warpit
reuse network

CASE STUDY

• Very large university
• Savings in excess of £100K in 2 years
• 26 tonnes of supply chain CO_2 avoided
• High proportion of trades are lab equipment
• Sharing between universities and third sector
• 30 minutes per month management time

Paul Monk is the Waste Manager at University College London (UCL), a very large institution with a global pedigree and huge student and staff body. UCL started using Warp It in the autumn of 2012 after setting up an internal message board to reuse items.
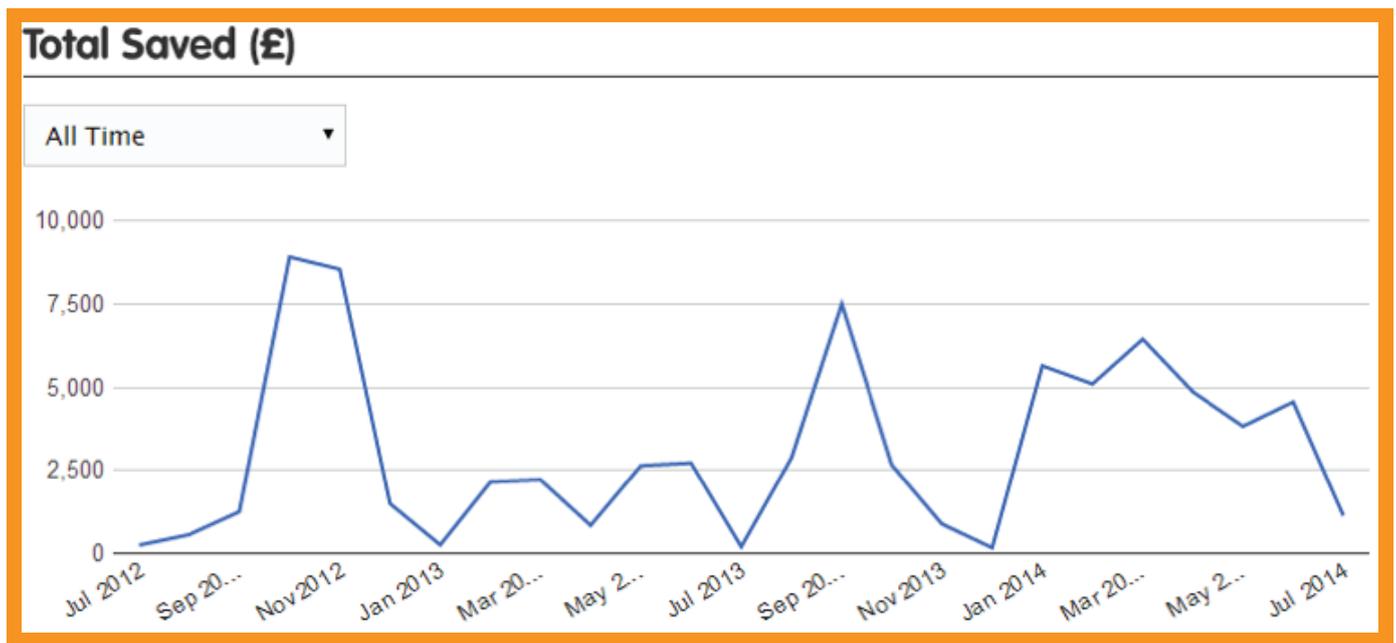
Financial Savings Over Time at UCL

Warp It is an easy-to-use online portal which provides a platform for organisations to redistribute (give, loan) resources legally and conveniently within an organisation, but also beyond - within other organisations. The platform
• Makes it easy for staff within an organisation to find colleagues with items to spare inside the same organisation or beyond - reducing procurement spend
• Makes it easy for individuals within an organisation, who wish to part with items, to find new owners -saving on waste disposal

Warp It: Benefits to the organisation
• Reduction of unnecessary procurement
• Reduction of waste
• Savings of staff purchasing time
• Better use of space
• Better internal collaboration
• Support local organisations

warp it

- Recording and tracking of assets across the organisation
- Convenient marketplace for staff
- Storage stock flow facility
- Loans of underused resources with idling capacity
- Opening-up of internal network to partners prioritising internal staff
- Downloadable management reports for procurement and environmental savings
- System management for whole building clearances
- Deals with waste legislation and liability
- Access control for staff
- Integration with existing portering or task management software

Appetite for Reuse

There was an existing message board system at UCL which is a great start. Paul said, "We were seeing loads of items getting thrown in the skip that were perfectly usable, whilst at the same time, we seemed to be spending a fortune on expensive furniture. We also had a message-board style reuse system which just didn't work, so there was the frustration involved in knowing that there was an appetite for reusing items but it wasn't fulfilled."

Discussing how Warp It was rolled out and encouraged, Paul said, "Warp It is open to all staff and is a voluntary programme. The way the university is run makes it impossible to make it compulsory. Warp It was initially used as a tool from a waste disposal perspective, to try to drive waste reduction, but recently it's been pushed as a purchasing tool and our procurement department is heavily promoting the system. It's also a focus of our Ecocampus and Green Impact programmes."

## Collaborative approach internally and externally

UCL are part of a much wider Warp It network with about 20 very large public sector organisations using the system in London. Paul said "We are also partnered up with local universities and many items have been exchanged between us."

Paul went on to highlight the collaborative approach to managing the system internally: "I lead on Warp It, but increasingly its becoming a collaborative operation with input from Procurement and Environmental Sustainability teams. The beauty of Warp It is that it is quite low maintenance. I mostly have to approve users, and once a month, I look up the data stats for the purposes of reporting."

Electrical equipment

Paul is particularly happy with how the system has been used for lab kit. He said, "Our research lab users heavily use the system. At any given month around just over 50% of all items exchanged are lab related. It has caught on because they see the benefit of Warp It directly in savings from their grant funds. If they can save money by getting a free piece of equipment then that's money they can spend on something else, more kits, extra researchers even. Likewise if they can donate a piece of equipment they avoid disposal charges giving them another direct grant saving."

warp it
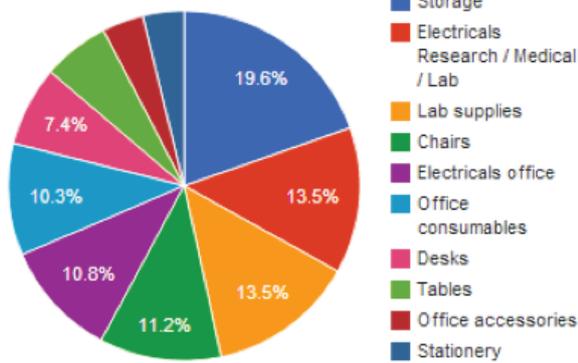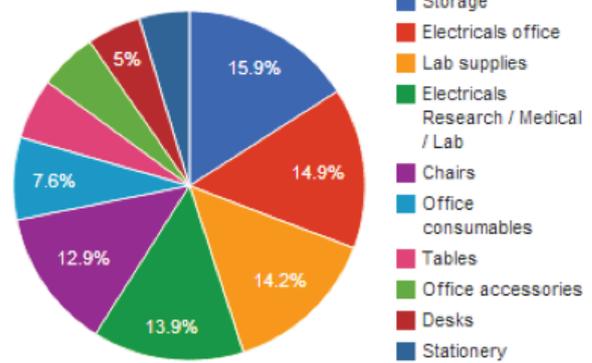
Categories

Pie Charts Showing Categories Traded at UCL

Building clearances and decants

When discussing building clearances and decants Paul has some great feedback: "Our Project teams seem keen to reuse items instead of disposing of them, but less keen on using reused items in new fit outs. I've not really had any success in trying to get projects to include Warp It as part of their project plan and when they have there's been very little time to implement it, and reusable items have gone to waste instead. The Warp It system is not great when it comes to bulk uploads either."

This is something we are working on with 3 new ways to bulk upload items. Watch this space!

Total Savings
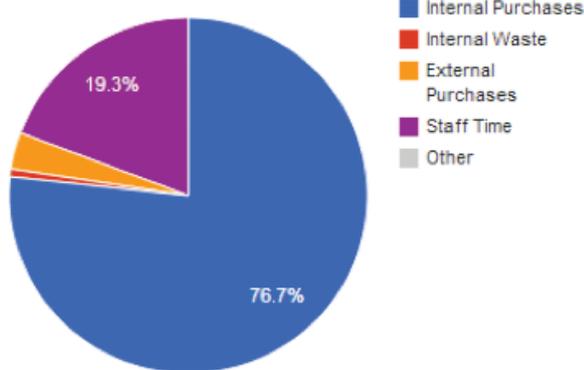
Saved on purchases by internal trades	£73682.10
Saved on waste by internal trades	£685.06
Saved on purchases from external trades	£3191.00
Saved on waste by external trades	£18.41
Saved on staff time	£18500.00
Total Savings	£96076.58

Savings from Internal and External Reuse Trades

warp it

When summarising the benefits Paul says, "From an Estates department point of view, we get to report on waste reduction, savings and carbon savings. The users get old items they no longer need taken away and the other users get items they need for free. Everyone wins. The ease of use and most importantly the opportunities it opens up for collaboration with other organisations are great features."

Looking into the crystal ball Paul says about the future, "I'm hoping that it will be the norm to reuse items many times. I'd also like to think that sharing equipment and resources will be factored into purchasing decisions. It would also be great if we moved away from the disposable culture we have now to one where equipment is easier and cheaper to repair."

warp it