Institutional Repository
Annual Report to the Provost
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Overview

In the spring of 2005, Oregon State University Libraries launched ScholarsArchive@OSU, a digital service for gathering, indexing, making available and storing the scholarly work of the Oregon State University community. The repository also includes materials from outside the institution that support the university's land, sun, sea and space grant missions and other research interests. The site’s URL is http://scholarsarchive.library.oregonstate.edu/.

The library developed this service with two primary aims: to develop a digital collection of scholarly materials produced at OSU by OSU faculty, staff and students and to gain more visibility for that research. Content includes faculty articles, conference proceedings, technical reports, working papers, datasets, and theses and dissertations. ScholarsArchive@OSU uses open source software that ensures that resources are preserved and remain accessible in perpetuity.

Collecting these materials in ScholarsArchive@OSU increases their visibility. Research articles deposited in ScholarsArchive@OSU are indexed and accessible via Google, Google Scholar, other Internet search engines and appear alongside other library resources from the libraries’ search tools. Theses and dissertations provide a good example of how research visibility increases when the materials are deposited to ScholarsArchive@OSU. Student theses and dissertations, added to ScholarsArchive@OSU continuously since 2005, have been downloaded a total of 424,806 times. During this same time period, all 18,000 or so of the university’s print theses and dissertations in the library’s collections have circulated a total of 2,511 times.

A new Digital Production Librarian, University Archives faculty and the libraries’ subject librarians reach out to faculty throughout the university to promote the service. The libraries formed a Digital Production Unit within the Digital Access Services department consisting of support staff formerly responsible for cataloging print materials. The unit trains faculty, staff and students from other departments to deposit materials to ScholarsArchive@OSU, deposits materials on their behalf and oversees scanning of university print materials for inclusion.

Measures of Success

After 4 1/2 years of operation, over 12,000 items have been uploaded including: 2,959 graduate theses and dissertations, 322 undergraduate theses and dissertations, approximately 3800 technical reports, and 1200 articles.

Researchers from Oregon and other locations regularly express their gratitude for items located in ScholarsArchive@OSU:

“Yes, this is the publication that my client is looking for. THANK YOU for sending the link. I will print him a copy and get it to him. I am VERY glad that you had digitized it so that it was available in this format. Thanks again!!” OSU County Extension Agent

“Thanks! I’ve been after a copy of these two documents for the last ten years.” Research Forester
“Awesome! Healthy little trout, and we, thank you!” BLM Field Manager

“Thanks a million! They both look good on-line. While I'm old fashioned and like printed conference proceedings, I realize that on-line is the present and future. The Oregon State pages are by far the best organized of any conference proceedings I have seen on-line.” USDA Research Forester

“Thanks again. It was very difficult to find a copy of this thesis.” Graduate student from Brazil

In the last year, new collections and content added to the repository include:

- Program in Water Conflict Management and Transformation Publications
- College Catalogs
- Women’s Center publications
- A variety of Extension and Experiment Station series
- School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science theses, dissertations, non-thesis research papers, honors theses and faculty publications
- Rural Studies Program community studies and fact sheets
- College of Forestry Bibliographic Series
- Department of Microbiology research publications

In January 2009, the Webometrics ranking of the world’s digital repositories ranked ScholarsArchive@OSU 24th among the world’s digital repositories, 8th among U.S. repositories and 4th among U.S. academic institution repositories.

There have been 449,223 full-text downloads of materials housed in the repository so far this year.

On March 6, library faculty adopted a policy that requires deposit of final published versions of scholarly works in the libraries’ institutional repository, ScholarsArchive@OSU. This is the first open access mandate adopted by a library faculty in the world. The new policy means that the 42 library faculty will automatically contribute all of their scholarship to the archive. Faculty in other departments of the university currently contribute their research to ScholarsArchive@OSU on a voluntary basis.

**Growth Opportunities**

The College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences is discussing the possibility of establishing a requirement for faculty to deposit their publications in ScholarsArchive@OSU.

The College of Forestry and College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences are working to deposit eligible research publications into ScholarsArchive@OSU.

The Department of Public Health has expressed an interest in beginning to deposit pre-prints of faculty articles to the repository in the coming year.
The OSU Libraries are committed to increasing the amount of faculty contributed content and have set a goal to increase that number by 100% this year. Library staff are encouraging faculty to deposit the final versions of their research when allowed by journal publishers.

The Department of Geosciences is interested in possibly storing all Transboundary Water Dispute publications currently on their servers in ScholarsArchive@OSU.

Extension and Experiment Station Communications has agreed to deposit all future publications in ScholarsArchive@OSU. ScholarsArchive@OSU now serves as the publication repository for the department.

ScholarsArchive@OSU serves as the content repository for the Oregon Explorer series of natural resources web portals. Items deposited in ScholarsArchive@OSU are assigned metadata that surfaces them via search and browse functionality in these portals.

The OSU Libraries initiated a scan on-demand program for theses and dissertations requested through other libraries. These electronic files are deposited to ScholarsArchive@OSU.

The OSU Libraries are investigating the potential of storing geospatial and other datasets in ScholarsArchive@OSU. Geography graduate students are depositing spatial datasets.

**Challenges**

Over the past four years, we’ve encountered the following issues:

While many academic publishers allow authors to deposit the post-print (author’s final version after peer review) of their work into an institutional repository, most do not allow researchers to deposit the publisher’s pdf into a digital repository.

Faculty see the publisher pdf as the official version of their work and are reluctant to place any other version in ScholarsArchive@OSU.

Faculty seldom retain the post-print (or any other versions) of their work, making it impossible to add it to ScholarsArchive@OSU.

Many faculty don’t understand the Open Access benefits of ScholarsArchive@OSU that opens their research to a much broader audience than an individual or departmental website can.

Faculty recognize the value of ScholarsArchive@OSU and express an interest in contributing their scholarship but often fail to take the next step of contributing it, citing workload.

**Conclusion**
ScholarsArchive@OSU’s success to date is largely thanks to the thesis and dissertation deposit requirement, the deposit of digitized university print resources and the deposit of natural resources materials for searching in the Oregon Explorer web portals. Aside from a select few communities that have taken advantage of ScholarsArchive@OSU’s ability to make available the scholarship of their students and faculty, and in spite of there being an interest in the open access philosophy of the repository, most faculty are either not yet acquainted with the service, have not made the time to begin depositing their scholarship, or are simply not interested.

In the coming year, the library will continue to make efforts to promote the service to faculty in the hope that the amount of faculty scholarship in ScholarsArchive@OSU will increase. The goal is to eventually have all faculty scholarship in ScholarsArchive@OSU, so that it is gathered in one place for easier browsing and retrieval, so that it is more accessible, so that it is preserved in perpetuity and so that the citizens of Oregon and the United States are able to see and use the scholarship that they pay for.

Motivated by yesterday’s University Day festivities and the “Powered by Orange” theme, we’re considering a new tagline for ScholarsArchive@OSU:

ScholarsArchive@OSU
OSU Research. Powered by Orange. Accessible to All.

Our goal is to make this happen.