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Faculty Survey: Institutional Repositories

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Institutional Repository: Faculty Survey

"The crisis in scholarly communication" - We've been hearing these words for a few years now but what does it really mean, how does it really affect us? We've certainly seen a dramatic increase in the cost of journals, how it has affected the library's budget, and recognize the financial difficulties of many scholarly publishers. Many of us have research data stored on computers and publications in Word or other digital forms. Few of us, however, have sorted through the long-terms issues involved in preserving this information for future access by colleagues, students, and others. Some potential solutions are being developed, one of which is known as an institutional, or E-Scholarship, repository.

An institutional repository (IR) is a web-based searchable database of scholarly material that has been created by faculty and other researchers. This material is collected, stored, and made web accessible by an institution or group of institutions to preserve scholarly communication in a digital environment across disciplines. Taking into consideration both privacy and intellectual property issues, content could include: working papers, pre-prints, technical reports, course materials, data sets, and symposia proceedings.

Why consider an IR? Factors include the spiraling cost of journals, the increasing diversity of born digital materials that need to be stored, accessed, and archived over time, escalating users' expectations, and faculty interest in new forms of scholarly communcation for teaching and research. Recent research shows that inclusion of materials in an IR leads to a geometric increase in scholarly citations. A number of models have been developed, among them: DSpace (MIT), eScholarship (University of California) and Fedora (Cornell)

The Faculty Senate Research Library Council would like to explore the idea of building an IR at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and request your help in determining how an IR can meet our University's needs. The following questionnaire is designed to elicit your input into the usefulness of an IR at UMass Amherst and to identify the types of material that such a repository might contain. We also would like to identify early on any concerns you might have about submitting material to an IR. All responses will remain confidential.

Thank you in advance for helping us in the initial planning stages of this exciting opportunity to enhance and preserve the University of Massachusetts' scholarly research.

1. Were you aware of the Institutional Repository (IR) concept?

○ Yes ○ No

If no, please consider reading one or more of the following background papers before proceeding with the questionnaire:

- Institutional Repositories: Enhancing Teaching, Learning and Research (EDUCAUSE) pdf document
- SPARC Institutional Repository Checklist & Resource Guide
- PALS Pathfinder Research on Web-based Repositories

2. Have you had any previous experience with institutional repositories?

○ Yes ○ No

If yes, please describe:

3a. Would you be interested in contributing content to an IR?

○ Yes ○ No

3b. If yes, at what level would you be willing to participate by adding content to the IR (indicate all that apply)?

☐ Individual ☐ Department ☐ School or College

☐ UMass Amherst ☐ Five Colleges

4. What kinds of material would you be interested in contributing (indicate all that apply)?

☐ Scholarly books ☐ Scholarly journals ☐ Technical papers

☐ Pre-prints/post prints ☐ Data sets ☐ Course materials (e.g. for WebCT / OWL)

- ☐ Symposium/Conference proceedings
- ☐ E-portfolios
- ☐ Photos, images, slide collections
- ☐ Video materials
- ☐ Audio materials
- ☐ Other?

5. Have you had any previous experience preserving digital materials, such as digital photographs, images, data, documents?

○ Yes ○ No

If yes, please describe:

6. Referring to the introduction above, how important are the following factors to you?

Insignificant				Critical	**An IR for UMass Amherst would be a valuable tool if it would...**
○	○	○	○	○	...preserve the research of the University in a central place.
○	○	○	○	○	...make preprint versions of my research available to a worldwide audience.
○	○	○	○	○	...make my research available faster than the traditional publishing process.
○	○	○	○	○	...provide a way for me to create online peer-reviewed journals.
○	○	○	○	○	...make available types of materials that have not been made available through the traditional publishing process, including large datasets and rich media formats such as audio, video, and graphic images.
○	○	○	○	○	...make my research available with very little effort on my part and without my having to maintain a website of my own.
○	○	○	○	○	...provide long-term preservation of my digital research materials.
○	○	○	○	○	...make it easy for other people to search for and locate my work.
○	○	○	○	○	...allow me to search the IR for the most current research findings of my colleagues.

Comments or Concerns:

7. Would you be willing to participate in an initial campus discussion on the development of a centrally managed IR?

○ Yes ○ No

8. Would you be willing to be participate as a charter member in developing an IR at the University of Massachusetts Amherst?

○ Yes ○ No

If you replied yes to either of the last two questions, please provide the following:

Name:

Department:

Email:

Thank you for your time in completing this survey!

Submit

If you have any questions regarding this survey or perfer to mail back your survey response, please feel free to contact Marilyn Billings mbillings@library.umass.edu or 545-6891, Special Initiatives Librarian, W.E.B. Du Bois Library, RM 1638.

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