

Florida State University Libraries

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What is an Institutional Repository?: Similarities, Differences, Examples

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What is an Institutional Repository?



Similarities, Differences, Examples

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Agenda

1. Definition, origins, principles
2. Collections
3. Policies
4. Users
5. Service Models
6. Core characteristics?

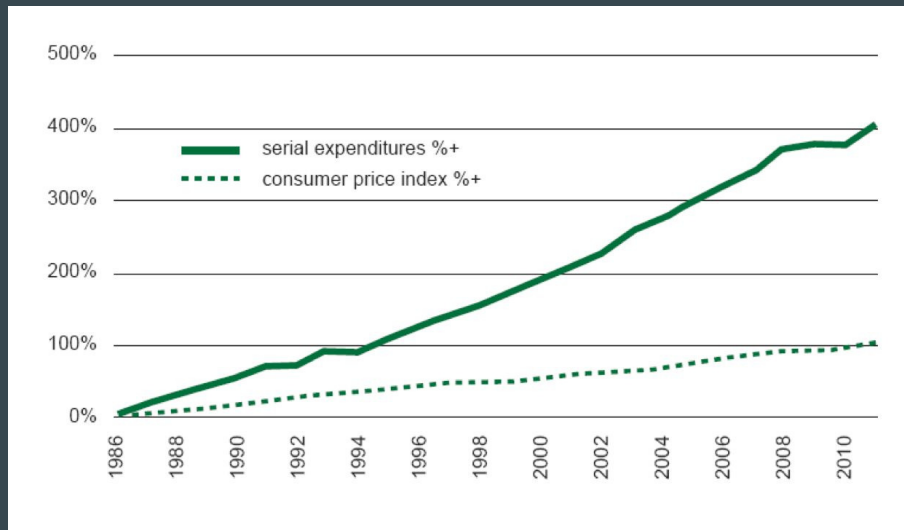
Definition

[An] institutional repository is 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 an **organizational commitment** to the **stewardship** of these digital materials, including **long-term preservation** where appropriate, as well as **organization** and **access or distribution**.

-- Clifford Lynch, 2003

Origins



Origins

SPARC*



Growth of the OpenDOAR Database - Worldwide

OpenDOAR - 25-Jul-2016



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Principles

1. *Set of services*
2. **Stewardship of digital materials**
 - a. Description & organization
 - b. Access, discovery, dissemination
 - c. Long-term preservation
3. **Organizational commitment**
4. **Open Access (OA) for all**



Incentives

1. Sharing outputs of the institution with a worldwide audience
2. Maximizing the visibility and impact of these outputs as a result
3. Showcasing the institution to prospective faculty, staff, students, etc.
4. Collecting and curating digital materials created at the institution
5. Measuring the impact of research and teaching activities
6. Supporting compliance with funder public access mandates
7. Supporting student research & learning: providing access to theses and dissertations and a location for the development of e-portfolios



Collections

- Scholarly publications (articles, book chapters, books, etc.)
- Technical reports & working papers
- Theses & dissertations
- Undergraduate research (theses, posters, etc.)
- Research data and documentation
- Presentation slides & recordings
- Syllabi & course materials
- Open textbooks
- Academic journals, proceedings
- Entities (people, groups, events)
- Survey instruments
- 3D objects
- Podcasts
- Administrative docs
- Video recordings
- Grants, patents

Policies

- **Repository policies**
 - Administration
 - Submission
 - Collections
 - Preservation
- **Institutional OA policies**
- **Federal public access mandates**



Users

- Repository managers
- Librarians
- Faculty
- Staff
- Students
- Public

Service Models

An IR is much more than just hardware and software. Launching an IR entails notable risks and commitments, and building one requires time and resources.

Important questions to consider:

- What expectations will your users have for your IR? How will you meet them?
- What policies and workflows will you need to develop and document?
- What expertise will you need to draw upon, both within and beyond the library?
- Who will be responsible for the different aspects of your IR services?
 - outreach and education, technical support and submission review, web design (information architecture and theming), metadata and digital preservation, assessment and reporting, etc.

Core Characteristics

1. Set of services - not just hardware & software
2. Focus on digital materials created by a campus community
3. Commitment to digital stewardship and preservation
4. Commitment to free open/public access (wherever possible)
5. Commitment to facilitate discovery and reuse
6. Diverse collections related to different user groups and formats
7. Diverse users with different roles, needs, expectations

Notable Differences

1. Collection policies

- a. stewardship of digital materials vs. metadata-only records
- b. mediation of author-submitted materials

2. Collection scope

- a. research vs educational materials
- b. institutional *records* (and relationship with university archives)
- c. data sets and documentation
- d. entities: people, groups, events, etc.

3. Service models

4. Functionality

Questions & Discussion

References

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