

Quick and Easy: Mediated Deposit in a University IR, an Author-Centered Approach

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- U. of Missouri established a DSpace repository in 2008 (MOspace)
- Working group studied repository models that were in existence
- Biggest hurdle seemed to be recruiting content
- DSpace software set up for author self-submission
- Required quite a bit of keying and work for the authors

The History

- Focus of IR on university's production of scholarship
- What do we know about these authors and their characteristic behaviors?
- Studies done at U. of Rochester, Syracuse, others
- Long-term interactions with faculty at various campuses
- Campus culture
- Observed and anecdotal behaviors

Gathering Information

- Researchers want to do research, not much else
- Often impatient with paperwork perceived to be bureaucratic
- Grant requirements sometimes seen as burdensome but accepted as necessary evils
- Sometimes very little office support available
- Burden on author a barrier to submission

Preliminary Conclusions

- Identified several sets of needs
 - Authors
 - Library/IR staff
 - Grant writers and support staff
 - Outside users of the IR
 - Technical support staff
 - Administration

For content acquisition stage, key needs are those of authors and IR staff

What Do Users Want?

- Mediated submission allows for a more service-oriented approach
- “Just send it to us, we’ll take care of it”
- “As easy as sending your book over to the library”
- “Just email or send a CD to MOspace @missouri.edu”
- Marketed to grant writers network, subject specialists, authors, conference staff

Author-Centered Workflow

- Much easier to attract submissions when offering full service
- Metadata quality a discussion point
 - Catalog staff developed guidelines
 - Some need for authority work and disambiguation
 - Initial entry done by IR staff
 - Far better control than author entry provides

Library/IR Staff Role

- Re-purposed some library staff from processing approval books and firm orders (declining workload)
- A new core service for research libraries
- Technical support staffing still a concern
- Working on batch processes for future projects
- No IR in existence yet “overwhelmed” by successful content ingestion
- Permission license process still awkward

Scalable?

- “Great. Can you archive my blog? Students around the world access it.”
- “So glad you’re doing posters. I worked so hard on it I hate to see it sit in the office.”
- “Seems like this should be harder.”
- Several situations have occurred in which authors or their advisors recognize the extent of access to the content and have second thoughts about making it available.

Some Responses

- Key element to success a team approach
- Campus-wide advisory group
- Building awareness among all library staff
- Increasing campus-wide marketing this fall

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Special thanks to the whole team