Bridging the Data Divide: How Digital Repositories Help Connect Campus Communities

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Available at: https://works.bepress.com/sarah-norris/22/
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Introduction

New College of Florida (NCF) launched an institutional repository, called the NCF Digital Collections, in February 2012. Since its launch, the repository has become a bridge between the library and these departments creating opportunities for inter-departmental collaboration and streamlining academic services to students, faculty, and staff. Examples of campus offices that have collaborated with the library include: Office of Institutional Research, Office of Communication and Marketing, Provost’s Office, and the Gender Studies Program.

Office of Registrar

- Library manually obtains AOC from unofficial source: commencement program archives; untimely and inefficient.
- Registrar collects and maintains official student transcript records, including thesis title, AOC, and faculty sponsor.
- Office of institutional research noticed discrepancies between library thesis database title and registrar thesis title; recommended collaboration between departments to exchange information.
- Library will annually provide registrar spreadsheet with official thesis title, obtained from thesis itself.
- Registrar will annually provide library a spreadsheet with official AOC and faculty sponsor.
- These productive exchanges of information allow for more accurate and consistent information across disparate systems.

Office of Communications & Marketing

- The Office of Communications & Marketing contacted the library during the development of a website Area of Concentration project that they were working on with STAMATS.
- They requested a list of senior theses with their respective AOCs for this project. They felt that the library would be able to efficiently provide information because of the information readily available in the ETD collection of the repository.
- The registrar’s office would have been able to provide the same detailed information; however, there were some concerns of inaccuracies.
- The library generated a report with specific metadata for 4,701 theses.
- The metadata gave the office of Communications & Marketing examples of theses for the AOC website descriptions, as well as allowed them to analyze trends in AOCs.

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Gender & Diversity Center

“We are trying to set up a speaker series of alums for the coming fall semester. I met with the Alumni Coordinator, and she suggested that I contact [the library] to see if you could generate a list of alums who wrote about things like Gender or Diversity in their theses.”

Statistics

- Sample of Registrar-Provided Official Data

- Sample of Library-Provided Official Title

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