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Sustaining Institutional Repositories: Breaking the Mold to Add Value

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SUSTAINING INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORIES: Breaking the Mold to Add Value

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Introduction
Can an institutional repository become a more complete resource to showcase the research & creative works produced by an institution’s staff and faculty? Kansas State University Libraries and Portland State University Library sought to answer this question through pilot projects designed to capture the research produced at each institution in 2015.

How it Began

Data Analysis

K-State Faculty User Responses

Methods
We searched CVs, resumes, online publication lists, and departmental websites as well as databases and search engines (Web of Science, BioMed Central Journals, Directory of Open Access Journals, Scopus, ScienceDirect, and Google Scholar) for refereed journal articles, book chapters, books, and book reviews published in 2015. We exported metadata, where available, to aid in permissions checking and repository record creation.

Considerations

Post-Prints: Majority of journals only allow either a pre- or a post-print copy of an article to be archived in an institutional repository. Each pilot project demonstrated that most faculty are unable to produce versions of their work (pre-prints) other than the publisher’s PDF. Provides the opportunity to engage faculty on open access issues.

Staffing: Capturing the research output of an institution takes time and resources. The process of transcribing publication data into spreadsheets, researching copyright, contacting authors, and batch uploading records is time consuming. Provides the opportunity for subject liaisons to get actively involved in the recruitment of faculty research for ingest into the repository.

Impact on Users: There is a risk of frustrating users when adding metadata only records to a repository. When conducting research using a repository with such records, users may discover items but may hit paywalls when attempting to access them. Provides the opportunity to have a broader conversation about open access and the obstacles and frustrations researchers experience accessing journal articles.

Citation discovery and indexing: Repositories are designed to facilitate the efficient dissemination of content to a variety of locations including discovery layers, ILSs, OAIPMH aggregators and emerging tools such as Unpaywall and the Open Access Button. The inclusion of repository records that lack full text potentially muddies the waters of the otherwise clean data streams to tools that expect full text items. Provides the opportunity to discuss & explore other avenues to showcase institutional research outputs, such as a current research information system (CRIS) platform.

Conclusions

Universities must "take on a much more active role in ensuring dissemination of the knowledge produced by their institutions – both now and in the future. The shift also positions university to play an increasing active role in dissemination."

The decision of whether to include metadata only records will rest on the results of a weighing game: value & advantages vs. risks & disadvantages. To move forward, the value of better representing institutional outputs will need to outweigh the risks and costs.

The inclusion of metadata-only records within an IR to better represent institutionally created outputs potentially represents a stepping stone in the broader evolution of IR platforms.

Additional Resources
Digital version of this poster & supporting resources - https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/ - http://krex.k-state.edu/dspace/

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60% increase of representation of faculty output

Portland State
- Faculty examined: 9%
- Total hours: 212 hours
- Records added: 141 full texts and 132 metadata only

Kansas State University
- Faculty examined: 13.6%
- Total hours: 72 hours
- Records added: 78 full text and 228 metadata only

Demonstrates the importance of reaching out to individual faculty and how critical outreach is to capturing and showcasing scholarship on campus.