University Institutional Repositories: An Investigation into Long-Term Preservation and Copyright Compliance

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Abstract: This poster presents a research project that explores the challenges presented to Institutional Repositories (IRs) by the requirements of long-term digital preservation and copyright compliance. IRs have been developed by universities throughout North America and Western Europe with the goals of preserving and making accessible the scholarly output of academic communities, including materials that range from publications to scientific data sets. However, the literature shows that these same institutions lag behind when it comes to policies and procedures for long-term preservation and the licensing of their contents.

IRs face some serious challenges: How to ensure the long-term preservation of and access to authentic materials, many of which are unique? How to ensure that no infringement of copyright legislation occurs during the processes of long-term preservation and access? This research seeks pragmatic answers to these questions through the development of policies and procedures for acquisition, long-term preservation, and copyright compliance, incorporating archival and legal requirements into a dynamic and complex environment.

This poster illustrates how the collaboration between academic researchers on digital preservation and intellectual rights and library professionals plan to find answers to this problem through cIRcle, (University of British Columbia's IR) InterPARES 3, and the University Institutional Repositories: Copyright and Long-term Preservation Project. This case study puts theory into practice to ensure that materials in cIRcle maintain their authenticity and accuracy in the face of the challenges presented by technological obsolescence and the need to protect authors' intellectual rights.

About the author:

Elizabeth Shaffer is a doctoral student at the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies at the University of British Columbia under the supervision of Dr. Luciana Duranti. Her research interests include social media, privacy, and copyright and intellectual property. She is a graduate research assistant on InterPARES 3 (International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems) and the University Institutional Repositories Copyright and Long-term Preservation projects.

University Institutional Repositories

An Investigation into Long-Term Preservation & Copyright Compliance

InterPARES 3 Project
International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems
TEAM Canada

UBC | LAW CIRCLE

Research Problem

Institutional Repositories (IRs) have been developed by universities internationally with the goals of preserving and making accessible the scholarly output of academic communities.

The digital materials accumulated by IRs range from publications to scientific data sets. However, the literature shows that these same institutions lag behind when it comes to policies and procedures for long-term preservation and the licensing of their contents.

Without established policies and procedures to ensure the authenticity, security and accessibility of the materials deposited into IRs, the potential for irreparable loss of and access to the scholarly and research output of universities is ever present.

Objectives & Questions

The goals of this research are to identify and address the challenges presented to IRs by the long-term preservation of the different types of digital materials they collect. The following questions guide the research.

- **How to ensure the long-term preservation of and access to authentic materials, many of which are unique?**

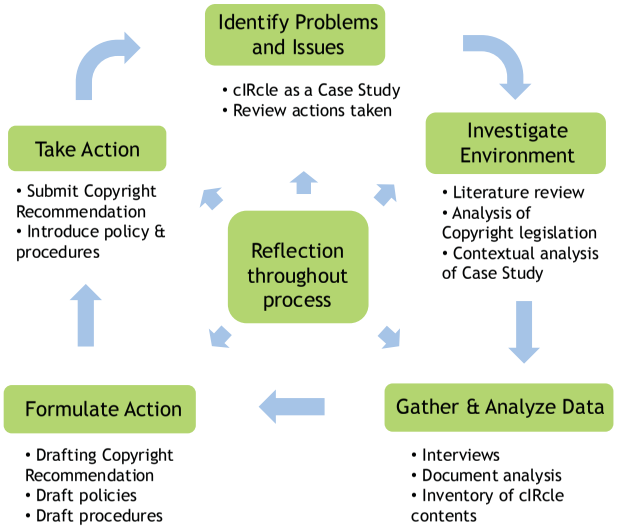
- **How to ensure that no infringement of copyright legislation occurs during the processes of long-term preservation and access?**

Research Collaboration

cIRcle, the University of British Columbia's IR, began in 2007 as a pilot project. As of April 2010, it contains over 22,000 items. The repository is mandated to collect the research and teaching materials created by the UBC community and its partners, make them openly accessible online and preserve them over the long-term. http://www.circle.ubc.ca

The ***InterPARES 3*** project is the third phase of the International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems, which aims to develop the knowledge essential to the long-term preservation of authentic records. http://www.interpares.org

University Institutional Repositories: Copyright and Long-Term Preservation is a collaborative research project among the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Law and School of Library, Archival and Information Studies. The project seeks to address directly the issues of copyright and long-term preservation in university IRs. http://uir-preservation.org



Research Methodology

Action research with an ethnographic approach is being used in conducting the case study. Action research involves progressive problem solving that employs participative and iterative methods. It makes extensive use of case study methodology, as well as working jointly with subjects who act as both participants and contributors in the research activity.

References & Acknowledgements

InterPARES Project: International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic System http://www.interpares.org
University Institutional Repositories: Copyright and Long-Term Preservation. (2010). http://uir-preservation.org/researchers.cfm
cIRcle: UBC's Information Repository.http://circle.ubc.ca
Riel, M. (2007) Understanding Action Re- search, Center For Collaborative Action Research. Pepperdine University. http://cadres.pepperdine.edu/ccar/de9ine.html [accessed April 3, 2010].

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Research Outcomes

Policy and Procedures that remain current, easy to comply with and supported by management

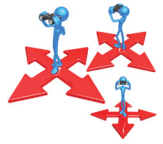
- Acquisition Policy
- Digital Preservation Policy
- Intellectual Property Policy

Advocacy, by identifying UIR specific concerns on an institutional and national scale to help policy creators and legislators

- **Copyright Recommendations** were submitted to the Canadian Copyright Consultation during the call for opinions before a review of the current Canadian Copyright Act. The submission addresses numerous issues involving the intellectual property, dissemination of materials and the operations of UIRs.

Moving Forward

- **A Model Preservation Plan** based on that developed for the case study will be made available.
- A **White Paper** will be published regarding the necessary changes to copyright legislation



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