Measuring the Impact of Your Repository

by Brad Matthies

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2001: A Librarian Tells Me That…

“Repositories are just a fad.”
Established Fact: In 2011 Most Academic Libraries Are Pursuing Digital Initiatives
An Appeal To Logic: Academic Libraries Are Changing

Several Recent Reports

- *The Digital Information Seeker* report by the Higher Education Funding Council (2010)
- *Ithaka Faculty Survey* (2009)

According to these and other reports...

- Academic libraries are changing from places of knowledge access to places of knowledge creation.
Institutional Repository Solutions *Can* Help Libraries Create New Knowledge

Your Library Here!

**Open Access Repository Types**

- Institutional (1483 = 82%)
- Disciplinary (217 = 12%)
- Aggregating (77 = 4%)
- Governmental (46 = 2%)

Total = 1817 repositories

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Assessment 101: Outputs & Outcomes

- Outputs (i.e. bean-counting)
  - Number of items in the repository
  - Number of downloads
  - Number of faculty, departments, or colleges participating
  - Site traffic data from Google Analytics

- Outcomes (i.e. how participation transforms participants)
  - Campus buzz
  - External opportunities for faculty
  - Faculty using Digital Commons data
  - Support from campus administration
Outputs

- Outputs (i.e. bean-counting)
  - 2,865 items
  - 90,391 downloads
  - 11 Communities, 40 series, 1 active scholarly magazine, 2 archived journals, 1 forthcoming scholarly journal series
  - 285 faculty contributions (Dec. 2010) & 67 Selected Works pages
  - 6,529 site visits by 98 countries (Dec. 2010)
  - [Annual Report](#) for 2010
Outputs Are Great, But…

- 47,442 items
- Hundreds of Communities & Series
- 6,570,129 downloads!
Paraphrasing Yoda

“Outputs matter not.”
Outcomes

- Support from campus administration
  - Our Provost publically mentioned DC in her fall convocation speech
  - Our Provost is also an enthusiastic supporter of the project

- Campus buzz
  - Several faculty have asked to participate (normally I have to seek them out)
  - One faculty member expressed interest in hosting a scholarly journal series @ DC
  - The Dean of LAS committed to supporting the aforenoted faculty member in terms of funding for a student assistant

- External opportunities
  - Dave Mason’s radio interview

- Faculty using Digital Commons data
  - Download data used by newer faculty for tenure review check
  - Requesting SW page updates for job hunt
  - Faculty including SW page in their e-mail signatures
Questions?

For questions about this presentation, please e-mail me at: bmatthie@butler.edu.

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