Secrets of Success: Identifying Success Factors in Institutional Repositories

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MIRACLE

• Making Institutional Repositories a Collaborative Learning Environment
  • Census
  • Interviews with users
  • User studies (search)
  • Case studies
  • http://miracle.si.umich.edu/

• Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) LG-06-05-0126-05) – 2005 - 2009
Success Measures

- Content recruitment
- Services
- Sustainability
- Largely internal
Content Recruitment

• Coverage, depth, quantity
• Blythe and Chachra (2005): “They will be successful only when they achieve broad and voluntary participation by individuals in the communities they serve.”
Services

• Search
• Discovery
• Promotion
• Preservation

• “Without a set of services around it, it’s not a good reason to have an IR.” (IR3)
Sustainability

• Integration into institutional planning
• Funding
• Relationship to other IRs on campus
• Interoperability
• Documentation / Measurement
Impact Measures

- Outcomes versus outputs
- Internal versus external indicators of success
- Unintended consequences
- Long term view
Case Studies

- University of Illinois – IDEALS,
- University of Massachusetts – ScholarWorks
- University of Michigan – Deep Blue
- University of Minnesota – Digital Conservancy
- Ohio State University – Knowledge Bank
Case Studies Process

- On-site interviews with
  - IR principals
  - Library and campus leaders
  - IT
  - Other IRs on campus
  - Users
  - Contributors
- Analysis of supplemental data
- Summer 2008
Impact Areas

- Content
- Stretching technological competence
- Role of the library
Content

• Library as publisher
• Dealing with more and different types of content
• Library as curator
• “The IR was seen as a way to build an infrastructure and provide stewardship.” (IR3)
Technology

- Building technological competence
- Experience with new and different technologies
- Digital preservation experience
Role

- Library as publisher
- Library as participant in discussions and answer about content curation throughout campus
- Library as function not just as bricks and mortar
- “Getting into the scholarly workflow.” (IR2)
Mission

• Framing the IR
• “Changing the message from IR to author rights was key to getting faculty buy-in...I was able to get so many people who were willing to be early adopters that I couldn’t work with all of them.” (IR4)
Use

• From the scholars’ point of view:
  • Citation
  • Ranking
  • Access to and promotion of materials
  • Preservation

• “I look at the uptake among the communities, not the number of documents in there.” (IR3)
Conclusions

- How does the IR help realize the vision of the library within the 21st century university?
- Content, services, and sustainability of the IR may be necessary but not sufficient for impact.
- Framing IR issues in terms of longer term library goals.
Thank-you
and
Questions