

SPECIAL REPORT
of the
RESEARCH LIBRARY COUNCIL
concerning
**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A
DIGITAL INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY
AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST**

Presented at the
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Digital publishing is rapidly changing scholarly communication, and it is in the interests of faculty, students, and librarians to keep pace. An institutional repository (IR) can capture, preserve, and disseminate a university's collective digital output. An IR can catalogue, arrange, and make searchable pre-prints, works-in-progress, peer-reviewed articles, monographs, teaching materials, data sets, conference papers, electronic theses and dissertations, and much more.

Recent research indicates that an IR may lead to a noticeable increase in scholarly citations of faculty work. A number of models have been developed, among them: DSpace (MIT) <http://dspace.org/>, eScholarship (University of California) <http://escholarship.cdlib.org> and Fedora (Cornell) <http://www.fedora.info>.

The Faculty Senate Research Library Council has explored the idea of building an IR at UMass Amherst by conducting a faculty survey during Spring Semester 2006. Preliminary results of the survey indicate that faculty who responded to the survey are interested in a service that is centrally located, and that can provide a fast, easy way to access their research. Faculty wanted the service to provide long-term preservation of their research in a variety of digital formats. Of the 52 faculty who responded to the survey, 86% were interested in contributing materials, and 42% asked to be contacted as potential early adopters and contributors.

Based on these findings, the Research Library Council recommends that the campus conduct further investigation into implementing an Institutional Repository, and that this investigation be led by the University Libraries. This implementation would include a pilot project entitled UMA STARS (Scholarship, Teaching, And Research Showcase) supported by one-time discretionary funds made available by the Director of Libraries.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate endorse the recommendation of the Research
43-06 Library Council that the campus conduct further investigation into implementing an Institutional Repository, and that this investigation be led by the University Libraries. This implementation would include a pilot project entitled UMA STARS (Scholarship, Teaching, And Research Showcase) supported by one-time discretionary funds made available by the Director of Libraries.