

11-2012

# Digital Repositories and Open Access: Information Without Limits

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## Recommended Citation

Crystal Goldman and Silke P. Higgins. "Digital Repositories and Open Access: Information Without Limits" *Faculty and Staff Publications* (2012).

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# Digital Repositories and Open Access: Information Without Limits

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*Annual Conference of the California Library  
Association (CLA)*  
*San Jose, California*  
*4 November 2012*



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# Abstract

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*For many libraries, the Digital Repository has become the main storage center for materials created by the community they serve. Such materials can include important historical records, local newspapers, community newsletters, as well as articles, presentations, data sets, images, videos and other multimedia items. In this way, the repository takes on a central role in placing free, open access materials into the hands of the public.*

*While many repositories are currently managed by universities, their benefits reach beyond the walls of academia to include K-12 students as well as the public at large. Thus, all librarians are encouraged to utilize the materials housed in repositories during their educational programming. Doing so has the advantage of providing reliable information at no cost to their patrons while at the same time creating ties between the university and the local community. Furthermore, the use of open access materials during instruction sessions and reference interactions presents the librarian with many opportunities to discuss the increased importance of fair use and intellectual property issues.*



# Welcome! Or, Why We Are Here Today

## Provide an Overview of...

- The purpose and scope of Digital/Institutional Repositories
- The benefits of Open Access (OA)
- Who uses which Open Access materials for what purpose
- How to discover and use materials housed in Institutional Repositories (IR)
- Why it is not "all good:" Copyright, potential issues, criticism, drawbacks
- The future of Open Access Institutional Repositories



# Open Access & Digital Repository Defined

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"**Open-access** (OA) literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restriction." (Suber, 2012)

**Digital Repositories** can be described as

- "A set of services that a university offers to the members of its community for the management and dissemination of digital materials created by the institution and its community members." (Lynch, 2003)
- "Digital collections that capture and preserve the intellectual output of university communities." (Crow, 2002)



# Wait, There is More!

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- **IRs are not simply storage houses or archives delivering content on demand.**  
They are versatile vehicles for storing, sharing, and reusing of multimedia learning objectives. (Duncan, 2003)
- **IRs are not just digital libraries.**  
In any library, librarians are in control of collection development; in IRs, people can, within limits, contribute content. (ibid)
- **IRs are pedagogy-neutral.**  
They offer resources for a large variety of teaching methodologies, learning approaches, and lecture styles. (ibid)

# Benefits of Open Access

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- Allows for faster access to up-to-date research
- Helps to lower/remove price barriers (It's **FREE!**)
- Furthers Transliteracy
- Increases collections of accessible materials for the disabled
- Places primary, reliable, scholarly research into the hands of the general public
  - Serious hobbyists
  - Journalists
  - Students

# For Academia Only?

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## No Way!

Open Access Institutional Repositories with primarily academic focus contain many resources that are of interest and useful to the community at large.

- Articles (Scholarly, Peer-Reviewed)
- Theses, Projects, and Dissertations
- Outstanding Student Papers
- Presentation Slides and Notes
- White Papers
- Newspapers, Newspaper articles, Newsletters, eZines
- Audio, Video, Image files
- Digital Learning Objects (DLOs)
- Datasets
- Foreign Language Materials





# Discovering Content in Digital Repositories

- **Google Scholar** (<http://scholar.google.com>)
- **OpenDOAR** (<http://www.opendoar.org>)
  - Searches IRs by subject, country, content and repository type
- **OAIster** (<http://www.oaister.worldcat.org>)
  - Available through WorldCat
    - 25 million records from 1,100 repositories
- **BASE - Bielefeld Academic Search Engine** (<http://www.base-search.net>)
  - 36 million records from 2,200 sources, 75% full text
- **Searching across specific platforms:**
  - Digital Commons (<http://digitalcommons.bepress.com>)
- **Searching within Open Access journals only:**
  - DOAJ (<http://www.doaj.org>)



# Interesting Examples of Collections in Repositories

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- **Bryant College Goes to War**
  - [http://digitalcommons.bryant.edu/bryant\\_goes\\_to\\_war](http://digitalcommons.bryant.edu/bryant_goes_to_war)
    - Over 1,400 digitized letters from 1942-1945 from the Bryant College Service Club
- **Sir Isaac Newton's Papers**
  - <http://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/newton>
    - Digitized copies of Newton's papers and notebooks held at Cambridge
- **Western Soundscapes**
  - <http://westernsoundscape.org>
    - Thousands of sound recordings of Western animal species and their environments

# Examples of Local-Interest Repository Collections

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- **California Digital Newspaper Collection**
  - <http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cdnc>
    - UC Riverside digitized 30+ historical California newspapers from 1846-1922
- **Calisphere**
  - <http://www.calisphere.universityofcalifornia.edu>
    - Digitized primary sources on state history, organized into collections for K-12 classrooms. A public service project of the UC's California Digital Library
- **Ventura County Environmental Collections**
  - <http://repository.library.csuci.edu/handle/10139/2722>
    - CSU Channel Islands digitized environmental sustainability records of importance to their local community

# No Such Thing As "No Limits"

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## **Limitations of Open Access**

- Open Access is free for users, not for producers
  - Maintaining an IR is costly
  - Authors may be charged a submission fee
- Open Access does not equal Free Access
  - Free access imposes limitations (read-only, no creation of derivatives, etc.)

## **Intellectual Property/Copyright Law**

- Legal basis of Open Access is consent of copyright holder

## **What Cannot Easily be Made Available via Open Access, and Why**

- "Traditionally published" books, book chapters, journal articles
  - Author grants copyright to publisher
  - Permission required from publisher instead of author
- Where pre/post-prints allowed, obtaining these can prove difficult
  - Authors often do not retain pre/post-prints



# Potential Issues, Criticism & Drawbacks

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## Potential Issues

- Copyright law can
  - limit what is available
  - restrict use of what is available
  - result in removal of previously available materials

## Criticism

- Use of Open Access IRs limits academic breadth
- Open Access journals denude the field of trusted publications
  - Encourages "predatory publishing"
  - Host pre-prints which may never pass peer-review

## Drawbacks

- Currently, no federated search engine for all repositories available

# Where Do We Go From Here?

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- Around the world, colleges and universities, medical and law schools, societies, professional associations, and research institutions are already participating in some form of Open Access Institutional Repository model
- Colleges and universities are looking into or are already publishing their own high-quality, peer-reviewed journals
- Increasingly, OA IRs will include multi-media content
- How quickly will "traditional" publishers catch on, and what will we see?
  - Mixed-publication models?
  - Longer-lasting embargoes before offering materials via OA?

# Questions? Comments?

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Feel Free to Communicate With Us!

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