Finding IR collaborators on your campus

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Eleta Exline, University Library, University of New Hampshire

Introduction
While the success of an institutional repository depends on engaging faculty and students, it can be difficult to capture the attention and imagination of these audiences directly. At the University of New Hampshire we have tapped into an existing network of people who share library objectives: increasing the exposure of university scholarship to new audiences and supporting faculty and students in their research.

Make contacts
Research Center/Institute Communications Coordinators, Program Directors, Website Administrators, and Administrative Assistants are often responsible for managing publications.

Start with a discussion
With a focus on problem solving, take the time explain the “big picture” goals of the IR before discussing the details.

Be flexible
Customizing services, timelines, and options to meet specific needs will build good will and cooperation.

Collaborate on a pilot
Working on a small project is a good way to establish workflow and identify issues or concerns.

Maintain relationships
Be responsive and keep in touch.

Needs help with
- Search engine optimization
- Publishing platform
- Organizing content
- Understanding copyrights
- Access control

Can help with
- Publicity
- Collecting content
- Describing content
- Connecting with people

Key concerns
- Customizing search
- Controlling publicity
- Tracking statistics
- Site integration

Summary: Building mutually beneficial relationships based on shared goals will contribute to the success of your IR!