

# Analysis of UK Repository Platforms

Who is using what and why?

George Bray

Repository and Metadata Assistant Librarian | [g.r.bray@rgu.ac.uk](mailto:g.r.bray@rgu.ac.uk) | ORCID: 0000-0002-7925-3347

# What will be covered

- Data sources
- Repository systems in use
  - Overview; Commercial vs open source; Data repositories
- Focus on "university" non-data repositories
  - By size of institution
  - By "research intensity"
  - By "age"
  - By institutional group
  - By region
- Why switch? Why stay the same?

# Data sources: repository systems

- UKCORR
  - UK Council of Open Research and Repositories  
(<https://www.ukcorr.org/> - Knowledgebase > Membership Resources > Repository / CRIS software)  
Snapshot created 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024
    - Already a spreadsheet – easier to work with?
    - UK-focused – more relevant?
    - Low-effort, community-maintained – more comprehensive and up-to-date?
    - (In fact, incomplete and out-of-date)
- Potential for the future:
  - OpenDOAR (<https://www.jisc.ac.uk/opendoar>)
  - euroCRIS DRIS (<https://eurocris.org/services/dris>)
- Also used developer websites + Wikipedia

# Data sources: institutions

- "Size" based on number of FTE students, as reported in the [Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025](#)
- "Research intensity" as reported in the [Complete University Guide University League Tables 2025](#)
- "Age" based on date granted university title (or degree-awarding powers if no title), as per the [Office for Students](#) - or Wikipedia pages for unlisted/non-English institutions
- "Institutional groups" based on groups' own member lists
- "Region" based on institutional entry on [UCAS' website](#)

# Data sources: switching/retention

- UKCORR mailing list archives
- Conversations with colleagues at various institutions

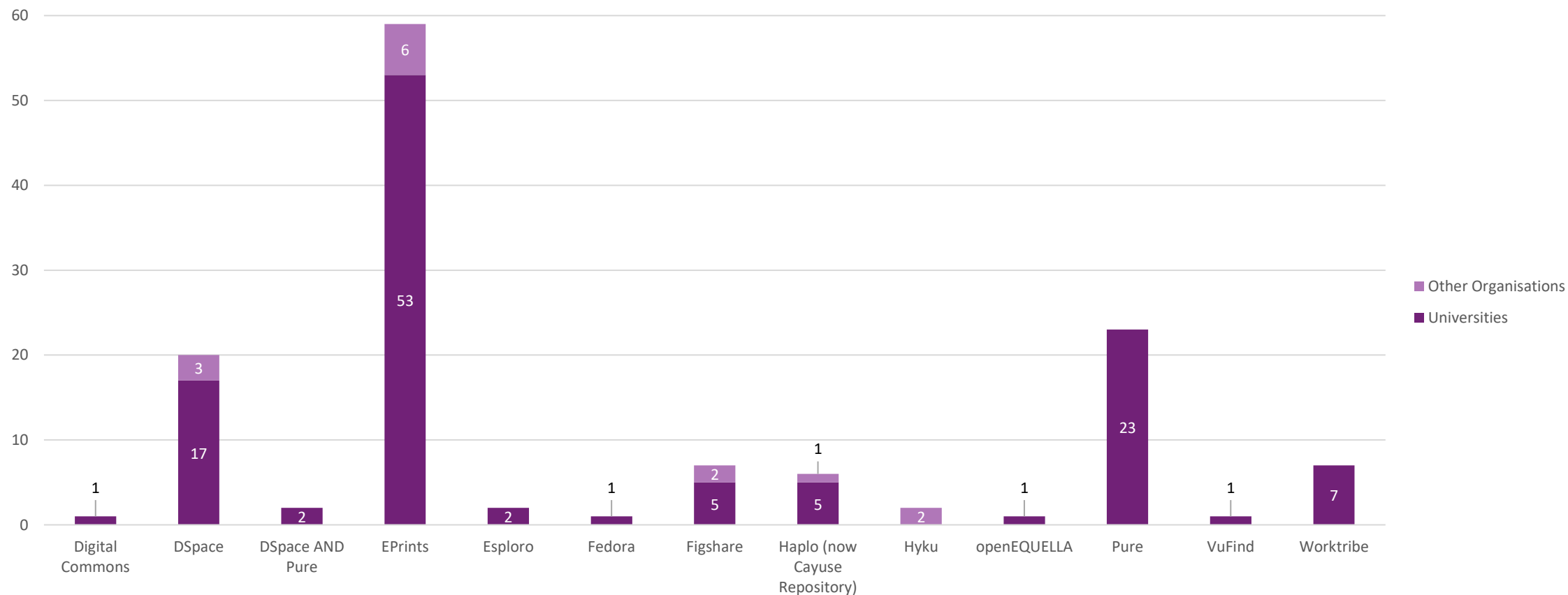
## And a final disclaimer...

- Inexpert and hurried data analysis, informal and problematic data sources
- Starting point, not "truth"
- Further (and more rigorous) investigation is encouraged :-)

# Repository Systems in Use

# Overview of non-data repositories

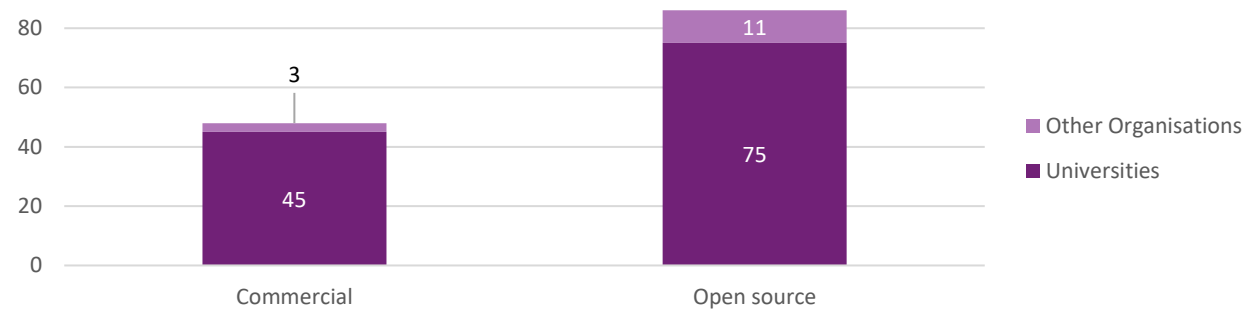
132 institutions (118 universities, 14 others), 134 non-data repositories, 12 systems



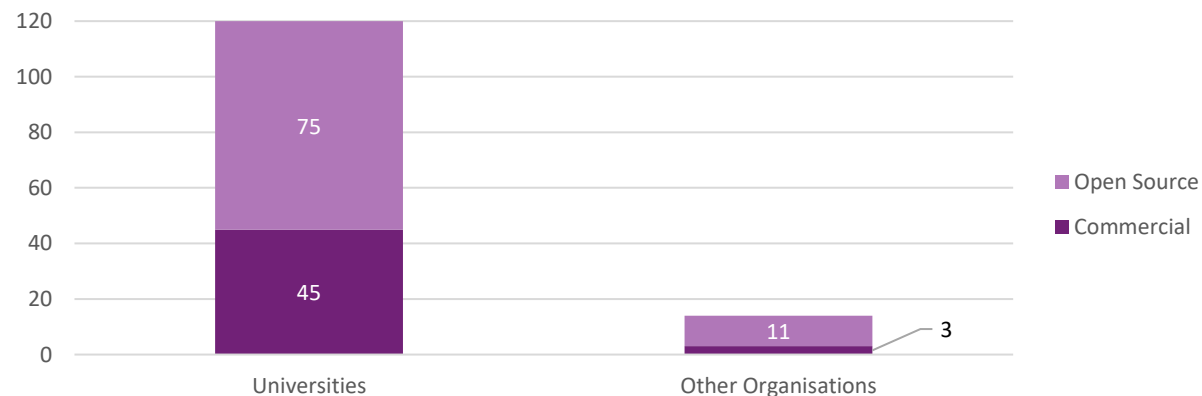
# Commercial vs open source

Repository System	System Type	Developer/Owner
Digital Commons	Commercial	bepress / Elsevier
Esploro	Commercial	Ex Libris / ProQuest
Figshare	Commercial	Digital Science
Haplo (now Cayuse Repository)	Commercial	Cayuse
Pure	Commercial	Elsevier
Worktribe	Commercial	Worktribe
DSpace	Open source	DuraSpace / Lyrisis
EPrints	Open source	University of Southampton
Fedora	Open source	DuraSpace / Lyrisis
Hyku	Open source	Samvera
openEQUELLA	Open source	Apereo
VuFind	Open source	VuFind Community

Commercial vs Open Source



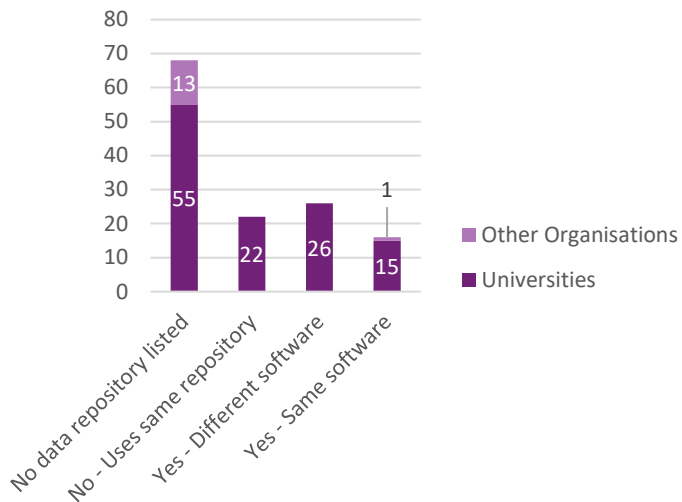
Universities vs Other Organisations



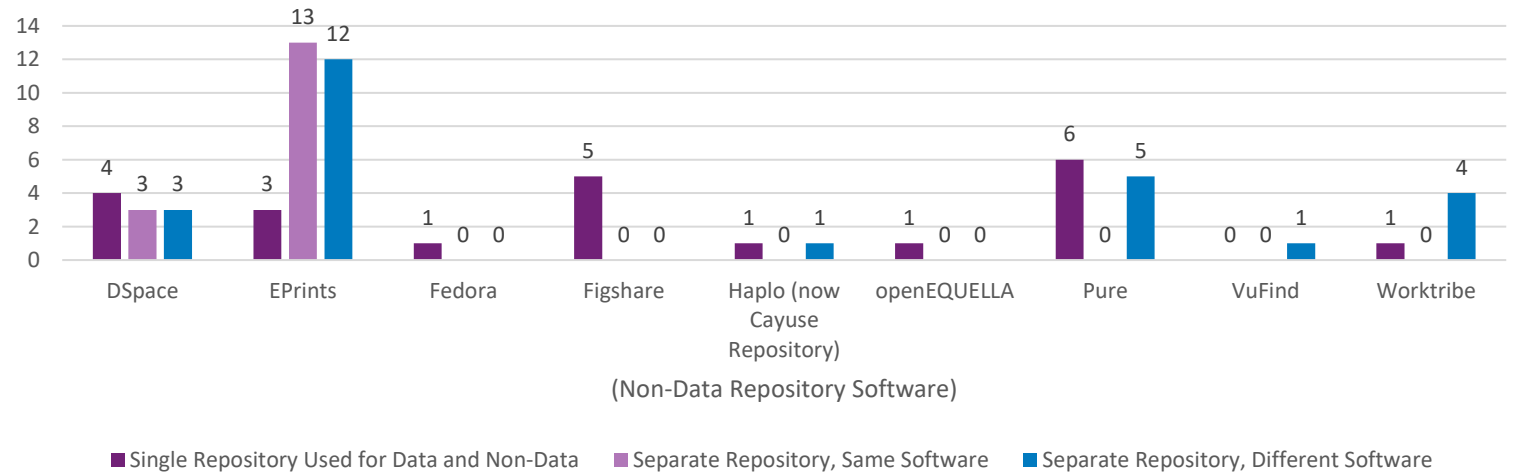


# Data repositories

Data Repository Scenarios



Repository Software vs Data Repository Scenario



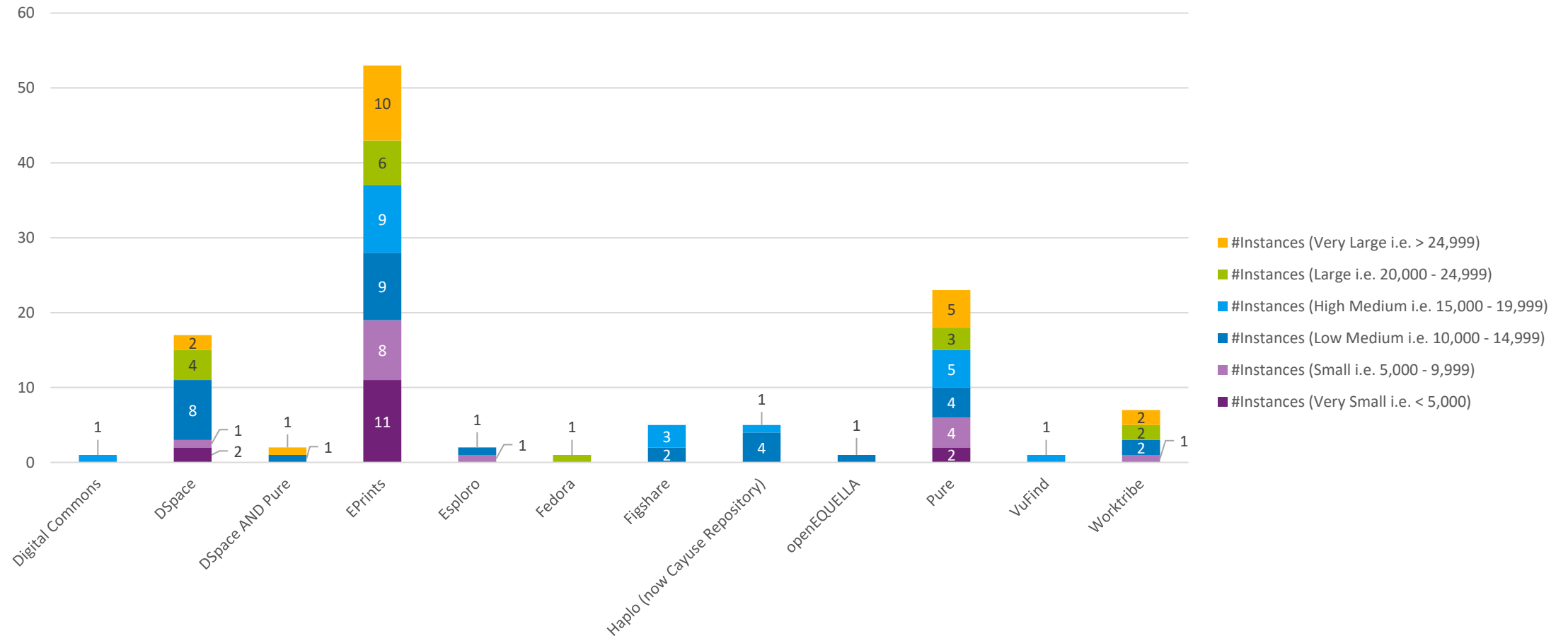
## Separate Data and Non-Data Repositories, Different Software

Non-Data Repository System	#Instances	Data Repository Details
DSpace	3	Figshare x 2, Pure x 1
EPrints	12	Figshare x 10, Pure x 2
Haplo (now Cayuse Repository)	1	Figshare
Pure	5	EPrints x 1, Figshare x 4
VuFind	1	Zenodo
Worktribe	4	DSpace x 1, Fedora x 1, Figshare x 1, Sufia x 1

# Focus on “University” and Non-Data Repositories

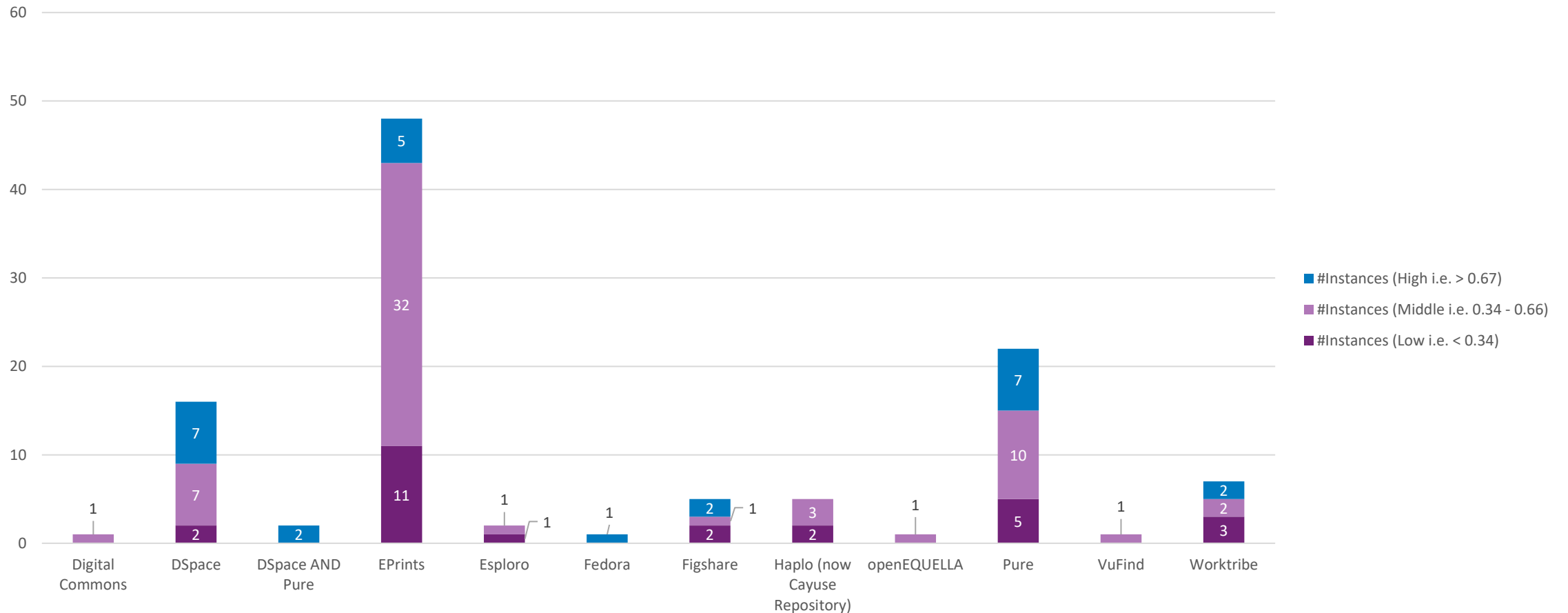
# Repositories by size of institution

Repository Systems by Size of Institution



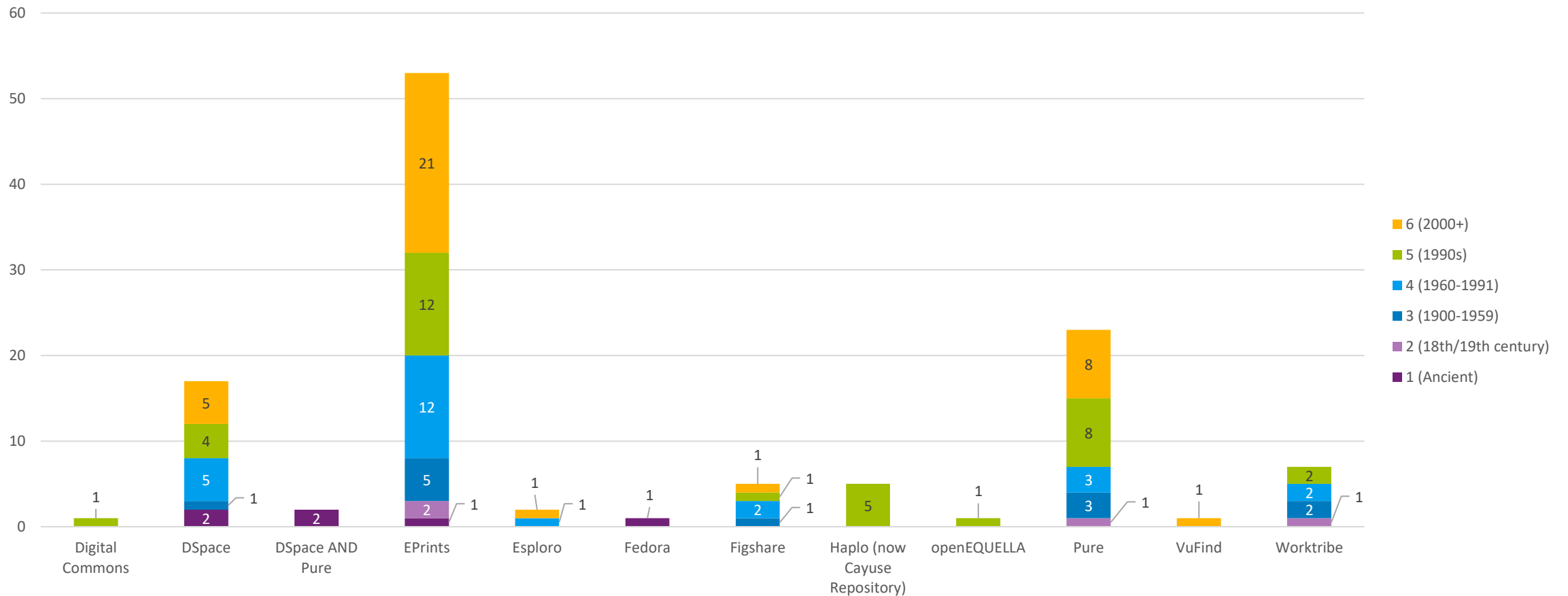
# Repositories by "research intensity"

Repository Systems by "Research Intensity"



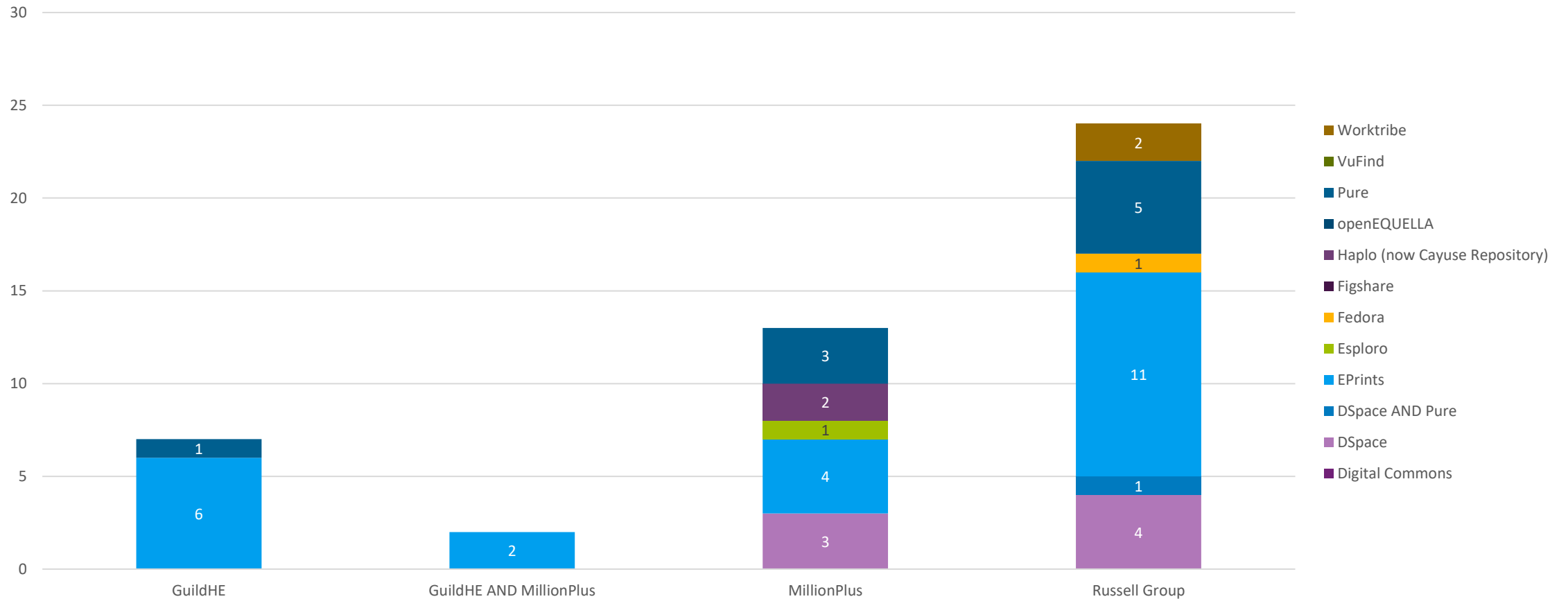
# Repositories by "age" of institution

Repository Systems by "Age" of Institution



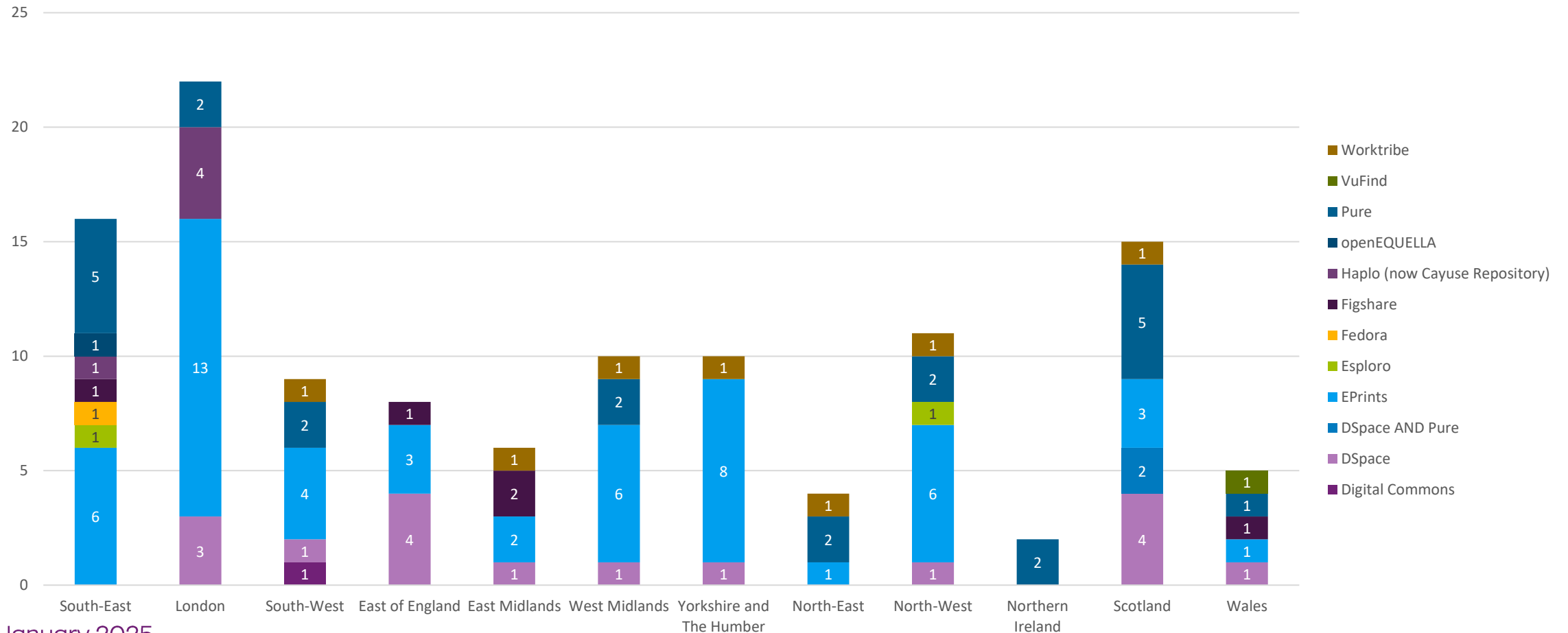
# Repositories by institutional groups

Repository Systems by Institutional Group



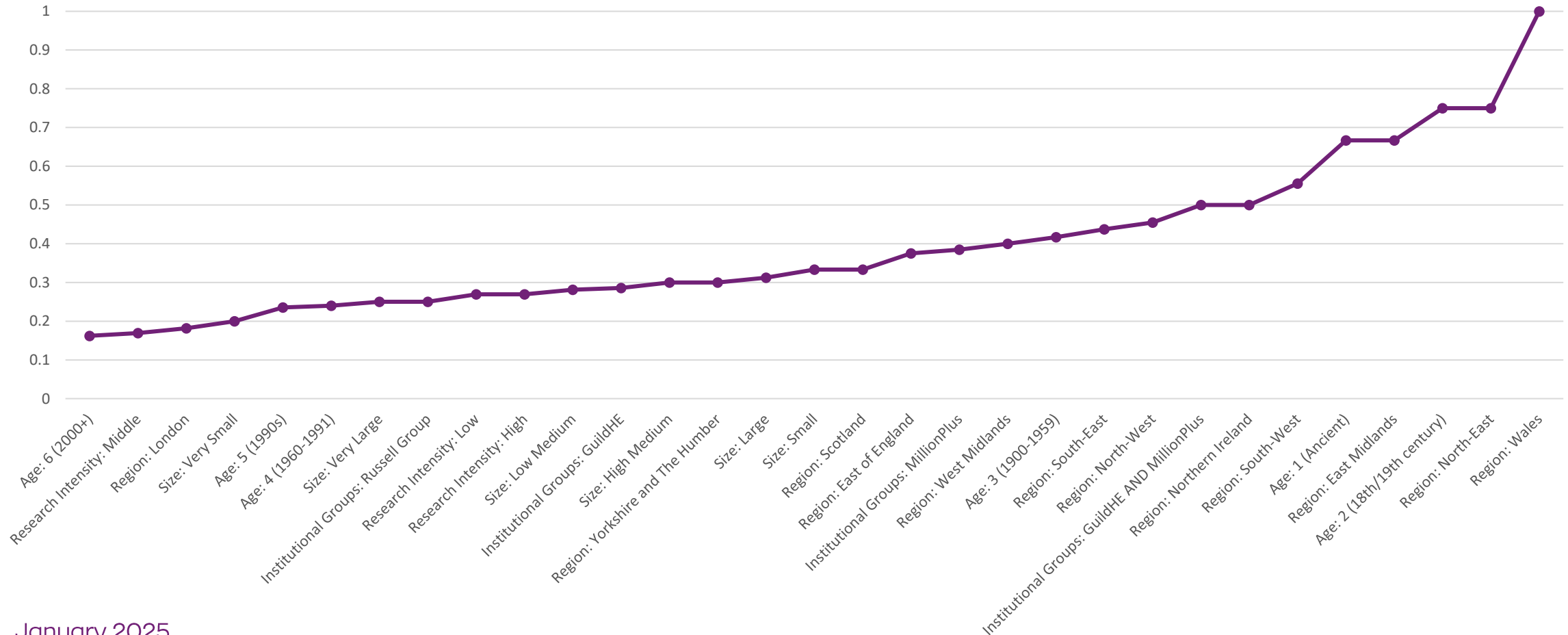
# Repositories by region of the UK

Repository Systems in Use Across Regions of the UK



# "Variety scores"

Analysis of University Non-Data Repositories by "Variety Score"

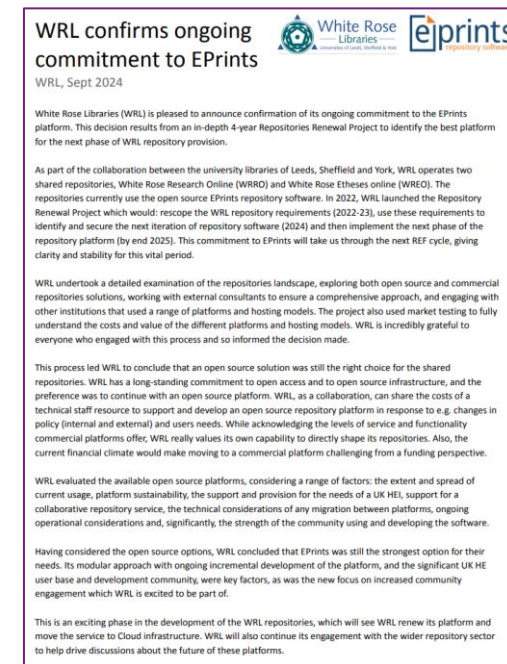




# Why Switch? Why Stay the Same?

# Example of decision-making

- White Rose Libraries' September 2024 [announcement](#) about staying with EPrints:
  - Costs:
    - Commercial vs open source, and financial circumstances
  - Value:
    - Customisability, meeting local needs
    - Functionality
    - Community
  - Technical/logistical considerations
    - Migration, service levels, sustainability
  - Preference for open source



# Main factors?

- Cost
  - Infrastructure (commercial licences / open source servers); Human resource (technical staff/expertise, streamlining workflows)
- Timing
  - Sector events (REF, economy); Local events (other IT projects, availability of staffing and skills)
- Functionality
  - Advanced functionality (research data, integrations); Local needs (UK requirements, branding/customisation, disciplinary focus)
- Community
  - Active development; Availability of support

# Thank you for listening

Copy of slides, notes and my spreadsheet of quantitative data to be made available from RGU's repository, OpenAIR  
(<https://openair.rgu.ac.uk>)

Feel free to contact me with any further questions!