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DOES SUBMITTING NONTRADITIONAL SCHOLARLY CONTENT TO AN INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY PROVIDE ACADEMIC VALUE TO SUBMITTERS? A STUDY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

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UNM HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY and INFORMATICS CENTER

BACKGROUND

► Publications about institutional repositories (IRs) largely focus on launching, marketing, and populating content into live IRs from an academic perspective.

► Promotional reasons to participate in an IR usually center on scholarly communication or preservation issues.

► The authors seek to identify qualitative benefits from the submitters perspective.
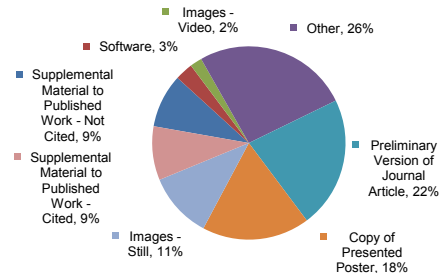
RESEARCH

Does using the University of New Mexico's (UNM) institutional repository DSpaceUNM to publish scholarly output (e.g., data sets, posters, presentations) have tangible scholarly benefits for investigators?

SETTING AND METHODS

► **Location:** The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

► **Population:** Registered DSpaceUNM users with a current UNM campus address (N=125)

► **Study Instrument:** Non-validated questionnaire designed to assess benefits of participating in DSpaceUNM and types of content submitted

► **Data Collection:** IRB approved questionnaires sent to campus mailboxes

► **Survey Duration:** 1 month in 2007

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

► **Response Rate:** 25% (31/125)

► **Gender:** 61% Female

► **Status (and mean yrs) at UNM**
  ► 87% Faculty (17yrs)
  ► 10% Staff (18yrs)
  ► 3% Student (4yrs)

► **Depositing Beneficial to Career?:**
  ► 50% = Neutral
  ► 22% = Agree
  ► 22% = Strongly Agree
  ► 3% = Strongly Disagree

► **Content Classification:**
  ► 37% Traditional academic content such as published journal articles or book chapters.
  ► 63% Nontraditional academic content such as papers or posters presented at professional meetings.

► **Type of Content Deposited**:

Images - Video, 2%; Other, 26%; Software, 3%; Supplemental Material to Published Work - Not Cited, 9%; Preliminary Version of Journal Article, 22%; Supplemental Material to Published Work - Cited, 9%; Images - Still, 11%; Copy of Presented Poster, 18%

► **Top File Types Deposited**:
  ► Portable Document Form (PDF)
  ► Microsoft PowerPoint (PPT)
  ► Microsoft Word (DOC)
  ► Images (GIF, JPG, TIFF)

QUALITATIVE EXPERIENCES

► "I have been able to get wide exposure for my work, months before it has even been published. I included download counts in my dossier for a recent review to good effect."

► "Got many positive & negative feedback from people in my field on my paper."

► "Depositing in DSpace facilitated sharing data that had not been published previously."

► "Someone who read one of my articles in DSpace contacted me for more information on the topic. As a result, I plan to do a follow-up article (now that I know there is real interest in the topic)."

► "Allowed me to get rid of my personal web page and send folks to DSpace for papers."

PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS

► Almost half of respondents agree that using IRs provides a tangible scholarly benefit to their academic career, while half are neutral.

► Papers and presentations constitute the majority of submitted content. Currently, there is little use of multimedia formats (i.e., video or audio).

► Value to submitters is easy exposure and sharing of scholarly content with peers and preservation of output in one place.

FUTURE RESEARCH QUESTIONS

► Would tailoring the promotion of IRs based on actual submitter benefits be superior to current strategies that solely focus on traditional scholarly communication and preservation issues?