Finding IR collaborators on your campus

Eleta Exline, University Library, University of New Hampshire

Introduction

While the success of an institutional repository depends on engaging faculty and students, it can be difficult to capture the attention and imagination of these audiences directly. At the University of New Hampshire we have tapped into an existing network of people who share library objectives: increasing the exposure of university scholarship to new audiences and supporting faculty and students in their research.

Make contacts

Research Center/Institute Communications Coordinators, Program Directors, Website Administrators, and Administrative Assistants are often responsible for managing publications.

Start with a discussion

With a focus on problem solving, take the time explain the "big picture" goals of the IR before discussing the details.

Be flexible

Customizing services, timelines, and options to meet specific needs will build good will and cooperation.

Collaborate on a pilot

Working on a small project is a good way to establish workflow and identify issues or concerns.

Maintain relationships

Be responsive and keep in touch.

Needs help with

Search engine optimization

Publishing platform

Organizing content

Understanding copyrights

Access control

Can help with

Publicity

Collecting content

Describing content

Connecting with people

Key concerns

Customizing search

Controlling publicity

Tracking statistics

Site integration

Carsey Institute

IR doubled use of publications in one year

Helps publicize service to faculty contributors.

Sustainability Institute

Needs help with copyright questions

Helps identify other content on sustainability

Institute on Disability

Needs up-to-date publication list integrated with site

Sends regular updates on new publications

NH Agricultural Experiment Station

Needs help managing publications in RefWorks

Organizes and supplies publications metadata

Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership

Needs help publishing online publications lists

Helps collect content and assign subjects

Research Office

Needs IP restricted publishing platform

Provides important contacts with administration

Radio Higher Ed

First podcast series

Hiring intern to work on adding IR content

Undergraduate Honors Program

Needs custom search by department

Works on deposit process with students

Summary: Building mutually beneficial relationships based on shared goals will contribute to the success of your IR!