

Spring 3-20-2015

The Repository as Publisher: Opportunities and Challenges in a Dual Role

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Publication Information

Hockenberry, Benjamin, "The Repository as Publisher: Opportunities and Challenges in a Dual Role" (2015). *Lavery Library Faculty/Staff Publications*. Paper 22.

http://fisherpub.sjfc.edu/library_pub/22

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Abstract

Introductory slides to a panel at the conference "Publishing in Libraries," delivered on March 20, 2015 at the College at Brockport, State University of New York. The panel abstract follows:

Over the last two decades, in tandem with the building support for open access worldwide, academic libraries of all sizes have expanded their support of public dissemination of research beyond their walls. Through the establishment of institutional repositories, libraries are openly sharing articles, presentations, media, and data files published elsewhere. In a related -- but in some ways strikingly different -- role, libraries are acting as publishers of new content through journals, monographs, and new media. We are going to discuss some questions and opportunities that emerge from the dual role many libraries now occupy, the "repository as publisher," and the strategies employed at their institutions to manage them.

Keywords

library publishing, institutional repositories, Fisher Digital Publications

Disciplines

Library and Information Science

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The REPOSITORY AS PUBLISHER

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN A DUAL ROLE

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What are Institutional Repositories (IRs)?

Per Clifford Lynch (2003):

“In my view, 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.”

Repositories: What do IR staff do?

- Commit to archive files for future use
- Facilitate open or closed access, with embargo as needed
- Solicit externally-published content (articles, presentations, posters), grey literature (whitepapers, reports)
- Ingest content with metadata
- Collect and archive author and publisher permissions
- Reach out to faculty
- Help negotiate authors' rights
- Manage theses, dissertations, undergraduate projects
- Ensure discoverability
- Support data files, streaming media
- Preserve scholarly record of institution

(Adapted from Gilman, 2011)

Different from “library publishers?”

The Library Publishing Coalition defines library publishing as:

“...the set of activities led by college and university libraries to support the creation, dissemination, and curation of scholarly, creative, and/or educational works.

Generally, library publishing requires a production process, presents original work not previously made available, and applies a level of certification to the content published, whether through peer review or extension of the institutional brand.

Based on core library values and building on the traditional skills of librarians, it is distinguished from other publishing fields by a preference for Open Access dissemination and a willingness to embrace informal and experimental forms of scholarly communication and to challenge the status quo” (<http://www.librarypublishing.org/about-us>).

Publishers: What do publishing staff do?

- Disseminate new content
- Guide toward reputation, legitimacy
- Provide review/editing mechanisms
- Host journals, monographs, media
- Curate content
- Assist with policy development
- Design and mock up sites
- Register ISSNs/ISBNs
- Support database indexing
- Develop layout templates
- Train editorial staff and faculty
- Digitize and publish back issues
- Expose gray literature to the public
- Print, or facilitate print-on-demand
- Facilitate payment for content

(Adapted from Gilman, 2011)

Shared goals

- Creation
- Dissemination
- Opportunity
- Engagement



Image source: <http://creativecommons.org/tag/school-of-open>

Repositories publish, and publishers...reposit?

These roles are not exclusive to one or the other:

- Repositories may republish something long out-of-print
- Publishing operations (especially in libraries) have a commitment to preserve
- Repository policies can act as “editorial curation”
- Everyone needs good metadata and discoverability, right?



Tendencies

- The repository role tends toward ingesting everything that can be, with limits set by policies.
- The publishing role tends toward selectivity, building and maintaining brand reputation.



Headfirst

We jumped into the IR and library publishing worlds simultaneously, in 2012.

Previously, our involvement with repository and publishing activities were quite limited, including:

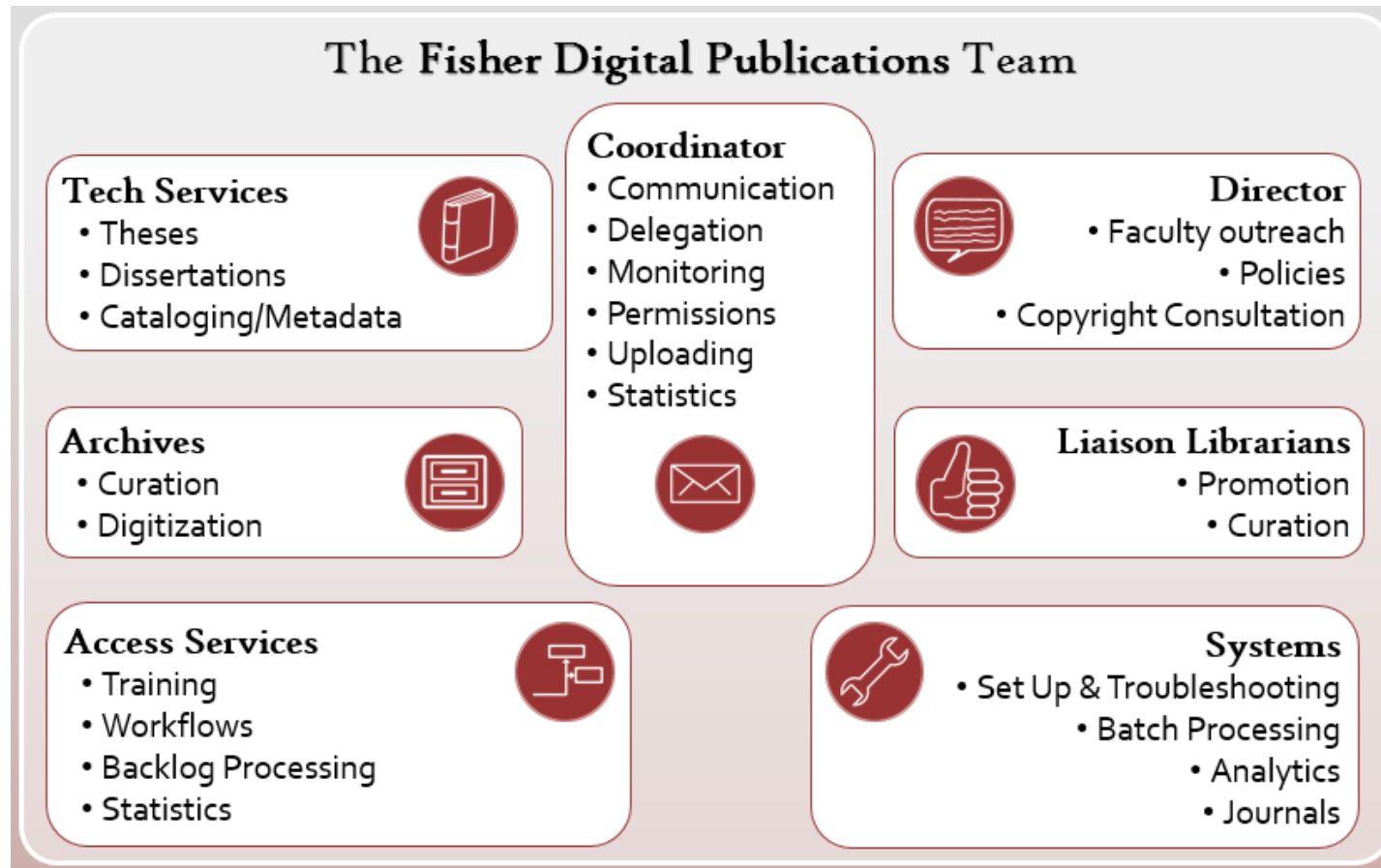
- ETDs accessible via campus network account
- Two special collections digitization projects published through New York Heritage (ContentDM)

Headfirst

We needed to find ways to leverage existing staff and a new IR/publishing platform in order to:

- Publish (at least) one peer-reviewed journal
- Open access to ETDs
- Establish and secure publisher permissions
- Administer the site
- Reach out to constituents

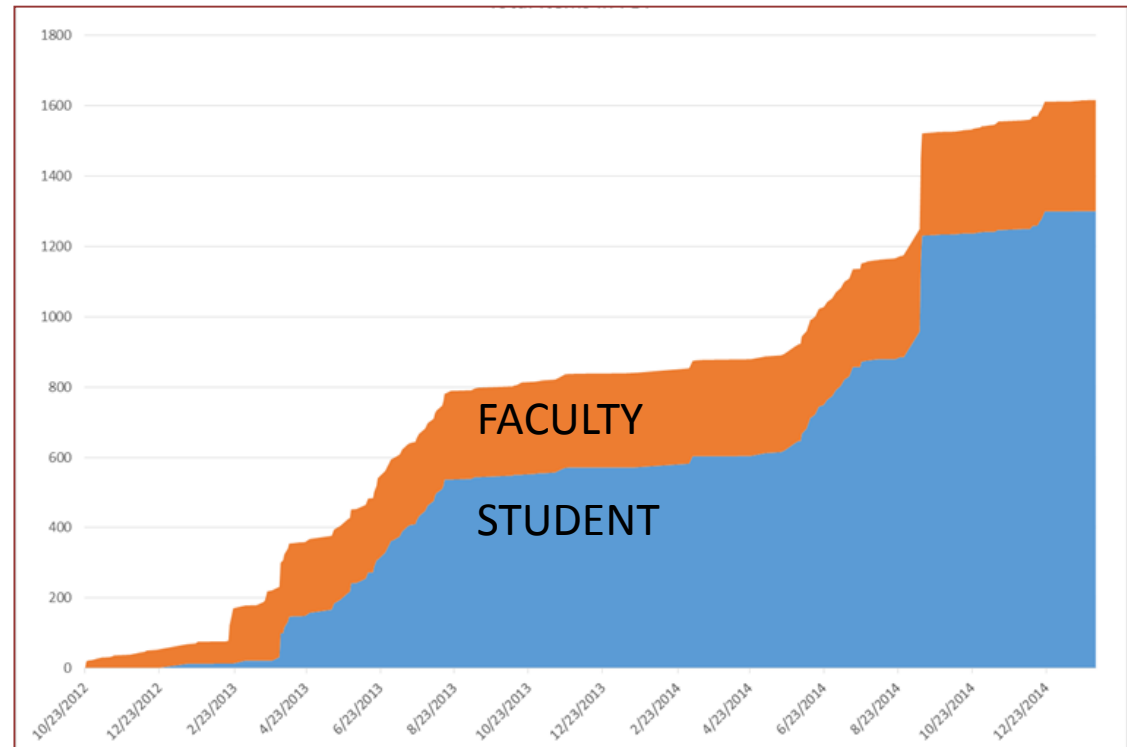
Staffing



Challenges

- Meet educational mission
- Scope creep
- Managing expectations
- Building the brand

Total Items in Fisher Digital Publications



Some strategies for success

- Strategically choose areas in which to spend staff time
- Collaborate with outside partners: grow awareness *and* workforce
- Leverage student assistants and student editors
- Stay flexible

St. John Fisher College

Undergraduate Review

A Journal of Undergraduate Student Research

The Undergraduate Review is a journal featuring students' scholarly research. Published by the Honors Program at St. John Fisher College, the journal features the work of Fisher's undergraduate students representing any discipline.

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Current Volume: Volume 15 (2014)

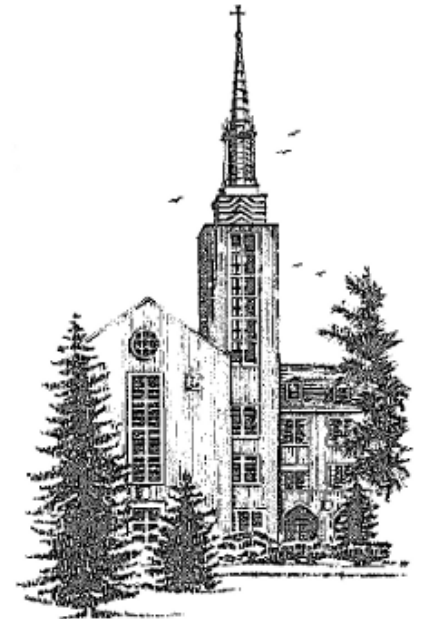
Articles



PDF

[Preliminary Page](#)

No Author



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