Faculty Self-archiving Behavior: Implications for Preserving Faculty’s Research Content

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Introduction
This poster 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. I focus on findings regarding faculty IR contribution to examine the potentials of IRs that preserve research content created by faculty.

Methodology
- Triangulation of survey and interview data
- Distributed an online survey to 1,500 professors in October 2006
  - Sampled from 17 Carnegie Doctorate-granting Universities with DSpace IRs
  - The sample is also stratified by academic discipline
- Conducted 41 follow-up phone interviews in March-May 2007

Findings
- Factors affecting IR contribution (logistic regression analysis)
- 684 (45.6%) responded to the survey
  - Respondents by discipline
    - Humanities 18%
    - Social Science 31%
    - Science 24%
    - Engineering 28%
- Conducted 41 follow-up phone interviews in March-May 2007

What motivate faculty to deposit into IRs in the future
- The establishment of a peer review process in the IR
- Formal university recognition
- Publishers would not have exclusive rights over my work
- The IR would show how many times the materials I deposited in the IR were viewed and downloaded
- The ability of the IR to preserve my materials

Implications
- Digital preservation is a selling point for IRs
  - Assess risks of file formats
  - Collect preservation metadata
  - Develop collection and retention policy for IR content
  - Plan for technological obsolescence
  - Sustain long-term funding for IRs
- Faculty’s attitudes to long-term preservation in IRs
  - IR contributors
    - "IRs are really important …there’s easy access to your work over a longer period of time"
    - "Use [IRs] as an archival system that better maintain it than I could maintain on my PC"
  - IR non-contributors
    - "The main problem that [IRs] face is managing institutional change rather than the technical issues"
    - "[IRs] don’t feel they have the resources to do that for every faculty member who just asks for it"

Collaboration between a university library and archive
- University archivists can provide their expertise in electronic records management for IRs
- Copyright management for preserving IR content
  - Understand legal impact on preservation in IRs
  - Help faculty manage copyright by articulating copyright issues

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