Digital Repositories:
What are they and do we need one?

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Digital Repositories

“…a set of services that a university offers to the members of its community for the management and dissemination of digital materials created by the institution and its community members. It is most essentially a commitment to the stewardship of these digital materials…”

Clifford Lynch, “Institutional Repositories: Essential Infrastructure for Scholarship in the Digital Age”
ARL Bimonthly Report 226
http://www.arl.org/newsltr/226/ir.html
Why now?

- Proliferation of digital content
  - Faculty research showcase
  - Student Handbook
  - Admissions Viewbook
  - Course catalog
  - Undergraduate research projects
  - Performances
  - Learning objects
Advantages

- Broader dissemination of faculty work
- Showcase for University scholarship
- Long-term preservation of scholarly output
Challenges

- Participation
- Management
- Institutional Commitment
- Platform
Participation

- What is the content?
- Who will participate?
- How steep is the learning curve?
- Can initial enthusiasm be sustained?
Management

- Control/ownership/intellectual property
- Collaboration essential

Library/IT role
- Library: Organization to ensure consistent retrieval
- IT: Technical expertise to ensure a robust reliable product
Institutional Commitment

- A Digital repository is a long-term project
- Data formats need to be migrated over time
- What data formats can be sustained?
- How will it be funded and staffed?
Platform

- Open source vs. commercial
- Locally housed vs. hosted
- Lead time to establish
Examples of Digital Repositories

- Open source software
  - Dspace at MIT
    http://libraries.mit.edu/dspace-mit/
Welcome to DSpace, MIT's online institutional repository — built to save, share, and search MIT's digital research materials.

SAVE
- Store your work in an organized, secure, and searchable archive
- Preserve your articles, datasets, images, course materials, and more
- Let MIT Libraries manage your research for the long term — no need to manage your own web server

SHARE
- Distribute your research quickly
- Enjoy worldwide visibility, permanently

SEARCH
- Get top search results in Google
- Increase accessibility to your work
- Browse others' research
Examples of Digital Repositories

- Dspace at University of Rochester
  - https://urresearch.rochester.edu/index.jsp
Browse/Search

Search:

Search

Browse All/Search

Institutional Collections

**Anthropology Department** The department of Anthropology at the University of Rochester specializes in the comparative study of...

**Art & Art History Department** Materials from the faculty and students in the Department of Art and Art History.

**Biology Department** The Biology Department at the University of Rochester provides faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and visitors with a central resource for finding the latest information on faculty and staff, courses, and research.
Examples of Digital Repositories

- Digital Commons @ UConn
  - http://digitalcommons.uconn.edu/
DigitalCommons@UConn is a project coordinated by the Institutional Repository Team within the UConn Libraries. It is an electronic repository of the intellectual output of the University of Connecticut community, and represents a way for UConn to organize, store and preserve its research in digital form in a single unified location. For more information, email digitalcommons@uconn.edu.

At a Glance
Top 10 Downloads
All time

Paper of the Day
Assembly of the FtsZ cell division ring and the action of cell division inhibitors of Escherichia coli
Cheng Su, Justin
Other digital repositories

Georgetown Law
- http://scholarship.law.georgetown.edu/

CUNY Graduate School of Journalism
- http://journalism.cuny.bepress.com/

Boise State
- http://scholarworks.boisestate.edu/

Connecticut College
- http://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/

Wesleyan
- http://wesscholar.wesleyan.edu/
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