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Internet Reviews: Open Access Institutional Repositories

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Internet Reviews: Open Access Institutional Repositories

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INTERNET REVIEWS: OPEN ACCESS INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORIES

BY JENNIFER A. BARTLETT

HEAD OF W.T. YOUNG LIBRARY REFERENCE SERVICES
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY LIBRARIES

Searching for unpublished or obscure research material is problematic at best. Say you're a librarian on the hunt for a hard-to-find technical report or dissertation from a scholar at a particular institution. You've checked all the usual sources to no avail. How wonderful it would be if the target institution hosted a system in which its scholarly output and research were readily available. The research would live on a well-organized, stable platform able to handle various file formats for images, audio, video, and data. There would be easy findability of items through search engines such as Google and Google Scholar, persistent URLs for stable access, and the research would be available on an open access basis. Enter the institutional repository!

Broadly defined, an Institutional Repository (IR) is an online archive maintained by a college or university, research institute, academic consortia, or other organization for the purpose of preserving and providing access to the institution's intellectual output. Materials commonly included in these repositories are electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs), open access journal articles, preprints and postprints, conference proceedings, working papers, technical reports, lecture and course notes, administrative records, audio and video recordings, and digital items (such as undergraduate work) that might not find a publishing outlet elsewhere.

Of course, researchers have been making materials such as these available via personal and institutional websites, blogs, and course management systems for some time. However, the lack of an organized system for collecting, organizing, preserving, and providing access to digital content has long been a problem. As experts in information acquisition, evaluation, and access, librarians are increasingly front and center in the design, maintenance and

promotion of their own institutions' digital assets.

Although IR platforms can be built from the ground up by in-house programmers, open-source software packages such as DSpace (<http://www.dspace.org>) and EPrints (<http://www.eprints.org>) are also popular, as well as full-service, hosted solutions including SimpleDL (<http://www.simpdld.com>), and Digital Commons from Berkeley Electronic Press, or "bepress" (<http://digitalcommons.bepress.com>). Several Kentucky colleges and universities have begun to make their own institutional scholarship available through the bepress platform.

INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORIES IN KENTUCKY



UKnowledge

University of Kentucky Libraries

<http://uknowledge.uky.edu>

Launched in 2011, UKnowledge now contains hundreds of master's theses and doctoral dissertations, thousands of articles, and hosts six open access journals. The repository is browsable by college, department, and research center; subject area; and author. Another useful feature of UKnowledge is the "SelectedWorks Researchers Gallery," a directory of many UK faculty and other researchers who have chosen to post biographical information and links to their scholarship online.

A particularly interesting project associated with UKnowledge is a recent collaboration with the University Press of Kentucky. UKnowledge will provide full-text digital access to over 1,000 titles published by UPK, many of which have been out of print for years. Over 600 books in subjects including

Appalachian studies, literature, history, and all titles in the Studies in Romance Languages series are currently available to UK faculty, staff, and students; another 400 additional titles are slated to be added in 2015. The collection may be browsed at <http://uknowledge.uky.edu/upk>.

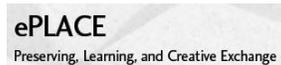
Of course, other institutional repositories hosted at Kentucky colleges and universities using Digital Commons as an IR platform have the same overall look and feel as UKnowledge, and offer similar faculty and staff research materials. However, each institution's unique selection and organization of research and additional content illustrate the flexibility available with these systems.



Encompass

Eastern Kentucky University Libraries
<http://encompass.eku.edu>

EKU's Encompass includes sections on Special Collections & Archives, Student Scholarship (graduate capstone projects, honors theses, ETDs, and undergraduate research), and University Publications such as sports media guides, yearbooks, undergraduate and graduate catalogs, and alumni magazines.



ePLACE: Preserving, Learning, and Creative Exchange

B.L. Fisher Library, Asbury Theological Seminary
<http://place.asburyseminary.edu>

A unique feature of ePLACE is its offering of full-text online fiction and non-fiction books, papers, journals, and other materials from First Fruits Publishing, a Christian publishing house. Unlike the University Press of Kentucky materials in UKnowledge, many of these publications are freely available to the public from off-campus. The "ECommons" section includes recordings of ATS chapel services, selected class lectures, and digitized materials including academic catalogs.



TopSCHOLAR

Western Kentucky University Libraries
<http://digitalcommons.wku.edu>

A major benefit of IRs is their capacity to include often-unpublished (and thus invisible) undergraduate scholarship and research. WKU Libraries' TopSCHOLAR has chosen to include a link to the Undergraduate Research Commons, a showcase of undergraduate work at WKU and other institutions worldwide that use bepress as an IR platform. The Commons is also accessible directly at <http://undergraduatecommons.com>.



ScholarWorks@Bellarmine

W.L. Lyons Brown Library, Bellarmine University
<http://scholarworks.bellarmino.edu>

Bellarmino's IR emphasizes student scholarship by offering separate sections for undergraduate and graduate student work.

Institutional repositories at other colleges and universities can generally be found by visiting the home institution's website and searching for "repository." Additional guides for finding specific IRs are listed below.

DISCIPLINE-ORIENTED INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORIES

Other interesting and useful institutional repositories making open access research publications and data available to the public are hosted by national and international government, scientific and research organizations. The following are some of the more popular IRs:



Smithsonian Research Online (SRO)

Smithsonian Libraries
<http://www.research.si.edu>

SRO contains published research from scholars and staff working in the Smithsonian's 20 museums and nine research centers, including the National Air & Space Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, the African Art Museum, and more. The Research Bibliography section contains publication citations (some of which lead to the full-text on publisher sites), and a Digital Repository offers full-text online editions. Currently, the SRO contains over 73,000 items.

 NASA Scientific and Technical Information (STI) Program

NASA Scientific and Technical Information (STI) Program

<http://www.sti.nasa.gov>

The STI is the largest collection of aerospace research in the world, and currently contains over 4 million bibliographic records and full-text documents. Science and technical research materials are collected from all NASA centers and sources worldwide. The NASA Technical Reports Server (NTRS) provides access to not only citations, but also images, videos and a wide variety of full-text online materials including conference and meeting papers, patents, research reports, and technical videos. Collections include citations and reports from the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) period from 1915 to 1958; citations and documents created or sponsored by NASA from 1958 to the present; and citations and links to images, photos, movies, and videos from the discontinued NASA Image eXchange (NIX).



The World Bank Open Knowledge Repository

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org>

Launched in 2012, the World Bank's OKR is the world's largest source of open access development knowledge and research, with nearly half its users in developing countries. Content includes World Bank Group Annual Reports; all World Development Reports; journal articles published in Oxford University Press' journals *World Bank Economic Review* and *World Bank Research Observer*; Policy Research Working Papers; and more.

 WHOAS: Woods Hole Open Access Server
a repository for the Woods Hole scientific community

WHOAS: Woods Hole Open Access Server

<https://darchive.mblwhoilib.org>

Managed by the Marine Biological Laboratory – Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, the WHOAS maintains and disseminates scholarly and research-oriented work from the Woods Hole scientific community, including not only Woods Hole, but also the Marine Biological Laboratory, USGS Science Center for Coastal and Marine Geology, and the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information

Centers. Materials include articles, books, published book chapters, conference and workshop presentations, data sets, images, and more.



National Agricultural Library Digital Collections

<http://naldc.nal.usda.gov/naldc/home.xhtml>

Not primarily an institutional repository, the NAL serves as a major national source for agricultural information. Part of its mandate is also to provide stable and long-term access to United States Department of Agriculture research. The collections are searchable and browsable. For USDA-funded peer-reviewed research, see the "Journal Articles, USDA Authors, Peer-Reviewed" section. Other interesting materials include *Fruit and Vegetable Market News* reports, the Historical Gypsy Moth Publications collection, the Rural Development Publications collection, and the USDA Plant Inventory.

FINDING INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORIES AND OPEN ACCESS MATERIALS

Although there is currently no definitive directory of institutional repositories, the following directories offer searchable and browsable lists by criteria including type of organization, country, platform, and subject area:

OpenDOAR: The Directory of Open Access Resources

<http://opendoar.org>

Maintained by the Centre for Research Communications at the University of Nottingham, OpenDOAR currently lists over 2600 academic open access repositories, each one of which has been verified by project staff. The system allows users to search for repositories and their contents, as well as browse a list of repositories and view statistics.

ROAR: Registry of Open Access Repositories

<http://roar.eprints.org>

Another registry of worldwide open access repositories, ROAR offers a multi-faceted advanced search that allowing users to search IRs by title, description, repository type, country, subject focus, platform, and other criteria. IR data from ROAR and OpenDOAR are also overlaid onto an interactive Google Map at the Repository 66 website, <http://maps.repository66.org>.

Ranking Web of Repositories

<http://repositories.webometrics.info>

IRs are organized by geographic region, type of repository (universities, hospitals, business schools and research centers), An especially interesting feature is the “Top Institutionals” list, which ranks research-oriented repositories according to a composite index measuring their overall visibility on the web. Available in both English and Spanish, the service is maintained by the Cybermetrics Lab of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC), the largest public research organization in Spain.

OAIster

<http://oaister.worldcat.org>

A service of OCLC, OAIster is a union catalog of more than 30 million open access digital resource records built by harvesting open access collections worldwide. Also, OAIster records are included in search results for libraries using WorldCat Local and WorldCat Local “quick start.”

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