Repositories
Features, Functions, and Flops (?)

NERCOMP
Library / IT SIG workshop
Sept 26, 2005

Marilyn S Billings
Coordinator, Five College CLS Dept &
Special Initiatives Librarian
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Institutional Repositories
or
University E-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.”

Clifford Lynch, ARL Bimonthly Report 226
Why an IR?

- Scholarly communication paradigm shift
- Showcase for scholars and institution
- Wide dissemination
- Long-term preservation
Services

- Intellectual output
- Teaching and learning materials
- Electronic portfolios
- Faculty legacy content
- Institutional archives, events, performances
Core features

- Digital content in a variety of formats
- Community focus
- Institutional support
- Durable, permanent content
- Enhanced access
Core functions

- Material submission
- Metadata application
- Access control
- Discovery support
- Distribution of content
- Preservation, durability
Possible content

- Research and technical papers
- University publications (Cooperative Extension, Outreach, News Office, etc)
- Learning Objects
- Theses and dissertations
- Digitized collections
Factors for Success

- Participation
- Simplicity
- Personal stake
- Creating a sense of community
Key Unresolved Issues

- Control and ownership
- Faculty participation
- Adherence to standards
- Preservation standards
New features and functionality

- Faculty web pages
- Authoring tools
- End-user functionality
- Creating a sense of community
Why the Library

- Library role as steward of scholarship
- Collection development expertise
- Liaison role with faculty
- Center of expertise on metadata
Why the Library (continued)

- Database maintenance expertise
- Commitment to long-term preservation
- Complementarity of repository and licensed digital materials
Examples of Software solutions

- Open Source examples
  - DSpace
  - EPrints
  - Fedora

- Commercial examples
  - CONTENTdm
  - Integrated Library System vendors
  - UMI/ProQuest Digital Commons
Thank you for your attention!

- Selected resources

- Contact information

  - Marilyn Billings, Coordinator, Five College CLS Dept & Special Initiatives Librarian, W.E.B. Du Bois Library
  
  mbillings@library.umass.edu