



Unitec ePress Overview

A significant challenge for Higher Education Institutions is to influence and facilitate the development of a financially sustainable model for the communication of scholarly research output. Such a model needs to address issues of the following kind:

- The increasing volume and rising costs of traditional scholarly communication
- The current economic and organisational barriers to entry into an alternative digital environment
- The need to provide reliable quality assurance mechanisms
- The need to ensure efficient dissemination among peers, with opportunity for review and commentary
- The effective management of intellectual property rights

To meet this challenge, Unitec established ePress in 2011 which seeks to provide, in a digital environment, an effective mechanism for the dissemination of scholarly research conducted within the institution.

What is the Unitec ePress?

The ePress as an innovator

Unitec ePress stimulates and facilitates innovation in scholarly communication in support of research and teaching.

The Research Office hosts Unitec ePress. In partnership with scholars, academic publishers, librarians, and information technologists, Unitec ePress works to explore and enable new modes of scholarly publication within a digital repository environment, including:

- The production of electronic editions of academic monographs of interest to scholarly and general-interest readers
- Web-based dissemination of digital publications
- Support for presentation and dissemination of interactive publications and teaching materials
- The development of technologies that enhance peer review while accelerating dissemination of scholarly publication

The components of the Unitec ePress

Unitec ePress provides an electronically delivered scholarly list accessible on the web, via downloaded, or print on demand facilities.

Overseeing the development of Unitec ePress are a **advisory** and **editorial committee** whose membership includes representatives from the three Faculties, the Professoriate Group and other major stakeholders. These committees determine the broad strategic and policy directions taken by Unitec ePress, monitor progress, and champion the project within the University.

The purpose of the Unitec ePress

Unitec ePress collects, disseminates, brands and makes available selected scholarly research undertaken at Unitec. Unitec ePress facilitates communication among scholars, especially with respect to:

- Publication of research results
- Collection and capturing of scholarly dialogues
- Creation of archival records

The features and infrastructure of the Unitec ePress

Unitec ePress supports the following:

- Open ePublication
- Institution-based repositories with appropriate listings and metadata/discovery mechanisms
- A centralised repository
- A low-cost, common-good funding model
- Moderation/peer review
- Copyright preserved by creators
- Facilities for access to and transfer of electronic information

The role of a Unitec ePress brand

- Moderated archival publications
- Thematic series
- Global distribution
- Recognition and credentialing

The resources of Unitec ePress

- A maintained server
- Open archive facilities
- Web pages/FAQs, Help/QA services, particularly for copyright and publisher licence assistance
- Editorial services
- Marketing and promotion
- Print-on-demand facility

Why use the Unitec ePress?

The principal focus of Unitec ePress is to make available the intellectual output of the academic and postgraduate communities of Unitec. The premise for distribution is that

material posted on Unitec ePress web site will be suitably credentialed, indexed and marketed, and online content will be available free of charge.

Unitec ePress endeavours to:

- Promote Unitec's research activities and intellectual capital in ways that enhance the institutions' brand
- Foster research and instruction by providing a more direct link between the writers and readers of scholarly material
- Lead scholarly innovations in publishing
- Provide an alternative means for the production and dissemination of scholarship
- Reduce costs of and barriers to access to scholarly information
- Promote electronic journals in underserved and emerging disciplines
- Contribute to the development of comprehensive repositories promoting 'one-stop shopping' for researchers

What services does the Unitec ePress provide?

Unitec ePress manages the submission, manuscript tracking, refereeing and publishing in electronic format of scholarly information, with material available through the Internet.

Unitec ePress endeavours to:

- Provide standardised publishing processes via a generic set of publishing workflows
- Manage the relationship between publisher and author from proposal and contract, through editorial workflow to finished electronic product
- Support publishing and viewing content in a number of file formats
- Enable content indexing in the form of subject headings and metadata
- Provide system administration tools including:
 - security and access control
 - workflow creation and management
 - other administrative functions