New Frontiers in Institutional Repositories: IR Development at Georgia Tech

Tyler Walters
Associate Director,
Digital and Technical Services
Georgia Institute of Technology
Library and Information Center
IR @ GT – Context & Planning

- Organizational commitment to Digital Initiatives in Library strategic plan, 2002

- A major objective: “digital publishing program to promote open standards for faculty and students, resulting in durable, functional digital works accessible worldwide.”

IR @ GT – Context & Planning: 2003

- DTS divisional and DI Dept. strategic plans completed
- IR based on information needs of users
- Systems/policies - capture, dissemination, access, preservation
- Campus digital initiatives, promote open source approaches
- Capture “at-risk” digital intellectual output
- Create digital resources from existing library resources
- Staffing “moves” in Digital Initiatives and Systems Depts...
IR @ GT - Drivers

- Technology development and “born-digital” prevalence
  concern: losing information found on unit web sites, not “sent” to Library

- Library budget growth: $1.2 mill (fy04) and $750,000 (fy03)
  vote of confidence, Library can deliver on managing digital information

- GT mission: knowledge creation, transfer, and library’s role

- Interdisciplinary research and cross-disciplinary data mining
  (Digital Repository, YES and “Silos” - NO)
Campus initiatives: learning objects (7 major projects)

Acceptance / interest in ETD @ GT program

Growth in papers, reports, lectures – units creating “online libraries” (but not really)
  – GTRI, other research centers reports and paper series
  – Depts.’ working papers series, conference papers
  – i.e. Sam Nunn Policy Forum – speech videos and transcripts
  – Ca. 50 examples inventoried (found on a GT web site)
Promoting value-added library services in a digital context:

- Adding value to academic depts.’ disparate attempts to share information through…
  - Standard metadata to discover resources inter-institutionally
  - Digital preservation schemes and approaches
  - Online access over time, across technologies (open source)
  - Searching/knowledge mining (cross-disciplinary discovery)
IR @ GT: “Fast-tracking”

Why?

Because despite users telling us they would like to have an IR, they, and we, don’t really know how they will interact with it.

Response to this dilemma?

We built a “pilot” IR asap to observe users’ interaction with it and gain their feedback re: their needs.
IR @ GT: “Fast-tracking, cont’d

Pressure to fast-track?

You bet. We need to produce and show the value of Digital Initiatives program. With $1.95 million added to library budget in 2 years, we need to show ROI to resource allocators
Formed library team to review, assess, select IR software, and review “functional issues”:

- Preservation/administrative metadata handling
- Subject headings / controlled vocabulary use, and end user utility or need
- Submission process (user friendliness)
- Policy issues, i.e. who has rights regarding access, submission, review, etc.
Some more functional issues reviewed:

- Searching, basic vs. advanced
- Fiscal costs
- Open source as a mission, a driver
- Long-term preservation, i.e. formats and migration approaches. Preservation Network possibilities.
Reviewed DSpace and EPrints more closely

- **GT ECE / Library: DSpace explorations of learning object mgmt.**
- Pilot implementation, Spring 2004
- Public launch of SMARTech, August 1, 2004

- http://SMARTech.gatech.edu
IR @ GT

Overall Objective:

Not to achieve perfection, but rather to start down the “IR road.” Adjust along the way.

Our goals must be obtainable within the ability, energy, and time available from our programmers and managers.
Thank you! — (contact info:)

- Tyler Walters
- 404-385-4489
- Tyler.Walters@library.gatech.edu

- Associate Director, Digital and Technical Services, Georgia Tech Library and Information Center