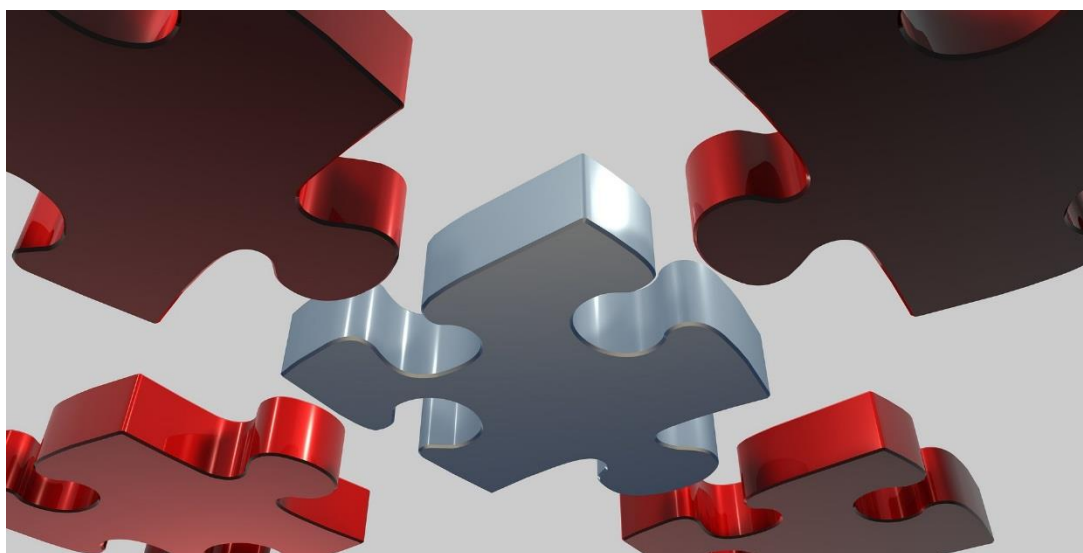We've come a long way since 2008 when…

- The Global Economic Crisis was underway
- Barak Obama was elected the first African-American President of the USA
- …and Edinburgh Napier University got its first institutional repository

There have been challenges but the repository is established and growing. Increasing deposits show researcher engagement. Statistics gathered by the repository demonstrate our research is being discovered worldwide.

Where are we now?

The repository is a substantial university resource and is ripe for exploiting but there are challenges to making the most of this showcase of university research:

Challenge 1 – *We've got it, let's use it*
Academics deposit work in the repository but how do we keep the momentum going? Workflow processes should be easy and accessible. New researchers joining the University are encouraged to add their publications to the repository. Awareness of the repository should be embedded into staff induction.

Challenge 2 – *The end of the line*
Get beyond the idea that depositing work in the repository is the end of the research story. More could be done with the information generated by the repository and also with the information in it. How do we demonstrate the repository's value?

Challenge 3 – *Put stuff in, then put more stuff in*

This is a bigger challenge for us to address. Researchers should think beyond depositing articles by depositing other materials like sketches, photographs, audio files, electronic lab notebooks…as well as the data that underpins their research.

Challenge 4 – *The biggest challenge of all!*

How do we overcome all these challenges? We work in uncertain times with budget cuts and reductions in staff numbers. Can we exploit technology better? The repository must work with external systems to deliver a fully automated process that eliminates the burden on the researcher.