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Are We There Yet? Sustaining Enthusiasm and Powering the Repository Road Trip

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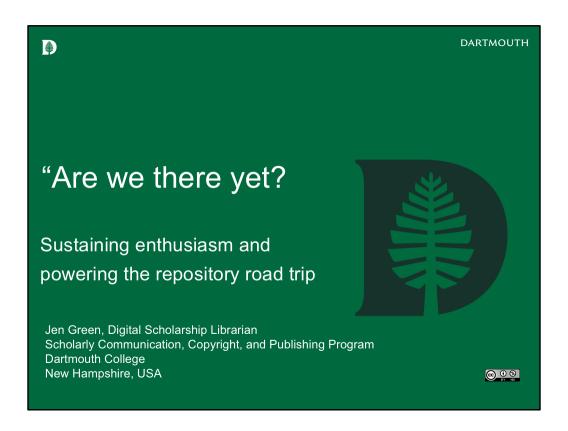
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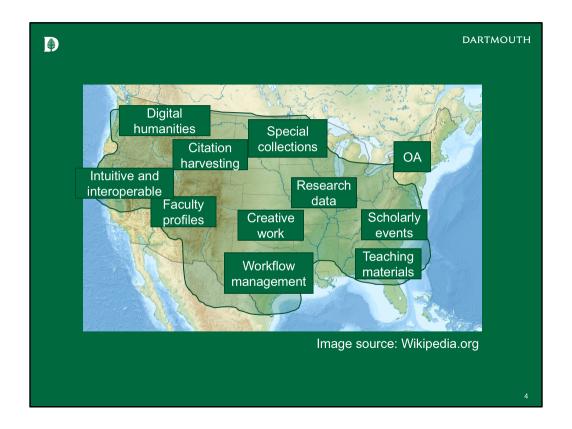
Hi, I'm Jen, and I'm going to describe Dartmouth's journey towards launching an open repository for faculty scholarly output and how we kept our stakeholders engaged on a long and winding road.



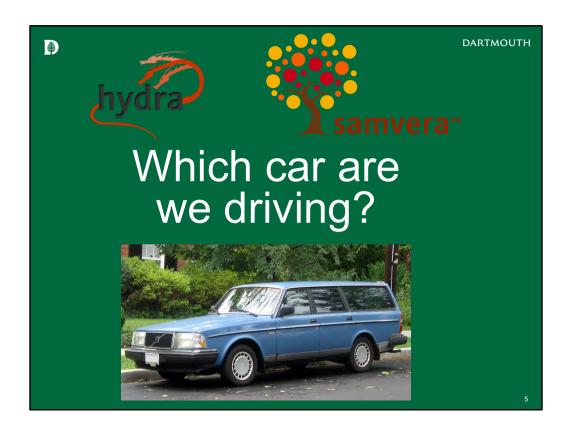
Roads trips often start because we want to see new things and shift our perspectives. Dartmouth's repository road trip began for those reasons, but primarily as a way of implementing the Dartmouth Faculty Open Access policy, which faculty voted to approve starting in 2013.



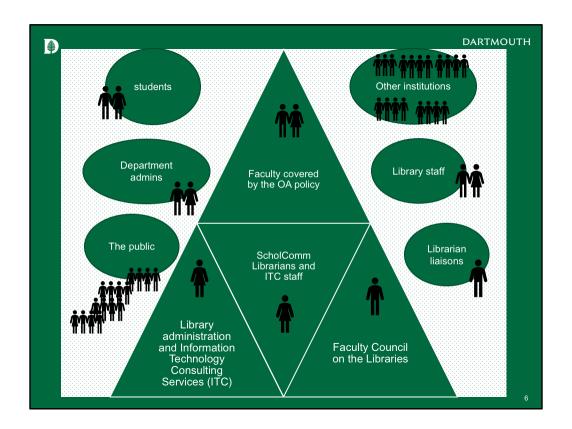
The Library established a collaborative project with Information Technology Services (ITS) to do this. The project home and project lead lived within ITS. Like other road trips I've been on, Dartmouth's ideas about where the repository could go expanded quickly.



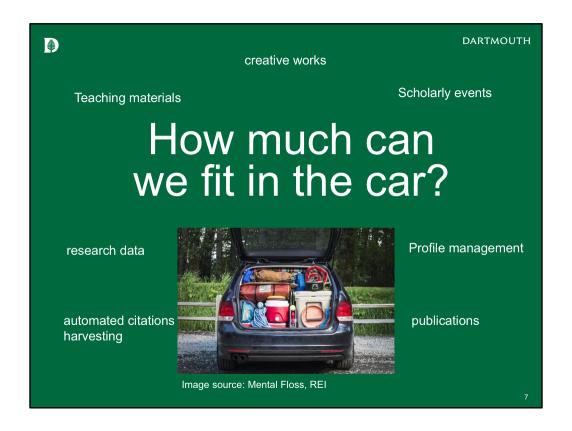
While the repository's initial scope was OA policy, this idea generated excitement and ideas about the possibilities of what a well-built repository might accommodate. The repository quickly became much more than open access implementation and grew to be an attempt to build a system that would make nearly everyone happy.



In 1995, my road trip was powered by a 1978 Volvo station wagon with a finicky transmission. In 2013, Dartmouth decided to build our vehicle on Hydra Fedora, which later became Samvera.



We are all aware that unexpected passengers or participants will emerge along your travels. This is just to illustrate how the passengers connected with Dartmouth's repository grew as we approached design phases for the project. As the stakeholder scope grew, we were in a perpetual state of revisiting the needs of all emerging passengers.



One challenge of a homegrown repository is that it's difficult to say "no" when people ask if they can put more than originally planned into repository because-- given enough time--you can design and program the ability to do just about anything. End-users wanted the repository to handle a variety of services and content types, and the concept of the repository continued to grow exponentially.



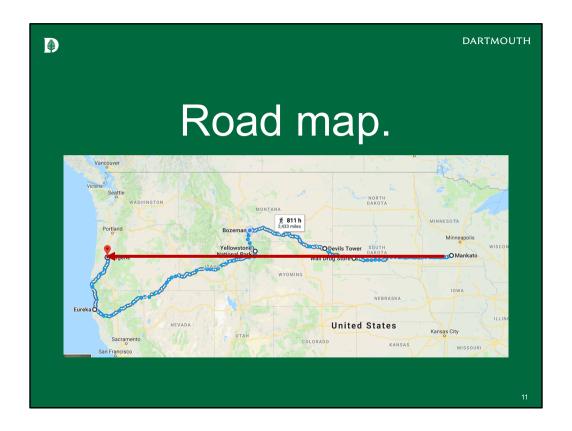
By 2014 (a year after the OA policy passed) we were ready to begin design and development phases with ITS.



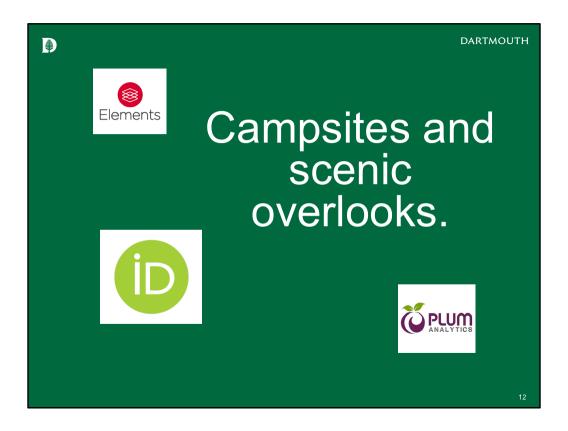
From the beginning, the project lacked timelines and a specific launch date, and this created anxiety and impatience amongst our stakeholders.



So there was doubt and suspicion about whether the repository was going anywhere.



In the absence of a timelines, the project team provided road maps. These can be both helpful and troubling if they are too broad. The repository road maps didn't seem to alleviate the impatience about the slow progress of OA implementation but they did confirm that the route from OA policy to implementation was not quite as direct as any of us had imagined.



Campsites and overlooks provide passengers with something to look forward to and help distract them from the passing of time on a long journey. For Dartmouth, these points of interest came in the form of other systems such as Symplectic Elements and PlumX, which we'd purchased to integrate with the fully functional repository. As stand alone services (Symplectic for citation harvesting and PlumX for metrics), we were able to engage librarians and faculty in these systems and describe how their use of them **now** would integrate with the IR later.



I like to say, "We're closer now than we were before," but instead we ran workshops for librarians and staff titled: "What would you say?" These helped to alleviate concerns about what one should say if they were trapped in an elevator someone who asked about the status of OA implementation.



After the "What can you say?" workshops ended, we deployed an "Interim Deposit" option so that faculty could at least send me their work while we waited for a place to post it.



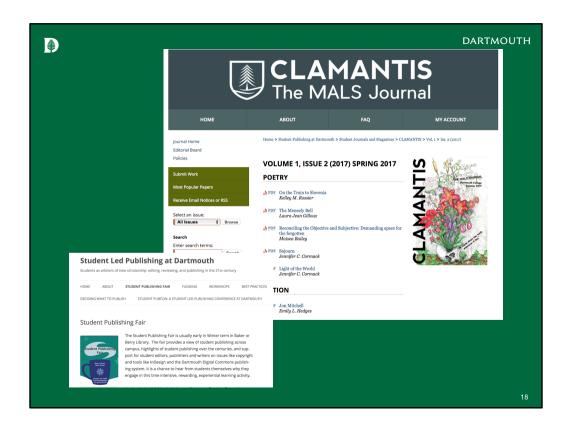
While all of this helped to improve stakeholder moral, by 2016 there was still no concrete timeline and no specific launch date, and this was still a problem. Keep in mind that back seat drivers speak up because they are invested in the journey and they care deeply about reaching the destination quickly and safely. The voices of our back seat drivers helped us make difficult decisions from this point forward.



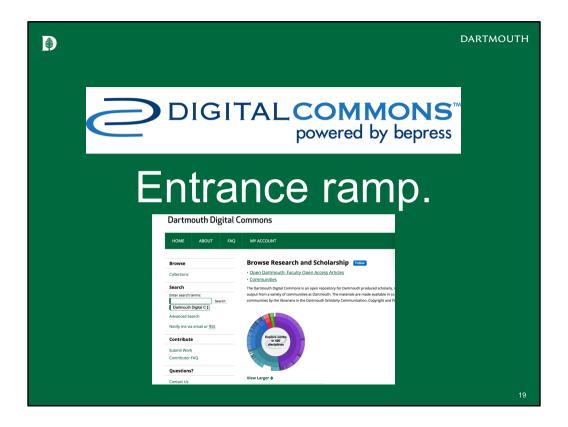
In 2017 there was still no repository and no new information about development status. Stakeholder energy and enthusiasm was practically non-existent.



That Spring 2017, the Library walked away from the ITS collaboration. It was time to rethink the rest of the journey.



While all of this was happening, the ScholComm Program was in the middle of a student-led publishing collaboration. The project was funded by an experiential learning grant, which supported the purchase of bepress Digital Commons for student-led publishing.



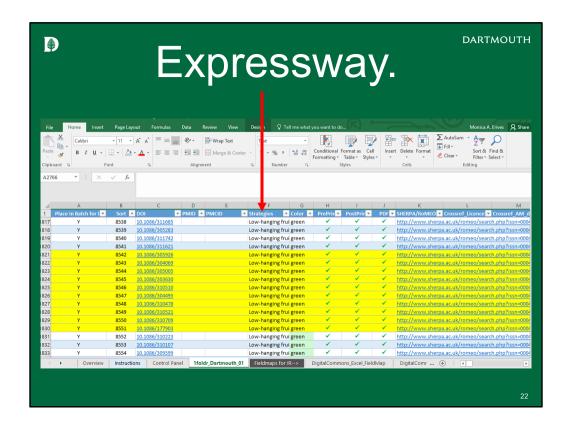
Simultaneously, Dartmouth hired a new Library Dean. The Dean quickly decided that if we were licensing Digital Commons for student-led publishing, then let us also license it for the purpose of OA policy implementation—at least for now. The collections was named Open Dartmouth: Faculty Open Access Articles.



We decided not to announce the Open Dartmouth collection until I'd populated it with enough faculty articles to produce interesting search results. Having just learned the importance of launch dates, we set ours to be 200 articles in Digital Commons by October 2017. To meet this initial goal within a 3 month timeframe, I used Web of Science to harvest and download Dartmouth affiliated open access publications and upload them into bepress in small batches.



1science develops products that make it as easier for faculty, librarians, and student to find peer-reviewed literature. Their product 1foldr provided us with a customized data report of all peer reviewed articles published by Dartmouth faculty, links to those articles, as well as their rights information. Here is a screenshot of our report, which contains over 11,000 citations for Dartmouth and their working links.



Having this report saves us a ton of time, but it is not magically populate the repository. We still review the rights for each of the 11,000 citations, but...

- The report provides direct links to full text articles so I don't have to go searching for the pdf on my own.
- It's customized to map accurately to our bepress Digital Commons fields.
- It contains sorting strategies to help me quickly identify the "low-hanging fruit" or articles that need very little rights review
- Since December 2017, we've published 2000 of the 2700 low-hanging fruit records and the next step is to work with articles covered by our OA policy.



Does one ever reach his or her final destination? We're closer now than we were before, but there is still so much work to do. Everything that took human time before we acquired the 1foldr data still takes human time, and populating the repository is not the only aspect of my job description. Therefore, the Library assigned a digital library fellow to work part-time with me to help review rights and prepare batch imports for Digital Commons before they are published. In July, I will have a full-time digital fellow to help with the next phase of our work with the 1foldr data. I also anticipate future transitions, and perhaps our repository will circle back to an open source product. If there is one thing that my experiences with cross country road trips has taught me, it is to keep my options open and persist.

Thank you!

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