

Workshop 2: Implementing and Filling Institutional Repositories

Introduction

Leslie Chan, Rea Devakos, Gabriela Mircea
University of Toronto, Canada
chan@utsc.utoronto.ca

Abstract

Institutional repositories (IR) represent an innovative solution to many of the challenges encountered in the rapidly evolving world of scholarly publishing, such as open access and the preservation of the growing array of digital content. This workshop is intended to help academic authors, research library and IT directors and their staff plan for the implementation and full deployment of repositories designed to house a diversity of resources, such as articles, data sets, images, video, and courseware.

To be presented jointly by a team consisting of a senior programmer, a service co-ordinator and a faculty member, and using the deployment of T-Space (IR at the University of Toronto) this workshop will focus on the technical issues as well as the cultural and management dimensions of establishing a repository.

Topics will include:

- the technical requirements for establishing and operating an IR
- business models
- key policy issues
- how institutional repositories fit with other university and library strategic initiatives
- how to engage faculty and library staff participation
- strategic and resource implications

Format of the workshop

1. Participants of the workshop will be given a preliminary questionnaire, identifying the participant's institutional affiliation, role(s), prior knowledge of IR, whether the participant's institution currently has an IR or plan to implement one, and the participant's expectation from the workshop.
2. A summary of the questionnaires will be briefly presented, followed by a general introduction of the current states of play of IR and a working definition.
3. The diverse reasons for implementing IR will be outlined, and participants will identify common reasons and point out possible new applications.
4. Implementing IR is to a large extent about change management and so a thorough analysis of your institution is important before proceeding. The analysis should identify the institutional culture, existing resources, key content areas or research strength of the institution. Methodologies for such an institutional analysis will be presented.
5. A service model should be implemented only once an institutional analysis has been completed. Various service models, including training and user support, will be presented and best practices will be identified.
6. Identifying key contents and working with early adopters are essential to early success. Successful strategies for working with early adopters will be detailed. The key point is that content recruitment is not simply a technical issue, but often a political one.

7. Knowledge management is a complex sociological issue as there is no clear consensus as to how content should be organized in IR, either based on formal department structures, or along disciplinary lines, or in terms of community of common interests. This question is related to the also contested issue of whether repositories should be centralized or distributed.
8. Institutional policies, particularly those having to do with research output and dissemination are critical to the success of IR. Recent surveys have indicated that strong encouragement from senior administration and funding bodies are critical factors in promoting author archiving of their research publications. Examples of such policies from institutions and funding bodies will be presented for discussion.
9. Software platform is an important decision. However, the decision should be based on institutional needs, culture and service model instead of being driven by technology alone. Comparisons of various open source IR platforms will be given, and the advantages and limits of each will be discussed. Particular attention will be given to the DSpace platform, its design and technical infrastructure, and community approach to code development.
10. Technology issues such as standards, out sourcing or in-house development, support and maintenance are all critical factors that contribute to the success or failure of IR.
11. The federated model of resource sharing and multi-institutional approach to IR deployment will be examined.
12. Preliminary costing and staffing models will be explored. However, given the newness of IRs little is known about long term costs and staffing implications.
13. Copyrights are often cited as the major barrier to the development of IR. We offer practical strategies and guidelines with working with faculty on rights issues to encourage active participation, such as raising awareness about the self-archiving provision of many key publishers.
14. The session will end with a discussion of challenges, opportunities and ways forward

Resources:

Barton, Mary and Margaret Waters. "Creating an Institutional Repository: LEADIRS Workbook" 2004 MIT Libraries.

www.dspace.org/implement/leadirs.pdf

Foster, Nancy and Susan Gibbons. "Understanding Faculty to Improve Content Recruitment for Institutional Repositories." D-Lib Magazine, January 2005.

www.dlib.org/dlib/january05/foster/01foster.htm

Mackie, Morag. "Filling Institutional Repositories: Practical strategies from the DAEDALUS Project." Ariadne. April 2004.

www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue39/mackie/