Digital Archives and Repositories

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What is a digital repository?

• A means of managing, storing and providing access to digital content

• Types of content: research output such as data and journal articles, e-theses, grey literature, yearbooks, learning and teaching materials, maps, videos, audio, blueprints, etc.
What are digital archives?

- An accumulation of historical records, either born digital or converted from their original physical format to a digital format. A digital archives consists of the actual digitized objects or items, a platform for presentation, metadata for description and a means to search and retrieve the items.
Why create a digital archives?

- Accessibility – material is often fragile or remote
- Organizing and presenting
- Preservation
- Obsolete technologies
- New technologies allow new approaches for researchers
- Open Access movement
Considerations for a specific project

- Does digitization fit with the organizational vision? What are the benefits to the institution? To the researcher?
- How will digitization be funded?
- Who will do the work?
- Is there unique content?
- Who owns the copyright?
- Who is the audience and what do they require?
LU Library E-theses Project
Our goals

- Make thesis collection more accessible
- Protect existing print copies for posterity
- Show off Lakehead scholarly product
- LAC electronic theses requirements
- Potential cost-savings – microfilm and/or extra print copies no longer needed
Welcome to ThunderSpace

ThunderSpace is Lakehead University’s institutional repository. Our purpose is to showcase, preserve and present the scholarly output of Lakehead University to the world. This repository will include theses, research articles by Lakehead scholars, technical reports, presentations, photographs, audio and video files and other campus publications.

5. Let the Library do the metadata and maintenance work – you have better things to do with your time.

http://lurepository.lakeheadu.ca/
Project management

- Funding source
- Staffing
- Outsourcing
- Equipment
- Workflow
- Quality Assurance
Our set-up

Internet Archive scanning setup:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1e6Lu7XgioE
Technical management

- Hosting platform
- Metadata
- Scanning software
- Digitization specs
Metadata

- Different standards
  - Descriptive metadata
  - Structural metadata
  - Technical metadata (for physical files)
  - Administrative metadata

- Formal standards vs. Interoperability
- Controlled vocabulary vs. open tagging
Our project

- Dublin Core standard
Examples:

- University of Prince Edward Island: http://islandarchives.ca/
- UofT project – Labrador Inuit through Moravian Eyes: http://link.library.utoronto.ca/inuitmoravian/index.cfm
Bibliography

Questions?

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