

Faculty Self-Archiving Behavior: Implications for Preserving Faculty's Research Content

JIHYUN KIM

Abstract: This paper reports selected findings from my dissertation on the factors affecting faculty members' self-archiving behavior – the placement of research materials on publicly accessible web sites. Although several empirical studies have examined academic authors' self-archiving behavior, faculty members' motivations for and barriers to publishing their materials on the Internet are not known. Examining such factors that influence the decision to self-archive will contribute to the literature on the transformation of scholarly communication as well as the practices of disciplinary and institutional repositories (IRs). This also has implications for the archiving of raw data sets in by faculty in data and/or IRs.

The research design involves triangulation of survey and interview data of faculty members sampled from 17 Carnegie Research Universities with DSpace IRs. The sample is also stratified by academic discipline due to existing evidence of variation based on fields.

Analyses of survey responses from 684 professors and 41 phone interviews suggest that professors are concerned about a variety of issues such as copyright and preservation, and the additional time and effort made respondents reluctant to self-archive. In fact, the most often cited reason respondents for contributing to an IR rather than self-archiving on a personal web site was the professors' perceived ability of the repository to preserve scholarly content. These findings imply that the commitment of libraries/archives to the preservation of IR content is essential.

About the author:

Jihyun Kim had been involved in the MIRACLE (Making Institutional Repositories A Collaborative Learning Environment) project as a research assistant and others on access systems for archival information, particularly research funded by National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) on the usability of archival access tools. She recently completed her dissertation which investigated motivating and impeding factors affecting faculty self-archiving behavior.