A Digital Institutional Repository Service

Heidi Southworth, Cataloging and Metadata Librarian and Valerie Malzacher, Director

Chalmer Davee Library, University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Summary

In Spring 2005, Chalmer Davee Library took the first steps towards sponsoring a presence for the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in the MINDS@UW project. MINDS@UW is a digital institutional repository service that is intended to provide a "safe haven" for published and unpublished electronic content of any discipline and is designed to capture, store, index, distribute and preserve the intellectual output of the university. By August 2005, the Library had posted its first collection to the site. Working in collaboration with the University's Office of Grants & Research, this first collection consisted of undergraduate student and faculty posters from the 2005 Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity Day (RSCA day). Now, the Library is taking the next step towards establishing more collections within the MINDS@UW project and invites you to offer feedback and discuss with us your questions on this exciting, new service.

What is an Institutional Repository?

"A university-based institutional repository is 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. It is most essentially an organizational commitment to the stewardship of these digital materials, including long-term preservation where appropriate, as well as organization and access or distribution."

Clifford A. Lynch, "Institutional Repositories: Essential Infrastructure for Scholarship in the Digital Age" ARL, no. 226 (February 2003):1-7. Available online at: http://www.arl.org/newsltr/226/ir.html

What is DSpace™?

Jointly developed by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the Hewlett-Packard Company, DSpace™ is an open source digital repository system designed to capture, store, index, preserve and redistribute scholarly research materials in digital formats. DSpace™ is the software/service which is currently used by the MINDS@UW project. For more information, visit their web site at: http://www.dspace.org

What are the benefits of an Institutional Repository?

Provides a single collection point for research and other types of intellectual property of faculty, staff, and students by capturing, describing and storing materials that could potentially be lost or unpublished.

Offers fast and efficient publication, dissemination and storage of materials such as gray literature, theses, dissertations, research and technical reports, presentations, conference proceedings, posters, and more.

Supplies a long-term stable URL or persistent network identifier that can be used in a citation or a web page to directly link to an item.

Research reaches a world wide audience by making materials accessible and fully searchable through Google and other Internet search engines.

How is MINDS@UW organized?

The project is organized into five sections.

Community – the community acts as the host organization and is responsible for overseeing the project and governing the policies and procedures for the sub-communities and collections. Currently, the Library is serving as the community head in the project.

Sub-Community – a sub-community can consist of individual departments, research units or offices within the community's organization, such as the Office of Grants & Research, the College of Arts and Sciences or the History Department.

Collection – a collection is a group or set of individual items that share a common theme, such as Master's theses or dissertations, department newsletters or research reports, or collections of posters such as the 2005 RSCA day posters.

Item – items consist of the individual papers, reports, etc. that make up a collection.

Bitstreams – bitstreams are the individual files (PDF files, word files, power point slides, jpg files) that make up the digital content of an item.

What other Universities have Institutional Repositories?

Besides the University of Wisconsin-Madison (who is overseeing the MINDS project), the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and University of Wisconsin-Whitewater are also participating in the MINDS@UW project.

Other Institutions with DSpace repositories include: the University of Arizona, Cornell University, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis, the University of Cambridge, the University of Edinburgh, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the University of Kansas, the University of Maryland, the University of Michigan, Ohio State University, Oregon State University, the University of Oregon, Texas A&M and more. For a complete list, visit the DSpace™ Instances home page at: http://wiki.dspace.org/DspaceInstances

What can I do to learn more?

For more information about the MINDS@UW project, visit our web page at:
http://www.uwrf.edu/library/minds/welcome.php
Or contact Heidi Southworth at: heidi.southworth@uwrf.edu