



Assessment Annual Report

Service or Collection

ScholarsArchive@OSU

Fiscal Year

2019-2020

Overview

ScholarsArchive@OSU is the institutional repository for Oregon State University. There are over 72,000 items in the repository, which features scholarly output of the university, including electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs), open access journal articles, technical reports, presentations, book chapters, and other formats. In FY20, 524 ETDs were submitted, and the total number of new works submitted was 1734. 1,185 new users were registered in the system.

This year we were able to address quite a number of individual field corrections (49,240) that were the result of our migration to a new platform in 2018. Some of this work was done by a student worker, but most of it was done by a library technician who prepared the changes to be applied in bulk by a programmer. We were able to dedicate three work cycles to this effort and make some incremental improvements to the software.

Strategic Significance:

ScholarsArchive@OSU connects to the OSULP Strategic Plan most clearly in Goal 4, to Practice Active and Respectful Stewardship as we are “supporting, preserving, sharing and honoring the cultural and intellectual output of our communities” through the institutional repository.

Takeaways:

- Usage statistics are something that we need to improve in future development. We do not always have easy access to the kinds of statistics we need, or that our partners such as the Graduate School need to have - we often have to run queries on the database itself, as there is no user interface with the right granularity.
- Strong relationships with partners enabled us to continue submissions without much difficulty during COVID-19. However, COVID-19 meant that students and faculty submitting to SA@OSU were stressed and needed more support than usual.

- Having a programmer dedicated to ScholarsArchive improved support at critical times. With one of our programmers leaving in early FY21, this may be a challenge in the near future.
- There are still some usability issues to address in terminology, workflow, and around rights. We need to complete a usability study and make improvements based on the results.
- “Communities” that existed in the previous platform, are not supported in the new software and we want to re-design this feature by using collections and expanding what collections are available.

Next Steps:

We will pursue an exception to hire an additional programmer to work closely with the LT3 IR Metadata Technician to ensure optimal performance of the software and to continue to integrate improvements. There are some features within the Hyrax community that we will want to incorporate in SA@OSU, there are some cosmetic changes we would like to make, and there are some workflow and terminology improvements that would help students and administrators of the software. In addition to hiring another Analyst Programmer, we would like to do some usability studies. We are unsure how this will work while we are remote.

We want to continue to back up the irreplaceable items (ETDs, and some other collections) and to submit them to a digital preservation system for additional safekeeping. ETS is in the process of expanding a relationship with MetaArchive where we have been depositing ETDs and EESC collections. We may need more funding to achieve strategic digital preservation of additional collections.

Assessment:

We have done some informal assessment with partners in the Graduate School and the Honors College to understand where the language used on the submission form could be improved, and to test small changes to the submission workflow. This has been helpful, but it also illuminated the need for more usability study and changes to the software

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Mellinger, Sarah Imholt, Hui Zhang

10/26/2020

Signature of the person (or persons) who prepared this report

Date submitted

Attachments

Appendix A: Assessment Data

Data should be presented in a readable form that shows that it was analyzed and communicates the results of this analysis. You may also include copies of assessment instruments or protocols, and/or links to raw data.