If You Build It, Will They Come? Collateral Benefits of Changing Strategies to Facilitate Faculty Participation in a Campus IR

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Lindsay Van Berkom, Scholars Archive Administrator & Elaine Lasda, Scholarly Metrics Specialist, University at Albany Libraries

In October, 2014, the University at Albany Libraries launched Scholars Archive (SA), the University’s Institutional Repository (IR). Upon the creation of our IR, non-library faculty contributed sparsely and initial outreach efforts generated mixed results. After our first year of trial and error, we redeveloped our strategy, which yielded benefits to the Libraries beyond simply increasing repository content. This poster session will exhibit the changes we made in our approach, show progress thus far, and highlight some unexpected benefits.

First Inning
Coaching Staff:
Scholars Archive: IR Implementation Committee

Key Players:
Pitcher: Scholars Archive Administrator
Batter: UAlbany faculty
Batter up: UAlbany graduate students

Initial Pitches:
Fastball: Low hanging fruit w/ existing publications
Splitter: Subject librarians promote SA to faculty
Cutter: Assisted “self-service” model

Foul Balls: Internal and External Challenges
• Inconsistent marketing: lack of long-term strategy
• Unengaged library stakeholders
• Lack of library support staff
• Changes in Library Administration
• Faculty view self submitting as too much work
• Competition with social networking sites
• Unfamiliarity with IRs in general

Stats: Contributors and Usage
• 374 total papers and 281 authors
• Increased growth rate: 67% (2015) and 77% (through April 2016)
• 29th percentile for breadth (2015)
• 14,274 downloads and reaching 150+ countries
• 958 active users in past 30 days
• 68th percentile for demand (2015)

Second Base: Multifaceted Strategy Evolved
We pivoted from targeting individuals to colleges & departments as a whole. This helped better identify which SA can fill. We increased engagement with administrative and departmental leaders. We switched our model to a “full-service” experience, marketed the impact metrics, and began to engage other stakeholders.

Third Base: Progress and Advancement
Activities have generated interest from graduate students, requests to host journals, presentations at more campus groups & meetings. Planning to establish a full library scholarly communications unit. We will align with campus strategic plans and "big picture" documents to engage the highest levels of campus leadership. Will increase engagement with subject librarians as well.

Runs Scored: Collateral Benefits
The library’s role has broadened and we are starting to be seen in new roles; more than a study space and book repository. We are a content publisher; expert on author’s rights, copyright, and research impact; and a partner in the research process.

First Base: Successes
UAlbany Libraries launched SA at the 2014 Open Access Day Event. Librarians were the first target population to submit content. Early campus conversations helped identify research faculty needs.

Foul Balls: Internal and External Challenges
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