3-26-2015

Contributions to the Scholarly Record: Conferences & Symposia in the Repository

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Contributions to the Scholarly Record: Conferences & Symposia in the Repository

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ABSTRACT
Many academic libraries have found opportunities to showcase unique content through conference-hosting services, such as website-hosting and conference proceeding publishing. This poster describes two libraries’ successful efforts to archive conference materials from an undergraduate research conference and a professional conference for scholars. Through the lens of these two case studies, the repository coordinators will discuss engaging with presenters on topics of author rights, ethical use of others’ work in their presentations, creating a sustainable infrastructure for continued growth of the conference, and collaborating with faculty.

PROBLEM OF “CONFERENCE EPHEMERA”
Conference ephemera often includes conference proceedings, papers, posters, images, reports of discussions, multimedia, and programs. Despite this rich variety and value of conference ephemera, much of this content is not accessible past the original event.

SOLUTION: CONFERENCE-HOSTING AS IR SERVICE
By posting documents and artifacts from conferences within an institutional repository, the content is not only accessible for future use, but also preserves those materials for the future and for institutional memory.

CONCLUSION: BENEFITS FOR STAKEHOLDERS

Administrators/Librarians
- Stable access
- Preserves institutional memory
- Build a resource collection
- Promotes awareness of author rights and open access
- Increases awareness of event and institutional reputation

Undergraduate and Graduate Students
- Develops public speaking skills, informal scholarly writing, poster composition and other forms of professional development associated with conferences
- Introduce concepts such as open access and author rights before professional publication cycle

All Scholars
- Enhances scholarly identity
- Raise their visibility
- Stable access

Digital Commons @ IWU (ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY)
- Illinois Wesleyan’s institutional repository
- 10,499 records, 1.8 million+ downloads since January 2008
- DC@IWU was implemented not only to capture and disseminate student and faculty scholarship and creative activity, but also for some university records
- Undergraduate conferences were very much part of our plan from the outset.

CASE STUDY: VALPOSCHOLAR (VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY)
- ValpoScholar: Valparaiso University’s institutional repository
- 4,250+ records; 1.2 million+ downloads since March 2011
- Originally, ValpoScholar was supposed to collect institutional scholarship and host a few professional journals
- Conference-hosting services were not included in initial scope

CASE STUDY: DIGITAL COMMONS @ IWU (ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY)
- Digital Commons @ IWU: Illinois Wesleyan's institutional repository
- 2,102 records (1990 – 2014); full text since January 2008
- Document types include full text of papers, and the conference program/schedule.

CASE STUDY: SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION SERVICES (VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY)
- Scholarly Communication Services Librarian
- 10000 records, 1.8 million+ downloads since January 2008
- Document types include abstracts, full text of papers, slides, posters, data sets, non-repeating twice-a-year; June 2011 - present