Mixed licences & access types in repository-based research outputs

A UX Challenge

Tom Davey, UX specialist @ Jisc
@dorebank
• Context
  • About our service
  • UX

• The challenge
  • What was it
  • What we learned
  • What we’re planning to do about it
Jisc Open Research Hub

"A single interoperable system for managing, preserving and sharing institutional digital research data."

- Repository
- Reporting
- Preservation
- Integrations
Describe your dataset

A well described deposit increases its chances of being discovered by others

**What is the title of this dataset?**

Effects of application of thermally energised liquid to the leaves of camellia sinensis

**Does this dataset relate to an article? Consider using a different title from that of the article**

Please provide at least one type of **description** for this dataset

**Description 1:**

This study relates to the traditional practice of brewing leaves, and produced data related to the perceived refreshment provided.

**If you are including information about how to open your dataset, please include this as a Technical information description**
What is UX

• How things look 👀👀
• How things feel 🫖
• How things help you achieve your goal 💪💪
• How usable it is 🤝

} • Useful

} • Valuable
Why UX @ Jisc

‘System 1’
- Auto-pilot
- Fast
- Instinctive
- Intuitive
- Subconscious

‘System 2’
- Slower
- More reflective
- Conscious
Deposits with **mixed access** and/or **mixed licence**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>File</th>
<th>Licence</th>
<th>Access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>File_1.csv</td>
<td>CC-BY-NC-4.0</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>File_2.pdf</td>
<td>CC-BY-SA-4.0</td>
<td>Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>File_3.jpg</td>
<td>Apache License 2.0</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How common? **Avg. 5.1**
Mixed Access & Licence
The challenges
1 - Hard to deposit
1 - Hard to deposit

... Complicated UI

- Unintuitive structure
- Switching contexts (file vs. access)

Confusion, disempowerment, disengagement

Bad or incomplete data
1 - Hard to deposit

... Tension

- We want robust, rich, accurate metadata
- Users can only do stuff if the question is meaningful and they know the answer
- Being ⬇️ strict and shouty ⬆️ will not help engagement
- Box-ticking exercises aren’t engaging & don’t help our ultimate cause

89% talked about support being manual (email, phone)
1 - Hard to deposit

... Workarounds galore

57% of respondents talked about workarounds.

“We currently only have one license field, so end up having to define licenses in text files or elsewhere in the repository”

“Current system forces us to create separate records for each licence type and/or access type, putting data away from the associated code, for example”
2 - Risk of contradictions

69% of respondents said contradictions not acceptable

Set the access for the files:

Mixed ▼

Set the access for each file:

file1.csv Open ▼
file2.pdf Open ▼
file3.pdf Open ▼
file4.pdf Open ▼
3 - Tends towards a messy discovery experience
What we’re doing about it
1 - Simplify ingest

Licence*
Licences define how your work can be re-used by others. If you are unsure of the appropriate licence for your work, contact your supervisor. What type of licence do you wish to give this dataset?*

○ Creative Commons licence
○ Other licences
○ Mixed - Different files should have different licences
1 - Simplify ingest

- Creative Commons licence
- Other licences
- Mixed - Different files should have different licences

Please specify the licence for each individual file:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Filename</th>
<th>Licence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CompanyDetails.xls</td>
<td>Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC-BY-4.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AnotherFile.csv</td>
<td>Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial Share Alike 4.0 International (CC-BY-NC-SA-4.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FileWithAnExtremelyLongFilenameWhichWillWrap.jpg</td>
<td>Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial Share Alike 4.0 International (CC-BY-NC-SA-4.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 2 - Force no-contradictions

### Mixed - Different files should have different licences

Please specify the licence for each individual file:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Filename</th>
<th>Licence*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CompanyDetails.xls</td>
<td>Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC-BY-4.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[Licence details (opens in a new window)]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AnotherFile.csv</td>
<td>Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC-BY-4.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[Licence details (opens in a new window)]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FileWithAnExtremelyLongFilenameWhichWillWrap.jpg</td>
<td>Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC-BY-4.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[Licence details (opens in a new window)]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# 2 - Force no-contradictions

**Mixed - Different files should have different licences**

Please specify the licence for each individual file:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Filename</th>
<th>Licence*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CompanyDetails.xls</td>
<td>Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC-BY-4.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[Licence details (opens in a new window)]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AnotherFile.csv</td>
<td>Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC-BY-4.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[Licence details (opens in a new window)]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FileWithAnExtremelyLongFilenameWhichWillWrap.jpg</td>
<td>Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC-BY-4.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[Licence details (opens in a new window)]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

⚠️ You selected that the licences are **mixed**, but each file has the **same licence**.

1 - Check the licence for each file is correct.

2 - If they are [Set the licence to CC-BY-4.0](#)
3 - Allow ‘I don’t know’

What type of access will you give this dataset?*

- Open
  (Anyone can access the files)

- Closed
  (Only you and the people who manage the repository can access the files)

- Restricted
  (You and repository managers can access the files directly, and you can provide instructions for how others can access the files)

- Mixed
  (Different files should have different access restrictions)

- I’m not sure

If you have any information or comments that will help us process this, please provide them below
3 - Progressive disclosure

All detail is available. But not at the expense of usability.

Visibility of metadata = gives purpose = engagement
In summary

• We don’t consider this problem ‘solved’ across the market

• Even if systems *can* ‘handle it’, it’s not ‘solved’ until we fully address
  • How we ask for this information
  • How we present the information
  • How we handle the relationship
Thank you, any questions?

Tom Davey, UX specialist @ Jisc
@dorebank