

OR2015 | 10th International Conference on Open Repositories

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The Past, Present, & Future of Capturing the Scholarly Record of a Small Comprehensive U.S. Institution: Toward a Sustained Repository Content Recruitment and Workflow Strategy

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Session Type (select one)

- 24x7
- Poster
- Repository Rant
- Repository Rave

Abstract

The number of institutional repositories (IRs) has grown rapidly since Clifford Lynch declared in 2003 that IRs were “essential infrastructure” for academic institutions. While the number of IRs have grown, the success of IRs does not necessarily follow suit for a variety of reasons. For smaller institutions, limited staffing, expertise, and content recruitment can all be significant factors threatening an IR’s success, especially as these factors change over time.

Launched in 2011, ValpoScholar (<http://scholar.valpo.edu/>) is currently on its second iteration of a content recruitment strategy and workflow design with a third iteration in development. With a primary focus on capturing metadata before moving to full-text access and preservation, this evolving approach to content recruitment and workflow design has led to a 25% increase in IR record creation, while also increasing full-text availability as well as giving the institution its first public scholarly record. This poster will share what Valparaiso University has done in the past, what its current processes are, and what it plans to do in the future to ensure a comprehensive scholarly record of the institution and also how similar institutions with limited staffing, expertise, and content may sustain the growth of their IRs.

Conference Themes

Select the conference theme(s) your proposal best addresses:

- Supporting Open Scholarship, Open Science, and Cultural Heritage
- Managing Research (and Open) Data
- Integrating with External Systems
- Re-using Repository Content
- Exploring Metrics and Assessment

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- X Managing Rights
- X Developing and Training Staff
- X Building the Perfect Repository

Keywords

Workflow, content recruitment, institutional repositories, metadata, staff training

Audience

Our possible audience for this poster would be repository managers and librarians from small to medium-sized academic institutions.

Background

Our poster will cover what we have done, what we are currently doing, and what we plan to do in continuing to populate the repository and work with variable staff availability. We feel that this matches this year's theme of "Looking Back, Moving Forward: Open Repositories at the Crossroads" as we continue to examine our own project management and understand that our repository is no longer "at the beginning" of its life cycle anymore.

Presentation content

Our poster will have three panels – each panel devoted to either the past, present and future of our content recruitment and workflow. With screenshots and graphical representations representing IR growth and staff time involved, we hope to convey the typical disarray that many of us felt when establishing our IRs (past) before moving onto a settled process (present) and how we plan to further refine it (future).

Conclusion

Our takeaway message will be that setting up a workflow for content recruitment may take time and will need to be flexible as the repository becomes established at one's institution, but this flexible approach to content recruitment and workflow is necessary as the repository moves from pilot project to embedded infrastructure at the sponsoring institution.