

Digital Letters



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Issue Number Six

Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the sixth issue of *Digital Letters* and the final issue for 2004. This issue focuses almost exclusively on scholarly publishing technology and how it's being used to help alleviate some of the problems related to the increasing cost of and shrinking access to the scholarly record. We sit down with librarian Peter Brueggeman to discuss the eScholarship Repository and how it's being used in the Scripps Institute of Oceanography (SIO) Library.

Buzzword Bingo is back this month (after a long hiatus) and identifies some of the most commonly used terms in discussions about scholarly communication. In addition, librarians SuHui Ho and Mary Linn Bergstrom discuss their recently funded proposal to improve library instruction to students by serving them in the place where they spend most of their time – cyberspace.

Happy reading all! ~ *Trish Rose*

The eScholarship Repository: a librarian's perspective

The repository, sponsored by the California Digital Library (CDL) as part of their larger eScholarship initiative, provides persistent access to UC resources and makes the content easily discoverable. It was created in response to an expressed need for alternative publishing mechanisms in light of the current crisis in scholarly publishing.

After reviewing the policies for depositing resources into the repository which state that "any University of California research unit (ORU or MRU), institute, center, or department is eligible to join" I became curious as to how an SIO librarian became involved in depositing resources for an institute. I recently sat down with Peter Brueggeman, Director of the SIO Library, to talk with him about why he got involved and his thoughts about this service and its potential impact on scholarly publishing.

TR: So Peter, can you explain the relationship between the SIO library and SIO and how you became involved in depositing their materials?

PB: Like all the other libraries on campus, the SIO library is administratively part of UCSD libraries, but unlike other campus libraries, the SIO library has historically been involved in publish-

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Delivering Library Instruction Using Streaming Video

With the increasing number of the web-savvy undergraduate students using library resources and services over the Internet, libraries nation-wide are exploring technologies in providing library instruction online. While continuing to provide library instruction in traditional lecture format, the UCSD Libraries endeavor to improve teaching effectiveness, particularly with methods that encourage active learning and adapt to the learning styles of the "net generation."

SuHui Ho, a Digital Services Librarian for the Science & Engineering Library and Mary Linn Bergstrom, Head of the Science & Engineering Library were pleased to receive notification from Acting Senior Vice Chancellor, Dave Miller, that their proposal for UCSD Instructional Improvement Program funding was approved. The project, "Delivering Library Instruction Using Streaming Video," will develop a set of online instructional modules with Camtasia, a piece of software that captures screen activity and sounds from a computer's desktop and produces streaming video. Dave Miller's letter indicated that "...we will be particularly eager to hear about outcomes that could possibly contribute to campus wide improvement of instruction if ideas were shared with colleagues.", and noted that "the Committee strongly supports efforts to experiment with new instructional technologies and/or approaches to teaching, and we congratulate you on securing support for your proposal."

The initial instructional modules created with these funds will improve searching in the major article databases most relevant to students in the science and engineering disciplines. Using Camtasia, librarians will create short videos demonstrating specific aspects of searching such as narrowing searches in INSPEC and auto-searching Compendex for new articles. These videos will be made available on the Science & Engineering Library website, accessible by students anytime from anywhere. Links to the instructional modules can be added to faculty's WebCT or other faculty-developed web courses, enabling students to obtain library instruction at the point of need. These streaming video modules will be an excellent complement to the UCSD Libraries' Top5 Resources Project, which provides linkage to key library resources from faculty-created web courses.

~ *SuHui Ho and Mary Linn Bergstrom*

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ing for SIO an annual accumulation of reprints of their research (first in print, then microfiche). The SIO Library has also played an archival role for resources published by the Technical Publications office at SIO such as: technical reports and research monograph series. In the 1990s, that office was closed due to budget problems. Soon thereafter an SIO academic committee on which I sit, called the Editorial and Publications Committee, was looking for other publishing avenues for SIO publications and I suggested CDL's eScholarship Repository.

TR: So what types of SIO resources have you put in the repository?

PB: Mostly technical reports, although those are becoming sort of a dying thing. The academic emphasis is on publishing in peer-reviewed journals; there's no incentive to publish technical reports. The transition from print technical reports to online technical reports has left some SIO authors behind, who didn't make the change. They know the repository is there because I have spoken with them and with the community, but they haven't taken advantage of it. A few have, but some that I thought would come along have not. I don't feel it's my job to nag them; I just put the information out there via email and word of mouth.

TR: Are you aware of other departments at SIO directly depositing into the repository rather than going through you?

PB: Yes, the Center for Marine Biodiversity and Conservation. But they've only put up one item. Also, the California Sea Grant program at SIO intends to publish there; I promoted it to them. That's good but there isn't a big groundswell of participation at SIO.

TR: What other types of resources is the library putting into the repository?

PB: We are depositing some SIO publications that were originally published in print. We are resurrecting them into electronic form through a variety of means. In some cases, it is by salvaging existing digital files from authors or sending the print version out to a vendor for conversion to digital format. In other cases, it's as a byproduct of interlibrary loan PDF production. One historian on oceanography who has published journal articles on the history of SIO has sought permission for us to deposit his post-prints for the SIO Archives. SIO paid Judith and Neal Morgan to write a book on Roger Revelle that is now out of print. I was able to get the Morgan's MS Word file, and deposited that. So I have been able to do some archaeology and resurrect some things. I'm in the process of reprinting some of the SIO monographs that are classics, and continue to be scientifically useful. I send them to a vendor who creates XML and PDF documents from the encoded text.

TR: Then the vendor is OCRing the pages?

PB: Yes, they send it overseas, scan it, OCR it, correct it, and encode it. They produce an XML version and a PDF version for me. With the repository I can take that PDF and deposit it myself, so it's an empowering tool. I can be off and running on electronic publishing without involving a lot of other parties; it is solely between the vendor and me. In the meantime I'll sit on the XML files and wait for a more mature serving environment because in order to get them served currently, I have to go out of house, to UCOP, either CDL's DAC or UC Press, depending on the content. It takes a lot of communication with them to make it happen, and it creates a workload for them. It will be nice when UCSD libraries can serve its own XML text. Even then I'd have to get in line with everyone else who wants to serve XML.

TR: How do you decide what's worth depositing?

PB: I talk to faculty, and some I know from experience as a bibliographer. From the SIO Library site I have a web page on SIO publications so I already know those I should consider. The UC Regents own the copyright so that makes it easy. It's exciting to be resurrecting these classic works. I've been doing this since 2002.

Just because the tool is there doesn't mean they have time to make it happen.

TR: Do you think this service improves how faculty view library services?

PB: Not particularly. Most faculty are concerned with publishing in peer-reviewed journals and this form of publishing in an institutional repository isn't that important to them. They do appreciate what we have reprinted.

TR: Has SIO considered using the repository as a peer-reviewed publisher?

PB: Yes, if SIO wanted to start up a peer-reviewed journal and use the repository for that purpose they could but nobody seems to have the time or energy. I've mentioned it but the idea doesn't get any traction. Just because the tool is there doesn't mean they have time to make it happen.

TR: Do you think UCSD or the UCSD Libraries should take on a publishing role?

PB: I think it's beyond the UCSD Libraries' resources, and those decisions are probably best made at a system-wide level. Also, SIO doesn't seem to have an

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Buzzword Bingo

In discussions about the scholarly publishing landscape, a great deal of terminology gets used that may not be as familiar to librarians as it is to scholars. *Digital Letters* would like to help clarify some of the most commonly used buzzwords.

Peer-reviewed journals — journals that use a process of peer review before publishing an article whereby a draft of the article is critically assessed by other scholars in their field. Also known as "refereed".

Preprints — drafts of a research paper before and during the peer review process, up until the final draft is accepted for publication.

Postprints — versions of a research paper after publication (this could include the publication reprints as well as any revisions to correct errors and post publication updates).

Eprints — self-archiving of preprints and postprints in institutional repositories, making them openly accessible. In this sense, the eScholarship Repository is an eprint archive but it also can be used for archiving many other types of scholarly publication such as monographs, dissertations and more recently, seminar materials.

Self-archiving — to deposit a digital document you have written in a publicly accessible website.

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interest in depositing preprints or postprints. There is not a tradition of communicating that way in oceanography like it has developed in some other sciences. I imagine they don't get credit in their academic review for doing it.

TR: Do you think if there was a reward for publishing in this venue they would view the service differently?

PB: Maybe. I've talked about these issues with faculty since the 1990s. Their time is spent on doing their research, advising the grad students, and writing proposals for research funding. They have no time to be leaders in changing scholarly publishing or starting a new journal. I can see their point. It would take senior faculty to do it. For junior faculty it's career suicide to spend time on that because the early stages of their career are judged on getting articles in those peer-reviewed journals. I see encouraging signs in other fields such as Public Library of Science (PLoS). It's a deeply entrenched system. I used to feel I could advocate change by educating them and advising them on various things. I had a webpage that extensively analyzed price per page and publishers, and offered concrete advice for change, but it had little impact. It's beyond the individual. The market will sort it out.

TR: Technically how easy is it to use the repository software?

PB: It's pretty simple—you can deposit something in minutes. I have an account, which the SID Director had to authorize so that I can deposit items on behalf of SID. To do a new deposit you upload, enter the author's name, title, date, keywords, abstract, and extra comments. You can either have it convert a doc file to a PDF or just load the PDF directly. Then I tell it which series within the SID Repository to publish it to. When I select the series it asks me for the file name which I can designate as I wish. There is no subject cataloging system with an authority, just keywords. The only problems I've experienced with the software have to do with revised papers. When you try to put in a revised version of a paper and update it – what it says on the screen doesn't match exactly what you have to do. I've told CDL that but they haven't fixed it completely.

TR: How do researchers generally find out about resources in the repository?

PB: The SID scientists will tell their colleagues of the availability of something of interest. I know people have gotten to it through Google. I post notices to marine science library and other relevant listservs when I deposit stuff.

TR: Are you aware of any other UCSD libraries depositing things for an institute or department?

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PB: No. Either people don't have content or it's a definite staffing issue. SID Library is the only library that had a history of being involved with their institution's publications. We had a staff person dedicated to working on it at one time. The UCSD Libraries' Melanesian Archives could do it; they certainly have the content. I'm not convinced that everyone should do it. Maybe they should expend effort encouraging folks to publish through other avenues like PLoS. It depends on whether you think an institutional repository is a major agent of change in your discipline. I'm not convinced it should be in oceanography. It isn't moving rapidly elsewhere and it doesn't seamlessly fit into their traditional method of scholarly communication.

TR: *How does the change come about?*

PB: I don't think it will be by librarians. It's much bigger than us. I guess California Sea Grant would be my best accomplishment if they go online. They are a significant publisher of California-oriented ocean information. I think what's been uploaded to the CDL site is pretty revolutionary when you look through the whole site, but it hasn't impacted SID that much.

TR: *Are other UC Libraries depositing in the repository?*

PB: I'm not sure. I would ask whether other UC libraries should be doing it. The UC librarians themselves could be publishing on the repository under their own aegis, but haven't used it for their own scholarly publishing. LAUC hasn't run with this ball. If we don't seem to need it as academic librarians, then maybe not all academics need it either.

TR: *Do you think UC will begin to see this as a cost effective publishing venue once they decide they can't afford all the electronic journals they want access to?*

PB: Not in the short term, because UC is so much better off than other academic institutions in terms of library budgets for materials. It will be become much more of a concern at other institutions first before it becomes a major concern at UC. Licensing resources UC wide has had a big impact on sustaining our journal collections. Before, if I cancelled a journal at the SID Library, I had no weight. But, if UC libraries negotiate as a single body they have a lot of leverage.

TR: *Does the fact that you're depositing for SID set a precedent for the other libraries?*

PB: Phyllis Mirsky has discussed this, and pointed out that the SID Library is unusual in having a tradition of publishing for SID. The SID Library staff person who did this for us had retired just when print/fiche publishing had ceased; that position wasn't replaced. Now I'm doing it, and carrying on that tradition, but it isn't a big workload for me to publish on the repository. It does raise valid staffing issues and questions of priorities for other libraries.

TR: *So is it more of a staffing issue or an issue of our role as libraries?*

PB: A bit of both perhaps. Staffing issues are a real concern but even if we had money to hire staff just for this service I don't think it would have a huge impact on changing scholarly publishing. The academic disciplines differ in how they publish. There isn't a one size fits all solution. The repository is just one tool of many that could be pursued in making positive changes to scholarly publishing.

new Seminar Series feature in the eScholarship Repository

The CDL eScholarship Repository has just added a new feature to the repository service called Seminar Series. What is this feature all about and why is it needed?

According to the CDL website,

"many University of California departments sponsor semester- or quarter-long seminars for graduate students as well as lecture series and colloquia. The eScholarship Repository publishing platform has been adapted to support these activities with a full-service seminar module.

Using the new Seminar Series, seminar conveners can post a schedule of speakers, upload full text versions of papers, and use seminar-specific mailing lists to distribute information related to the series. The seminar agenda can be created before all the papers become available, establishing a placeholder for future articles. After the seminar series is complete, the papers will continue to be maintained in the eScholarship Repository."

Digital Letters will keep watch on how quickly this new feature is adopted and who begins using it at UCSD.