# Improving the integration between DSpace and Symplectic Elements

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## "Academic self-deposit is the ideal"

Academics understand:
- the purpose and outcomes of a repository
- the implications of granting a licence in Elements
- the consequences of their copyright agreements with publishers
- the intricacies of versions of a publication and embargo periods

### Assumptions

## "One size fits all"

- There is one authoritative source for an institution's research output information
- That source can **usefully** feed the same data to multiple endpoints:
  - open access repositories
  - research assessment and funding exercises
  - academic portfolios

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- The majority of academics have no interest in licensing issues
- A best case scenario is to get them uploading something and grant the licence to the repository
- Management of copyright, embargoes, versions and publisher permissions is passed to the repository
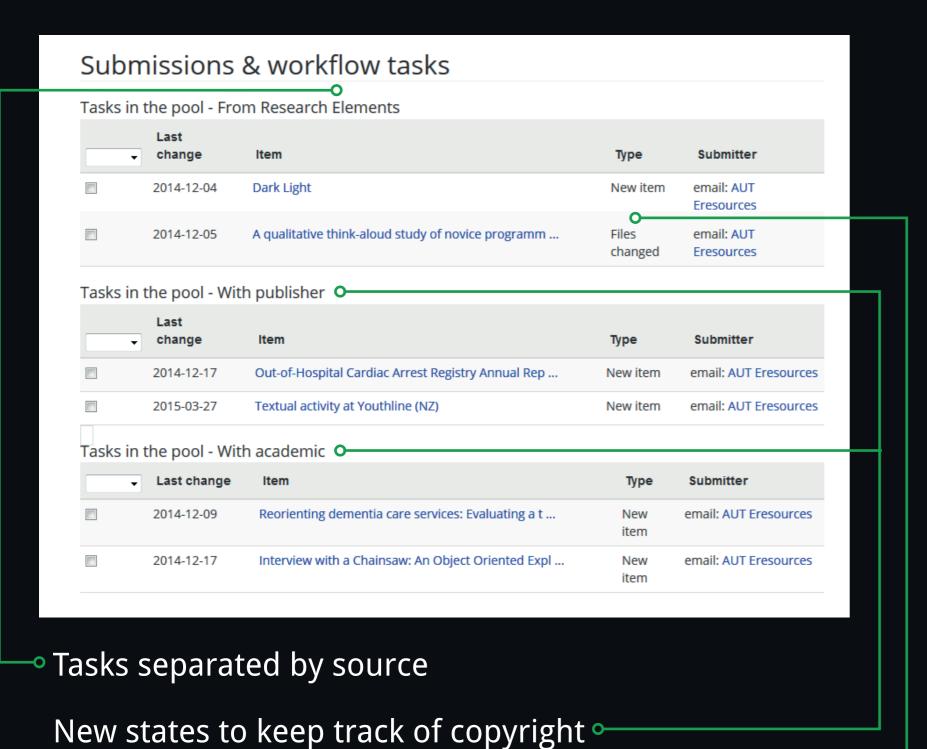
### Reality

- Requirements are different for each endpoint:
  - metadata
  - file versions
- With these conflicting needs, open access repositories are not always top priority

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DSpace workflow:
- Large number of items in single unordered pool
- Limited information on overview page
- Items pass through a number of states on the way to final approval – no way to track this

### Problems

- Any file change within Elements generates a duplicate item within DSpace, which is expected to replace the existing DSpace item
- Repository can no longer promise to provide a permanent, stable URL for an item
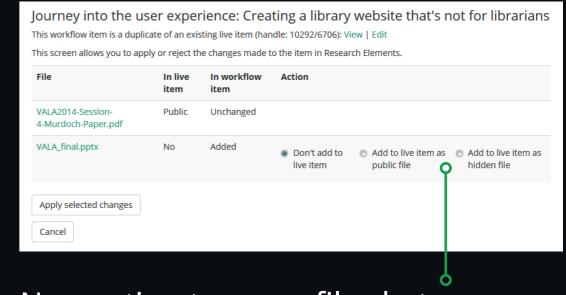- File access level cannot be changed in DSpace workflow

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Submissions & workflow tasks

Tasks separated by source

New states to keep track of copyright permission process

New flag: "new item" or "files changed"

Changed item – indicate files in existing item

Show link to existing item

New action to approve workflow task and withdraw live item (used rarely)

New action to move files between live item and workflow task

New action to move files between bundles (public and non-public)

New action to discard workflow task and point Elements to the live item

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## Outcomes
- More transparent processes = better internal communication
- Significantly reduced processing time
- Duplicate items eliminated
- Reliable permanent stable URLs

## Issues left unaddressed
- Some communication with academics is still manual (must happen outside DSpace/Elements)
- Elements user interface still confusing and not user-friendly
- No notifications from Elements to repository administrators