Critical Implementation Factors for an Institutional Repository

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THE PROBLEM

Actual commitment to participate in a digital repository program is weak and difficult to strengthen.
COMMENTS ON THE PROBLEM.

• Agreement on urgency?
  – What problems are we addressing?
  – Do we have time to show patience?

• Commitment of resources?
  – Time, money, space.
  – Whose resources?
  – Contention for use of resources?
COMPONENTS OF A SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION

- Minimize idealism, be pragmatic
- Target the “directed”
- Capitalize for a long term venture
- Do the work.
- Be patient.
BE PRAGMATIC

• Facilitate R-P-B; the mantra of the reuse of digital objects
• Enable easy and effective retrieval
• Provide ample storage
• Offer a stable, enterprise-wide environment.
  – Administered
  – Secure
  – Persistent, especially persistent url’s
TARGET THE DIRECTED

• Focus on non-faculty areas that produce important digital objects
  – News and Publications, University Relations, Graphic Services, radio, television, photographic services, libraries and archives, student services, administrative services.
  – Make a **business** case to the manager.
  – Get a commitment from the manager for unit commitment.
CAPITALIZE THE VENTURE

CREATE A MAJOR EFFORT, NOT A SIDELINE

• EQUIPMENT and INFRASTRUCTURE
  – Yearly budget
  – Storage
  – Back-up / redundancy
  – Contract services

• STAFF
  – Hire or Reorganize?
  – Regular staff
  – Flex-time staff (dual duty, students, contract)
DO THE WORK

- Seek out the digital objects
- Help to get them transferred
- Create the meta-data (amap)
- Propose solutions on storage, access, rights
- & use problems.
- Transfer the above work to the originator when they are hooked and you must support other new customers
BE PATIENT

• Problems need to “ripen” to achieve transformative change.
• While you wait for other clients, do work to increase the use of existing digital objects.
• Maintain financial and human resources support.
• Digital objects will only increase in quantity.
• Don’t panic over potentially lost digital objects.
CONCLUSION

• Take a long term perspective.
• Concentrate on building content.
• Make the clients you do have, happy.
• Promote both use and associated business efficiency.
• http://digital.maag.ysu.edu