

The Need(le) and the Want/d

Rethinking our Research Information Infrastructure

Presentation Armand Guicherit, TU Delft Library, 11 October 2022

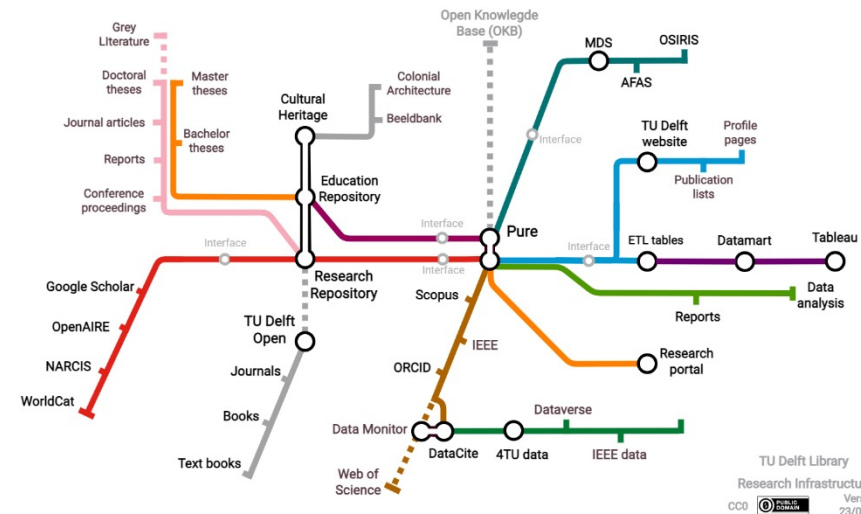
What do you mean 'Research Information Infrastructure'?

Our infrastructure allows our organisation to deliver our services:

- Ensure **compliance** with various **policies**;
- Enable **researchers** to **upload** their **files** in the repository;
- Allow **students** to **publish** their **thesis**;
- **Provide access to** our special(ized) **collections**;
- Allow anyone in **the world** to **find** and **download** our **publications**;
- **Provide access to** TU Delft **research information** using web-services (API's), the repository, the Research Portal and (ad hoc) reports

What do you mean 'Research Information Infrastructure'?

- It takes many people and a lot of effort to keep all these **systems running** and **ensure quality of the data**.
- But with all of this effort and energy going into this, we have not always made it easier for our **researchers** to find and use our services...
- So how do researcher's experience our research infrastructure?



Evaluation and discussion

Assignment 1

You're a TU Delft researcher and you have just given a brilliant presentation (good on you!).

Now you'd like to upload your presentation in the TU Delft Research repository.

Your colleague told you that you have to do this via Pure, but she wasn't sure and didn't have time to look because she had to run off to catch her train. Undeterred you decide to have a go at it yourself.

After all: how hard can it be?



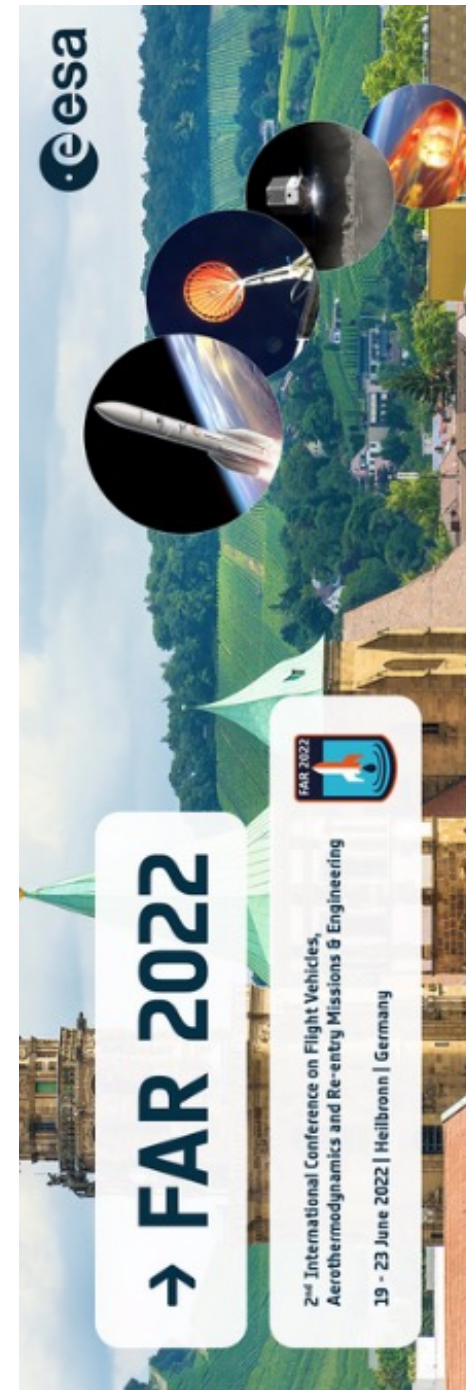
Assignment 2

You're a PhD student at Texas A&M University. Last summer you were lucky enough to go to the FAR conference in Germany.

At the conference, you attended a presentation on 'lowering space debris' using something called 'fiber bragg grating', a topic in which you hope to become a bit of an expert yourself!

You want to contact the presenter, but you just can't remember his name (was he from the TU Delft?). Unfortunately, the conference website is down due to technical difficulties, so you can't check the conference program. ;-)

You decide to *google* for 'lowering space debris' and 'fiber bragg grating' and hope for the best.



Assignment 3

Your supervisor told you to look up a technical report with the title: '*Self-Supervised Learning for Visual Obstacle Avoidance*'.

Find this report (you may google it 😊)



Self-Supervised
Learning for
Visual Obstacle
Avoidance

Technical report

Tom van Dijk

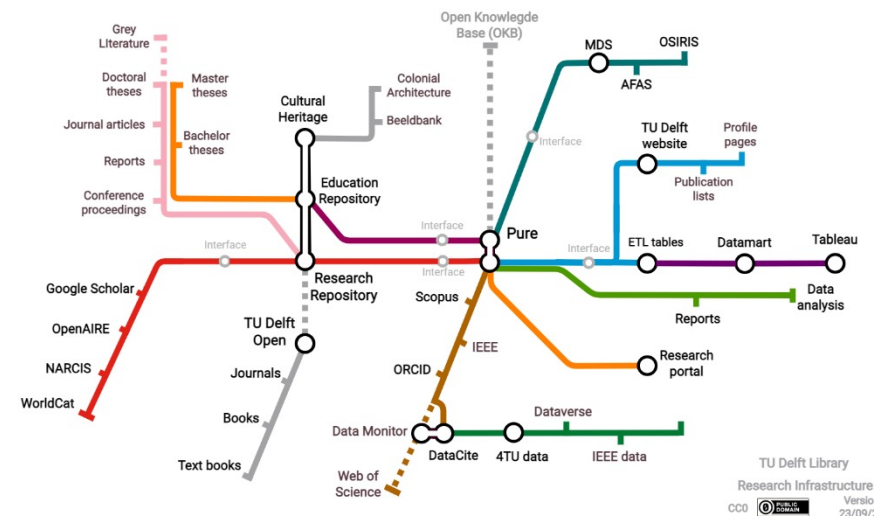
Reflection

The point of these assignments was to demonstrate a lack of clarity in the solutions we offer:

- Uploading a file in the repository is not a straightforward process.
- Researchers often have multiple profile pages in the TU Delft domain; they are not necessarily in control. This makes it difficult for them to maintain and for outsiders to navigate.
- The coherence between, Pure, the repository, the TU Delft website, the Research Portal is far from clear to researchers.
- Pure is complex in design; more geared towards librarians than researchers. There are many rules about what can/can't be registered.

Reflection

- For researchers it is quite difficult to find their way in our infrastructure.
- We would like to make it easier for our researchers: clearer and more useful.
- Our ideal: A single point of entry; intuitive interface; straightforward process; less restrictive and more 'ownership' for the researcher.



Keeping in mind...

Some possible values for TU Delft Library services

01

Clarity of Purpose

Each service has a clear purpose

02

Simplicity

The service should be simple to use

03

Findable

The service should be easily findable (whether via Google or website)

04

Feedback

The service should get regular feedback via users and analytics

05

Sustainable

The service should be sustainable

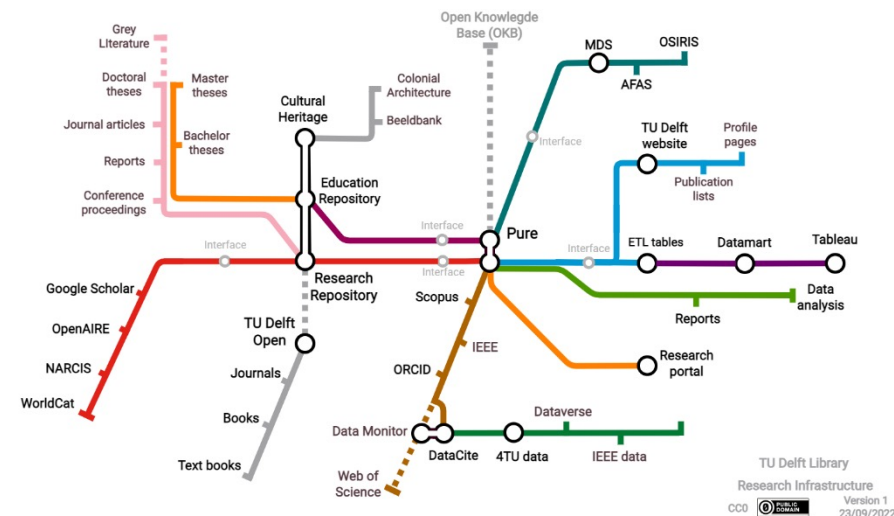
06

Metrics

Service should define success and publish metrics

So where are we now?

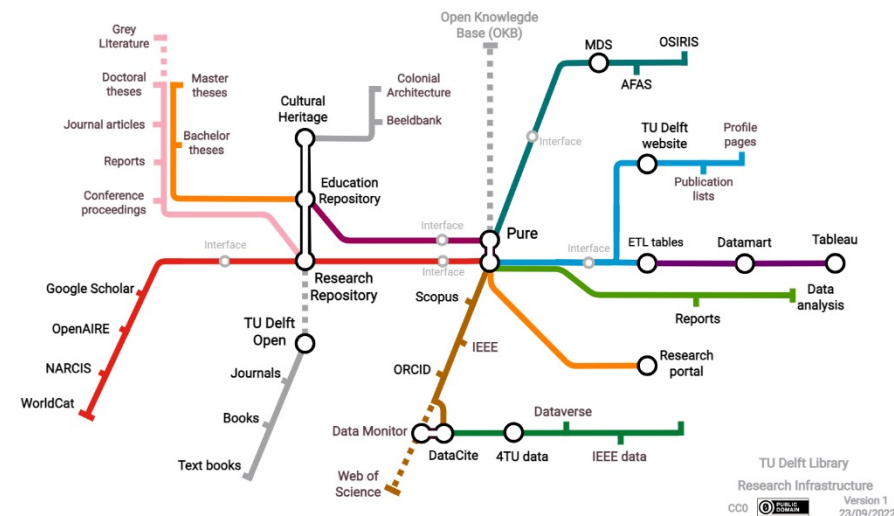
- We know that researchers sometimes get frustrated while using our infrastructure
- we want to make things better for them but this is not easily done.
- To improve your services, you need to change the underlying infrastructure.



So where are we now?

Can we keep it simple please? (the Want)

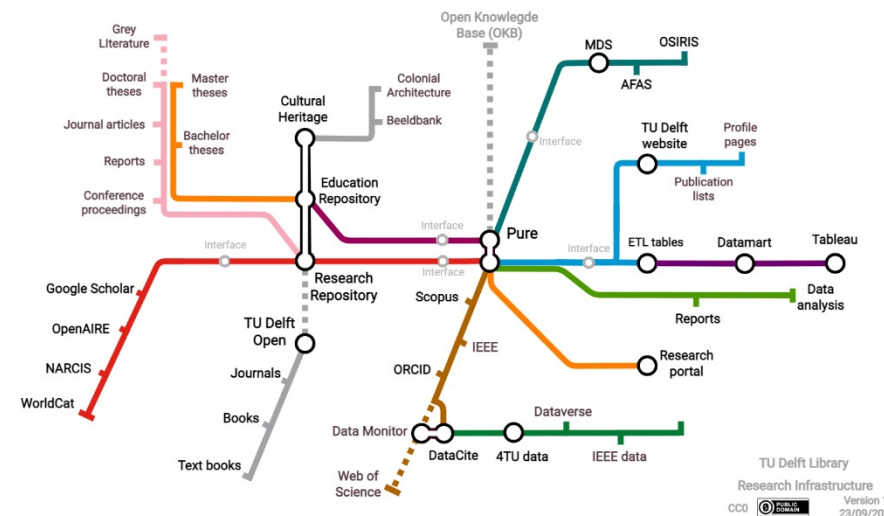
- One thing often mentioned by researchers, is that that the process of adding their content is overly complex.
- More ownership for researchers conflicts with purpose of CRIS
- Pure = Elsevier → different priorities and interests in development.



So where are we now?

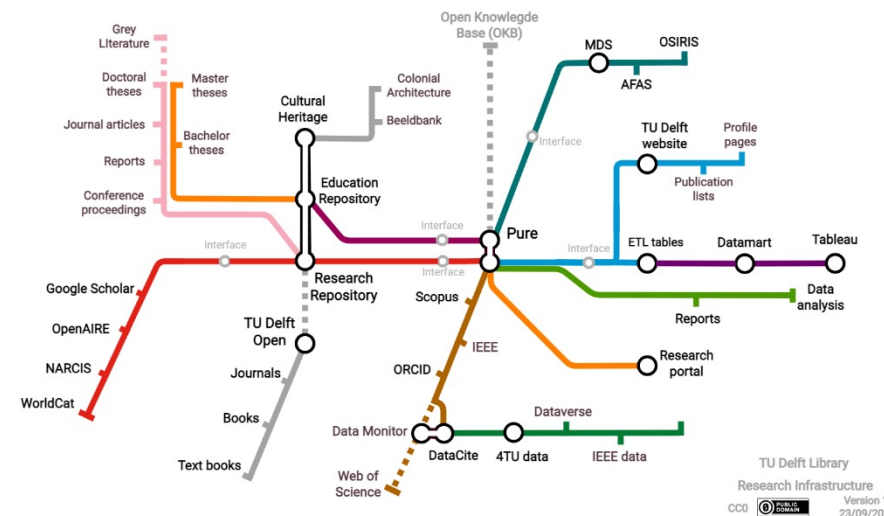
A repository at the end of its life (the Need)

- Need to replace our current repository software ('end of life').
- Because of the many interdependencies, replacing the repository is a major operation.
- BUT: also creates an opportunity to imagine what the repository could be and what we would like it to be.



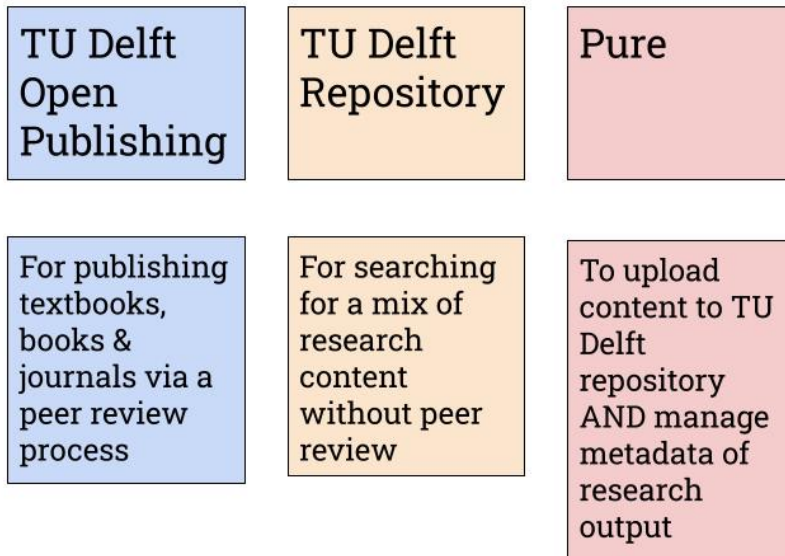
So where are we now?

- Team working on requirements for a new repository (near completion).
- Inspiration from *COAR's Next Generation Repositories*.
- Insights from interactions with researchers (e.g. Internal report: *'What Researchers Want', 2021*)
- Align with 4TU data repository (Djehuty).
- Look at existing services such as Zenodo and Research Gate.



Break-out session

We want to move from
the current situation...



Break-out session

To this new situation

TU Delft
Open
Publishing

For publishing
textbooks,
books &
journals via a
peer review
process

TU Delft
Repository

For **publishing**
any (?)
research (?)
content
without peer
review

Pure

Only for
library to
manage
metadata
about research
output

Break-out session

To this new situation

Discussion

What do you expect are the implications of this vision:

- For researchers
- For our way of working
- For our communications (with researchers)
- For our infrastructure?

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Links

- Requirements TU Delft repository: <https://edu.nl/pqau8>
- COAR next generation repositories:
- <https://www.coar-repositories.org/news-updates/what-we-do/next-generation-repositories/>