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

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The History

- 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
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
- 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
What Do Users Want?

- 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
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
- 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?
Some Responses

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

• Questions to rileyac@missouri.edu or 573.882.1685

Special thanks to the whole team