Redefining the Library’s Role through an Institutional Repository

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Recognizing the Role and Value of an Institutional Repository

An evolutionary process . . .
In the beginning . . .

• Catalyst: ACRL Roadshow – Scholarly Communication 101 (June 2009)

• Library Response: Commitment to Open Access as a Principle
  
  • Internal conversations about how to promote OA
  
  • Acknowledge in Institutional Effectiveness Plan
  
  • Library Statement of Support for OA
UNO Library - Statement of Support for Open Access

“The UNO Library supports the Open Access model of scholarly publishing because it removes barriers to research and scholarship and disseminates knowledge to the widest possible audience, thereby achieving the fundamental goals of higher education --the advancement of knowledge and the preservation of the intellectual and cultural record.

The Library is committed to the following actions in support of Open Access:

- Linking to OA journals through databases and the online catalog
- Collaborating with faculty and other stakeholders to increase the visibility and impact of the University’s research and scholarship through OA repositories and publications
- Serving as a resource for the UNO community as we explore OA initiatives and other opportunities in scholarly publishing

(approved by Library faculty 1/27/10)
Meanwhile. . . a series of epiphanies

- Bepress presentation (Dec 2009)
  - IRs can be dynamic, compelling

- Reading and sharing key texts about repositories and Open Access
  - IR can be a set of services rather than an inert archive

- Meeting with Faculty Committee on the Library
  - Open Access is an abstract and confusing idea to teaching faculty

- ACRL Scholarly Communication Webinar series
  - Library’s role as provider of purchased content is diminishing – what can we do that is of value? Promote our own institutional work

- Federal mandates for taxpayer access to research
  - Other sources of pressure on academia for Open Access
An Institutional Repository can

• provide a range of services to our campus
  • serve as a solution to problems
    • redefine the Library’s role
Factors to Consider in Developing an Institutional Repository
• Define the Purpose
• Engage campus stakeholders & partners
• Identify funding
• Consider staffing options
• Choose a platform
Why we chose Digital Commons

• Features that support a wide range of scholarly communication activities:
  o Research distribution
  o Journal publishing platform
  o Conference hosting
  o Image galleries
  o Personal faculty pages
Why we chose Digital Commons

• Reputation and academic “pedigree”
• Easy implementation and customization
• Reasonable price
• Excellent customer service
• Dynamic, collaborative user community
Implementation: Making it Happen
• **Design**
  - Blend with campus web presence
  - Communicate the purpose
  - Library branding

• **Staffing/Training**
  - What kind of technical expertise is needed?
  - Who will manage?
  - What role will liaison librarians play?

• **Policy Development**
  - Who can contribute?
  - What will you include?
  - Can something be removed? Under what conditions?
• Outreach
  o Deans, academic departments
  o Office of Research
  o Graduate School
  o Individual faculty
  o University Press
  o IT Office/Computer Center
  o Web Group
  o Public Relations
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Hannes Ralph Richter

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• Planning to host conferences, move literary journal online, and create a data management plan program to assist faculty with federal mandates
• Author download reports have been enthusiastically received by faculty
• Renewed and ongoing outreach efforts
Benefits to the Library

• Raises profile & integrates the library into university

• Library seen as an active partner in the research & publishing mission of the university

• Subject librarians more involved in all aspects of faculty research

• Librarians as part of author rights discussions

• Promotes open access & reform of scholarly communication

• Demonstrate a new role & value for the library
Benefits to the University

- Increase visibility & discoverability of research
- Connect raw material of research with finished product
- Maximize the investment in research
- Preserve our scholarly work & keep it available
- Give back to the community through open access
- Demonstrate the value of the institution
Future Possibilities & Next Steps

• On your campuses
  Determine your needs
  Find your partners
  Define your roles

• For the consortium
  o What can we do as a consortium to realize the benefits of IR’s for each institution and for all institutions?

  o What options are available to us?
    • Louisiana Digital Library
    • Digital Commons
    • Digital asset preservation platform

  o Proposal: That there be a formal exploration by the consortium of IR options