

DOMAIN: Institutional Repository (IR)

ARTICLE: "Libraries in the Lead: The Institutional Repository Phenomenon"
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ABSTRACT

As scholarship, instruction, publishing and communication become increasingly networked and digital, how do libraries respond? Can libraries help scholars communicate in a networked era? What is the library's role in an age of Web publishing and Google? Institutional repositories begin to address these questions and allow libraries to show initiative and leadership in a scholarly world being transformed by technology. MIT with its DSpace institutional repository program has witnessed how much has changed and continues to change as libraries step up to these challenges.

- + Institutional repositories (IRs) are a new concept but defined as having (4) attributes: institution-based, scholarly material is manifest in digital formats, cumulative and perpetual, open and interoperable
- + IRs share characteristics of a traditional institutional archive, with the exception content is always digital and aimed exclusively at research and teaching material rather than institutional records or special collections
- + DSpace created by MIT in 2000 is to provide a scalable digital archive to preserve and communicate the intellectual output of MIT faculty and researchers and to provide a federated repository to make available collective intellectual resources of leading research institutions
- + Ongoing scrutiny of DSpace suggests continued debate of which persistent identification system to utilize, what type of descriptive metadata to support or what items to should be submitted to the repository
- + High priorities continue to be that of increasing faculty awareness and utilization of IRs, educating faculty and public users of digital scholarship about copyright issues, the benefits of open access to scholarship, and to define and construct new value-added services layered over the DSpace Federation