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Digital Scholarship - University at Albany Student Internet Reviews

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Author Information

Each entry identifies each student author

Research Data Management

University of Hertfordshire Research Data Management

<http://www.herts.ac.uk/rdm/rdm>

Reviewer: Carly Washburn, M.S.I.S. Candidate, University at Albany, SUNY

One of the best online resources for information on Research Data Management (RDM) can be found on the University of Hertfordshire's website. This site provides users with a clear and easy-to-navigate site containing helpful information for every step of the RDM planning process. The site presents the information in a logical and organized manner. It begins with a clear definition of RDM and the importance of RDM planning. Users will then find information on data and funding, why it is important for RDM, and where to get it. The site lists and explains significant aspects of each stage of the process that need to be taken into consideration. At the start of a project, the University of Hertfordshire recommends focusing on filing, metadata, software, documents, and coding. Explanations for each topic are provided, as well as a note on why your choice is important. While the project is under way, the university suggests concentrating on the storage, security, access, and sharing of your data. Publication and preservation are recommended considerations for the end of your project. Additional information, including helpful links, is provided for all the topics under each stage of the process. The site also provides information on legal issues that will affect your project, as well as RDM training modules and courses. One of the aspects of this site that makes it great is the inclusion of a variety of case studies. These case studies can be utilized to gain further understanding of RDM, and the University of Hertfordshire provides users with twelve examples of RDM in twelve different fields. Users will appreciate the ease of navigation and plethora of information that this site has to offer.

Research Data Oxford

<http://researchdata.ox.ac.uk/>

Reviewer: Emma Trevena, M.S.I.S. Candidate, University at Albany, SUNY

The University of Oxford's website on Research Data Management(RDM) is helpful in explaining what Research Data Management is and how they (the University of Oxford) use research data management. When you initially enter the site you are introduced to six different sections that are labeled and pictured; *About RDM, what one needs to know, Working with data, Sharing data, Tools, services and training* and *Research data glossary*. These sections are an excellent resource for those interested in learning more about Research Data Management. There are several sections throughout the website that explain what Research Data Management is, the benefits of Research Data Management and much more. The way the sections are written give the viewer some guidance on the research process. The positive aspects regarding this website is

that it's very easy to use and has a great breadth of information and insight on Research Data Management. Another positive aspect of the website would be the preservation tab, as it can help you gain insight on how to preserve data. In addition to that, the layout of the web site particularly its use of photos and title format keeps the viewer interested and engaged in the research process. The one negative aspect of this website might be the fact that it is a university based website so it could be a little bit biased with its information and some of that information may be specific for that institution. However, it is a well-known university and should be considered a credible source for RDM information. The RDM site provides a wealth of information to researchers regarding their needs to plan for sharing, preserving, and accessing research data.

Digital Copyright

Copyright Protection in the Digital Age

by Bradley S. Shear

<http://www.acc.com/legalresources/quickcounsel/icpituscaeu.cfm>

Reviewer: Katherine Federiconi, M.S.I.S. Candidate, University at Albany, SUNY

As we move towards a primarily digital world, it is important to understand copyright in its new context. In 2010, Bradley Shear, through the Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC), published this article to provide an explanation of a few international copyright laws to help readers gain further understanding of the topic. The ACC is an international professional organization for corporate lawyers.

The laws Shear discussed originated in the United States, Canada, and Europe. Shear also summarizes the UK Digital Economy Act of 2010 (UK DEA), the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA), User Generated Content Ownership (UGC), and Fair Use. Each description on the page explores the different acts that led to the copyright law formations, providing useful hyperlinks so readers can learn more on the desired topic. A list of government resources and ACC resources are provided at the bottom of the page.

This is an extremely useful website as it provides insight into international copyright laws. This site is useful to people without a legal background, as it summarizes the laws and emphasizes the most important information in each of them. Because the laws are presented succinctly, information professionals can use this site to gain a basic understanding of digital copyright laws. This will not only prevent information professionals from violating any of the copyright laws in their workplace, but also give them the ability to direct patrons and members of the community on the proper etiquette when publishing online. In this digital age, it is important to be informed about what is and, more importantly, is not acceptable when publishing material to the Internet.

In short. This webpage provides a concise and approachable introduction to copyright laws, but is dated, and should be supplemented with a more current resource, as laws are constantly being created and updated. *Recommended.*

DMCA: The Digital Millennium Copyright Act | Advocacy, Legislation & Issues
<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/copyright/dmca>

Reviewer: Ricardo Wright-Ramos, M.S.I.S. Candidate, University at Albany, SUNY

The Digital Millennium Copyright Act, or DMCA, was introduced in 1998 in an effort to outline new legislation that would protect copyright in a world where the Internet was quickly evolving and presenting new threats to copyright holders and their works. The DMCA is a complicated document, consisting of multiple titles that address many issues relevant to digital copyright.

The American Library Association, or ALA, has constructed a website that looks to breakdown each of the titles found in the DMCA in terms of how they directly affect library policy and procedure. Upon first glance, the website features a very clean and straightforward layout. There is a brief introduction describing the passing of the DMCA, as well as its objectives. The website then summarizes the titles that directly impact libraries and how those impacts are felt. The layout of this section is easy to navigate, as it is divided into each specific title, featuring bullet points of excerpts from each title. However, the format seems to be pulled straight from the DMCA, resulting in some points being difficult to follow, as they are concise and lack elaboration. This section is a reasonable summary of the DMCA's impact on libraries, but it requires a fair amount of previous knowledge in order to maximize the amount of information gleaned from the summary.

Following this section is a quick look at DMCA mandates. Finally, there is a brief analysis of the response to the DMCA in the period following its introduction. There is no date given for the creation of this website, so it is difficult to say how much time has passed between the passing of the DMCA and the composition of this section covering the DMCA's legacy. However, it does offer some interesting material about the negative impact of the DMCA.

Ultimately, the ALA's summarization of the DMCA seems to hit many of the most important points of concern for librarians. However, it does not go into a tremendous amount of detail or analysis, as it fails to really explore the negatives of the DMCA, nor does it mention the various legal complications that the DMCA has encountered in the years since its introduction. As such, a source that features a more in-depth investigation may be necessary, depending on the needs of the user.

Scholarly Communication

Michigan State University Libraries Scholarly Communication
<https://www.lib.msu.edu/about/collections/scholcomm/>

Reviewer: Samantha Mahoski, M.S.I.S./M.A. Dual Degree Candidate, University at Albany, SUNY

Published by Michigan State University Libraries, this website is of comprehensive content, graphically attractive, and provides a compendium of information regarding scholarly communication, a theme of digital scholarship.

This well-organized site is organized into several categories: *Scholarly Communication*, *Crisis in Scholarly Communication*, *Solutions*, *Open Access Publishing*, *Issues and Trends*, and *Further Readings*. These six sections allow for easier navigation through the information being presented and is an excellent resource for those who are interested in learning about digital information issues within libraries. The prodigious amount of sections, however, should not intimidate first-time visitors. The site presents this abundance of information in a way that does not overwhelm the audience and conveys that information in terminology that enables a wider audience to understand the content.

A highlight of the site includes the opportunity to find out more about scholarly communication with the bestowment of websites, books, and blogs on the latest developments on the topic. This website also provides other institutions that have similar sites discussing scholarly communication and other digital information issues. Although some of the information provided is specifically for Michigan State Libraries, it is still a valuable resource for information.

In Short. This well-organized site is a preeminent introduction to Scholarly Communication and other related digital information issues. *Recommended.*

Association of Research Libraries Scholarly Communication

<http://www.arl.org/focus-areas/scholarly-communication#.WK5hUvkrLIX>

Reviewer: Dylan Walcott, M.S.I.S./G.C. Candidate at the University at Albany, SUNY

The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) website is comprised of data on a variety of information on several digital scholarship issues while implementing a focus area that provides valuable knowledge and resources on key topics in scholarly communication. In reference to website formatting, the ARL did a good job organizing the site and distributing the content to avoid overwhelming the user while still being able to be informative on the topic. The ARL engages in the creation, preservation, transfer and application of knowledge on scholarly communication based on the information presented within the website. There are a wide range of resources for researcher users; traditional library services, new technologies in service delivery and information skills programs. The ARL actively supports scholarly communication learning as well as discovery and engagement strategies in a rapidly changing environment. They have launched several online initiatives and web-learning seminars to engage in the issues pertaining to digital scholarship.

The Scholarly Communication Section has numerous forms of information on a variety of digital

scholarship issues, but its section on Scholarly Communication proves to hold valuable knowledge on the topic as it contributes to research on issues related to the concept, providing advice and support in a range of areas; including citation metrics, scholarly publishing, open access, repositories and research data management to promote library focused outreach on scholarly communication issues. One highlight of the website is the listing of single day events and webinars that provide opportunities for libraries to develop a scholarly communication plan. Overall this website provides a good representation of traditional library services that users could implement to seek information on online learning initiatives and serves as a great resource for Scholarly Communication.

Digital Censorship

Filtering

<https://opennet.net/about-filtering>.

Reviewer: Katie Ryan, M.S.I.S. Candidate, University at Albany, SUNY

The web page that I am reviewing is from a website called open net. Open Net is an organization affiliated with institutions such as, the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto, Harvard University, and Ottawa University. The organization follows three different principles, the development and deployment of technical tools and core methodologies for the study of filtering and surveillance, capacity-building among networks of local advocates and researchers, and finally advanced studies exploring the consequences of current and future trends and trajectories of filtering and surveillance. The web page talks about filtering on the internet. This could be construed as censoring because when a site filters for the user it takes out what it thinks the user does not want to see. The webpage discusses the different points of internet censorship, which could also be called digital censorship. The webpage is able to break down the aspects of digital censorship, or filtering, and provides important information. A few of these aspects are search result removals, technical blocking, and induced self-censorship. These aspects, especially search result removals, show that digital censorship is involved in our everyday life. The description that open net gives us is this: companies that provide internet search services cooperate with governments to omit illegal and undesirable websites from search results. Rather than blocking access to the targeted sites, this strategy makes finding sites more difficult.[1] The one thing that could detract from this site is possibly the overabundance of information. This could make the user feel overwhelmed with the amount of information given. Nevertheless, this web page is a good source of information about digital censorship.

How bad is Internet censorship in your country?

by Alex Gray

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/12/freedom-on-the-net-2016-where-are-social-media-users-under-pressure/>

Reviewer: Jessica Wang, M.S.I.S. Degree Candidate, University at Albany, SUNY

The World Economic Forum is an International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation that is committed to improving the state of the world. The World Economic Forum's website features a page about a page about digital censorship that is titled "How bad is internet censorship in your country?"

This webpage presents statistics, gathered from a recent study by Freedom on the Net an organization that produces yearly study on internet freedom across the globe, that demonstrate the significance of internet censorship. Additionally, it informs the audience that despite the fact that the internet is used by countries all over the world, the rules are different for each country. As a result, there are different conditions for every country. This webpage includes a map to show the safe score for each country. This map allows the audience to quickly view the differences.

This webpage discusses censorship in relation to limited access, global trends, and increased surveillance. . The topic of this web page is well demonstrated by the charts and pictures. The Forum's website is very informative despite its lack of case studies for further discussion. The site does include a short video that provides the audience with an overview of digital censorship based on the information on this page. The site would be most helpful to audiences looking for internet censorship statistics.

Digital curation is the management and preservation of digital data over the long-term. There is an ever-increasing amount of data being created in digital formats. Data, often called born-digital, is consistently at-risk from technological obsolescence and from the inherent fragility of digital media. Digital curation can be costly and requires a significant level of time investment and expertise.

Digital Curation

Digital Curation Centre | because good research needs good data
<http://www.dcc.ac.uk/>

Reviewer: Justine Criswell, M.S.I.S. Candidate, University at Albany, SUNY

The Digital Curation Centre (DCC) site provides expert, workable advice to anyone in the higher education research community wanting to store, manage, protect and share digital research data. Since its inception, the DCC has been at the forefront of developing digital curation concepts and practices. This website offers an extensive set of tools and information to a user looking to embark upon how to digitally curate their research.

The DCC homepage introduces: the definition of digital curation; why to preserve digital data; planning for preservation; and how DCC may assist in planning for digital curation. The site offers an exemplary stockpile of free tools; *How-to Guides*, *Digital Curation 101*, *case studies*,

online services, training programs, policy & legal help, data management plan creation, and curation reference manuals. The layout of the site easily directs the user through current and upcoming events, the latest DCC news, and the recent DCC blog posts. A valuable component to the website is the *DMPonline*. This is a creation tool that allows an institution to customize policy development and data management planning.

The DCC site assists professionals in the UK higher education community, but does not have a clear approach to helping international users with the same tailored components that assist the UK community. Due to their international footprint as a digital curation resource, customizing a page for international users would be a welcomed addition to the DCC site. Overall, the DCC site exudes user-friendly, independent learning to all who decide to investigate digital curation. *Recommended.*

Creative Commons

Creative Commons

<https://creativecommons.org/faq/>

Reviewers: Sarah Siddiqui and Annette Kramer, M.S.I.S. Candidates, University at Albany, SUNY

Creative Commons is a non-profit organization that provides licenses to allow creators to share their work easily. The licenses provide an alternative to copyright, enabling the creators to share their work, giving users an opportunity of enhancing their work. Suppose you are preparing for a presentation and would like to add some music to your slides. If the music has a Creative Commons (CC) license, you would be saved from the painstaking process of contacting the original creator for copyright claim and directly use the file with the CC attribution. CC has over 100 affiliated organizations throughout the world. Since its founding in 2001 by Lawrence Lessig, over 1.1 billion works have been licensed.

The authors have reviewed the CC FAQ page, which answers many questions users may have regarding CC. It also contains links to pages for further explanation. As stated on the website, “these FAQs are designed to provide a better understanding of Creative Commons, our licenses, and our other legal and technical tools. They provide basic information, sometimes about fairly complex topics, and will often link to more detailed information.” The provided links often lead to the accompanying ‘CC wiki!’

The page is broadly divided into four sections titled About CC, General License Information, For Licensors, and For Licensees. The sections are not indented, therefore it is recommended to use the headings at the beginning to navigate through the page. The website links to form-based legal documents for usage. However, it “does not provide legal advice or legal services.” For people seeking legal guidance, there is a list of lawyers and organizations that can be of assistance.

A useful area touched upon in the General License section is the link for choosing one of the six types of licenses. Different licenses specify restrictions, for instance, only non-commercial use or no derivative works allowed. The linked wiki entry on how to mark work with a CC notice has instructions that are easy to follow. Examples show where to paste given lines of code into a website. That machine-readable code enables search machines to find CC licensed work. However, the directions for attributing a work appear difficult.

The business model section explains how people make money with CC licenses. Music or photos can be spread widely with the non-commercial use type licenses. If someone wants to use that work commercially, he or she must negotiate for permission. The creator can sell that work. Other ways are described with a link to case studies.

Much of the FAQ page is devoted to how works with different creators and how different licenses may be combined. Charts help users determine whether works with different type licenses may be combined. A photo with a license that allows commercial use may be combined with music under a non-commercial license. The new work would have a non-commercial license.

There is extensive discussion of databases with a listing of database case studies. The CC license allows data from different sources to be quickly assembled for specific purposes, as in the Haiti Project, which urgently put together maps after the earthquake.

This website covers most of the important areas for someone who wishes to use CC licenses. However, it may appear rather technical and could possibly intimidate a beginner. For a novice, we would suggest starting with Lawrence Lessig's work (ArtistsHouseMusic) and then turn to the FAQ page, to obtain a comprehensive understanding.

References

ArtistsHouseMusic. (2010, March 12). Lawrence Lessig on Creative Commons. [Video file].

Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMdsLGmmVku>

Digital Repositories

DSpace | DSpace is a turnkey institutional repository application

<http://www.dspace.org/>

Reviewer: Raurri Jennings, Library Technical Assistant, Cataloging, New York State Library; M.S.I.S. candidate, University at Albany, SUNY.

Developed by Hewlett Packard and MIT, DSpace is a free, open-source application that

empowers organizations to create their own digital repositories. DSpace's website offers a wide array of resources for information professionals who are interested in implementing the application to share their digital collections online.

The site is easily navigable with drop-down menus and large buttons. Users can click on the "Take a tour" button and view a 5-minute introductory video that highlights key features of the software. Some attractive attributes of the software gleaned from this video include its ability to support digital content in a variety of different formats, a customizable web interface, and its wide usage at over 500 institutions worldwide including universities, research labs, and commercial institutions.

The introductory video is successful at providing a helpful overview of the application's features for a general audience, but the website also offers more detailed information for information professionals who specialize in metadata and digital collections. The software provides a standardized metadata form for digital objects that includes the full set of Dublin Core fields.

As well as introductory materials, the DSpace site also offers technical support and guidance for current and prospective users. DSpace offers free instructional courses, a helpful FAQ page, and testimonials from information professionals. Under the "Getting Started" drop-down menu, a six-step "Quick Start Guide" is provided, which gives step-by-step instructions from trying a demo version of the software, all the way to customizing the final look and functionality of the digital repository.

In short. DSpace offers a free, open-source application that is trusted by many digital repositories worldwide. Their easily navigable site and helpful step-by-step installation guides make creating a new digital repository simple. *Highly recommended.*

Repositories Support Project
<http://www.rsp.ac.uk>

Reviewer: Lu Gao, M.S.I.S. Candidate, University at Albany, SUNY

The Repositories Support Project (RSP) was a Joint Information System Committee funded project which operated from November 2006 to July 31, 2013 in UK. It provides information and practical advice on how to establish digital repositories and set up a network of interoperable institutional repositories for theoretical research across the UK. The homepage is constructed with white space to organize information and create a hierarchy of topics labeled "Start, Grow, and Resources." These three categories provide links that enable users to navigate to each of the main sections.

The “Start” section helps users create a repository tailored to specific needs. It provides guidance on how to plan for deploying a repository, selecting and installing repository software, and maintaining it in the administrative process. The highlight of this section is the practical advice on defining policies and considering legal implications related to managing a repository. It provides the framework for administrators to run a repository by creating policies on content, submission, data re-use, preservation, and copyright issues. It also offers an overview of resourcing for sustainability. The planning checklists in each main section contain relevant questions when administrators set up institutional repositories.

The “Grow” section covers advice on motivations for institutional repository development and measuring the utilization of repositories content. It provides users multiple formats and supporting materials, ranging from presentations to podcasts. Although the RSP closed on August 1st 2013, the infrastructure, research, and expertise related to deploying institutional repositories has not changed. The contact information is still available on the website.

In short. This is an excellent resource concentrated on launching institutional repositories with an emphasis on four broad themes, including technical approaches, repositories policies, management and advocacy. *Highly recommended.*