How Subject Librarians make Better IRs and how IRs make better subject Librarians

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About our Repository

- Hosted Solution: bepress DigitalCommons platform
- Goal: capture, preserve, and provide access to the research conducted at Utah State University
- We are now in our fourth year of existence
DigitalCommons@USU provides open access to scholarly works, research, reports, publications, and courses produced by Utah State University faculty, staff, students, and others. Coordinated by the Merrill-Cazier Library, USU's digital repository joins other universities worldwide in the ongoing development of new knowledge.
Keys to success?

- “We do it for you” Model
- Making use of our subject librarians!
What it Entails for Subject Librarians

- Checking online journal pages, Sherpa Romeo and specific publishers for their copyright policies
- Contacting faculty regarding citation issues and/or requesting author pre or post prints
- Accessing full text when needed
- Forwarding copyright clearance and full text documents to Andy for student worker clearance in Digital Commons
What’s in it for the subject librarians?

- Provides an excellent opportunity to build relationship with faculty
- Allows the subject librarian to learn the specific research interests of the faculty
- Improves subject librarian’s ability to market the use of the IR
Concerns?

- Intimidated by making copyright decisions
- Overworked as it is!
- Some of the work required is not considered “librarianly”
Solutions? ...sort of

- Copyright Clearance Working Party
  - Meet bi-weekly for 2 hours
  - Group Setting
  - Food!

- Licensing and technological issues hampered the effectiveness of this model
New Considerations

- What do Librarians need to do?
- Can we delegate work to student labor without impacting the quality of copyright clearance?
- How can we eliminate the licensing and technological limitations of the previous model, while retaining the scheduled time and group setting?
New Workflow:

Subject Librarian:
• Determines copyright permissions
• Leaves instructions in clearance tracking database
• Marks each finished publication with “student”

In brief: Subject Librarians make decisions, students provide the labor

Student:
• Finds the articles online when appropriate
• Copies and pastes abstracts
• Inserts designated comments
• QC metadata
New Meeting

- Still block out two hours biweekly
- Meet briefly to discuss new faculty additions and to distribute workload
- Retreat to independent clearance work
Benefits

 The original benefits to subject librarians is amplified, while the time commitment is reduced.
 We are able to do more with less
 The benefits of the Digital Commons to the University and faculty are amplified
 Continue to build faculty buy-in!