FORGING THE FUTURE OF A GROWING INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY: LEVERAGING CITATION DATABASES AS A TOOL FOR OUTREACH



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OVERVIEW

Many institutional repositories continue to struggle with low engagement. A combination of factors are often at play, including overburdened faculty, confusion about copyright, lack of awareness, and limited staff resources. Atkins Library at UNC Charlotte sought to address this issue by strategically leveraging citation and copyright information that already existed in a citation database to grow their institutional repository, Niner Commons. Keeping user needs and staff limitations top of mind, the Atkins Library launched a project to reframe the approach to increasing participation with the repository: instead of continuing to expect users to deposit works on their own, the library developed a service in which staff could quickly and sustainably deposit works on behalf of users.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES



USER-ORIENTED DESIGN

How can we eliminate as many barriers for users as possible?



STAFF BANDWIDTH

Niner Commons is principally supported by a staff of 1. How can we create sustainable workflows?

WORKFLOW

This service was developed largely through a 10-week fellowship program, in which a graduate student worked intensively in OpenRefine to develop and document the workflow.



IDENTIFY OA WORKS ELIGIBLE FOR THE REPOSITORY

Pull citation data from Web of Science and applying batch transformations to the data in OpenRefine to better understand who is publishing open access at UNC Charlotte.



REACH OUT TO SCHOLARS ABOUT DEPOSITS

Utilizing the cleaned Web of Science metadata, conduct targeted outreach to facilitate deposits in the repository. Here you can sort the data by discipline or search by specific scholar names to prioritize who to reach out to.



CROSSWALK METADATA TO LOCAL STANDARDS

And finally, for faculty and staff who approve the deposit of their works, normalize the Web of Science citation data to local standards to support batch ingestion in the repository.



BATCH INGEST WORKS

Together with the metadata spreadsheet and PDF files, batch ingest works into the repository via a hybrid cloud strategy connecting AWS Storage and Islandora.

CHALLENGES



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INITIAL TIME INVESTMENT

A lot of data work and planning to set up the process.



RESPONSE RATE

Still a challenge to get responses to emails; trying to think of other solutions like emailing via liaison librarians.

OUTCOMES



INCREASED DEPOSITS

Within its first month this workflow increased the number of faculty works in the repository by over 10%.



SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Ensures reasonable workloads for repository staff and users.



ENHANCED RELATIONSHIPS WITH FACULTY

Easy introduction to the institutional repository.



HIGHLIGHTING UNDERREPRESENTED SCHOLARS

The outreach plan was designed to connect with new and emerging scholars, align with DEI initiatives, and reach out to departments and groups underrepresented in the repository.