
TECH SERVICES ON THE WEB

This issue highlights only a small portion of the wide variety of resources available to technical services librarians on the Web. Let us know which sites are useful for your own work, and consider sharing your expertise with other readers. Tech Services on the Web welcomes new reviewers.

ASSOCIATION FOR LIBRARY COLLECTIONS AND TECHNICAL SERVICES (ALCTS) INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY RESOURCES

**[http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/confevents/
upcoming/webinar/ir_resources.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/confevents/upcoming/webinar/ir_resources.cfm)**

I am not partial to the term “institutional repository” (IR) because the image it conjures up for me is a box in which one throws a diverse quantity of items related to a large corporate body, or the online equivalent of my grandmother’s attic. Wikipedia gives a more technical definition: “An Institutional Repository is an online locus for collecting, preserving, and disseminating—in digital form—the intellectual output of an institution, particularly a research institution.” (See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Institutional_repository.) Those who dislike the term IR use other names, such as “digital library,” as in the California Digital Library, which “supports the assembly and creative use of the world’s scholarship and knowledge for the University of California libraries and the communities they serve.” (See <http://www.cdlib.org/>.) IR is also known as Digital Commons, as in the DigitalCommons@USU, which “provides open access to scholarly works, research, reports, publications, and courses produced by Utah State University (USU) faculty, staff, students, and others. Coordinated by the Merrill-Cazier Library, USU’s digital repository joins other universities worldwide in the ongoing development of new knowledge.” (See <http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/>.)

Because of this diversity of nomenclature for IR and the many uses and platforms for developing institutional repositories, it is difficult to find one Website that is deep and wide enough to encompass this large subject.

Comments and suggestions may be sent to the column editor: Marta Mestrovic Deyrup
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The Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS) of the American Libraries Association modestly constructed its Institutional Repository Resources Website "as an accompaniment to ALCTS webinar series on institutional repositories." These links to IR resources are not listed in any particular order, but the website is a gateway to the best and brightest minds engaged in this field, starting with the Institutional Repository Bibliography of Charles W. Bailey, Jr. and ending with a link to the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) Repository Resources Website.

The resources listed also include articles on IR best practices and examples of successful repositories. My favorite resource is "Making the Case for an Institutional Repository to your Provost" by Jean-Gabriel Bankier, Courtney Smith, and Kathleen Cowan, a brief 16-page gem published by bepress in May 2009. This piece includes a list of resources to give to your university administration. It features an audio of David Shulenburg's "SPARC Digital Repositories Meeting Closing Keynote" from November, 2008, in which he said, "A digital repository is the most effective way to make information free, and the public wants and desperately needs to have it." (See http://www.arl.org/sparc/meetings/ir08/closing_keynote.shtml.)

These IR web resources are even more complete if one explores the full list of the ALCTS Berkeley Electronic Press supported webinars, available as audio files, which cover important IR issues such copyright, open access, and generating campus buy-in for your IR. The Webinar archive is linked on the left-hand menu bar of the ALCTS IR Resources website and found online at: http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/confevents/upcoming/webinar/ir_series.cfm

The final glory of the ALCTS IR Resources website is that it is meticulously maintained. Every time I have accessed it in the past year, it had been freshly updated that week, and the resources that it links to are also updated regularly.

Whatever you call your institutional repository, this is the website that will help you the most in all aspects of its development, implementation and sustainability. My only quibble with this site is that as the number of IR resources grow, it will become necessary to organize the links into categories. Right now, though, this website is the go-to place for keeping up with the leaders and changing issues in the field of IR.

Rating: 4 out of 5

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