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Building a research showcase: A library-based model for enhancing institutional repository utilization

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Building a Research Showcase: A library-based model for enhancing institutional repository utilization

Problems and Issues
For the Library
- Although robust open-source repository platforms exist, allocation of library staff to devote time and expertise to customize and maintain an open-source platform was not possible.
- Regardless of the platform, a major issue with an institutional repository is sustained participation by authors.

For Authors
- Time management poses a barrier to author self-ingestion.
- Need for metrics for reporting purposes to demonstrate impact.
- Increasing demand for public access to scholarly output.
- Enhancing the visibility and accessibility of scholarly output.

Our Approach
Fill A Need
- Developed customized templates for select research groups to allow for specialized data reporting needs.
- Adopted a policy of including the full-text content of works instead of linked records.
- Recruiting purposes.

What Should Our Repository Do?
- Collect, preserve and make accessible the scholarly output of the Washington University School of Medicine.
- Generate meaningful statistical information about how the contents of the repository are being used.

Response, Feedback & Usage
- Buy-in from research groups was surprisingly easy. We credit librarians in outreach roles for establishing strong relationships with faculty members in the research groups.
- Authors expressed no concerns regarding multiple versions of works being available from different resources (final peer-reviewed vs. final published).

Lessons Learned - New or Continuing Issues
- Creating an authority name tie for authors from our institution was necessary... and time consuming.
- Providing copyright verification for authors also demands a certain amount of time.
- Even with the ability to create custom templates, it’s wise to keep them as simple as possible.
- Sustained involvement and interest from research groups will likely remain a challenge.

Future Expectations
- Emphasis on the ability to showcase and track the usage of works should continue to be popular with research groups and will prove to be useful for reporting to funding agencies.
- Continued increases in full document downloads and web traffic.
- Refinements to the library-based model to ensure sustainability and timely ingestion.
- Increased involvement from staff.
- Stronger relationships with research groups which should create new opportunities to promote additional library services.

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