

DOMAIN: Institutional Repositories

ARTICLE: "Understanding Faculty to Improve Content Recruitment for Institutional Repositories" D-Lib Magazine Volume 11 No 1, January 2005 by Susan Gibbons, Assistant Dean Public Services & Collection Development & Nancy Fried Foster, Lead Anthropologist, River Campus Libraries University of Rochester : 11-pages

ABSTRACT

In spite of the rapid pace at which organizations are establishing Institutional Repositories (IRs), the quantity of content deposited by faculty members remains modest in scale. The author explores the apparent misalignment between the benefits and services of the IR with the actual needs and desires of faculty. The findings of this work-practice study engendered a complete rethinking of how the University of Rochester River Campus Libraries explain and promote their IR and suggests applying a faculty-centric approach to the design and marketing of repositories.

Findings

- + The study observed and videotaped how faculty interacted with digital tools and how they organized work in their virtual and physical workspaces for their research and writing.
- + The singular important criterion of an IR's value to faculty is that other people find, utilize, and cite the deposited work. Faculty have not hastened to direct their deposits into IRs because they have not recognized its benefits to them in their own terms.
- + Focus should be on the individual faculty member, with the emphasis on personal digital repositories rather than on institutional repositories.
- + Faculty is in great need of an authoring system to assist with document versioning, collaborative authoring, and centralized document access from any computerized location.
- + Researcher Page (RP) is a personalized webpage made available to faculty or staff who deposit in the IR and serves as a showcase for all listed works; in addition, it links to published work in subject repositories or electronic journals.
- + Research Tool (RT) page supports the tasks of self-publishing and archiving. The location of the material into collections and their labeling fall within the complete control of the faculty member, adding a strong element of personalization to the system and, simultaneously, retaining the institutional benefits of the IRs.