University Institutional Repositories
An Investigation into Long-Term Preservation & Copyright Compliance

InterPARES 3 Project
International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems
TEAM Canada

UBC | LAW CIRCLE

Research Problem

Institutional Repositories (IRs) have been developed by universities internationally with the goals of preserving and making accessible the scholarly output of academic communities.

The digital materials accumulated by IRs range from publications to scientific data sets. However, the literature shows that these same institutions lag behind when it comes to policies and procedures for long-term preservation and the licensing of their contents.

Without established policies and procedures to ensure the authenticity, security and accessibility of the materials deposited into IRs, the potential for irreparable loss of and access to the scholarly and research output of universities is ever present.

Objectives & Questions

The goals of this research are to identify and address the challenges presented to IRs by the long-term preservation of the different types of digital materials they collect. The following questions guide the research.

• **How to ensure the long-term preservation of and access to authentic materials, many of which are unique?**
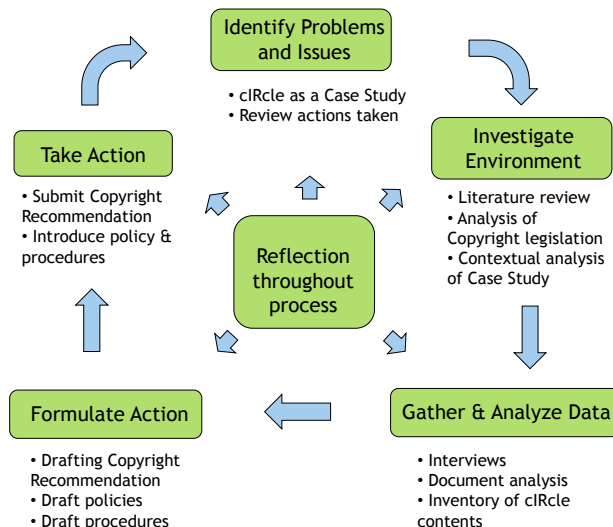
• **How to ensure that no infringement of copyright legislation occurs during the processes of long-term preservation and access?**

Research Collaboration

cIRcle, the University of British Columbia's IR, began in 2007 as a pilot project. As of April 2010, it contains over 22,000 items. The repository is mandated to collect the research and teaching materials created by the UBC community and its partners, make them openly accessible online and preserve them over the long-term. http://www.circle.ubc.ca

The *InterPARES 3* project is the third phase of the International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems, which aims to develop the knowledge essential to the long-term preservation of authentic records. http://www.interpares.org

University Institutional Repositories: Copyright and Long-Term Preservation is a collaborative research project among the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Law and School of Library, Archival and Information Studies. The project seeks to address directly the issues of copyright and long-term preservation in university IRs. http://uir-preservation.org

Identify Problems and Issues
• cIRcle as a Case Study
• Review actions taken

Investigate Environment
• Literature review
• Analysis of Copyright legislation
• Contextual analysis of Case Study

Take Action
• Submit Copyright Recommendation
• Introduce policy & procedures

Reflection throughout process

Formulate Action
• Drafting Copyright Recommendation
• Draft policies
• Draft procedures

Gather & Analyze Data
• Interviews
• Document analysis
• Inventory of cIRcle contents

Research Methodology

Action research with an ethnographic approach is being used in conducting the case study. Action research involves progressive problem solving that employs participative and iterative methods. It makes extensive use of case study methodology, as well as working jointly with subjects who act as both participants and contributors in the research activity.

Research Outcomes

Policy and Procedures that remain current, easy to comply with and supported by management

• Acquisition Policy
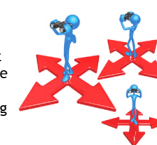• Digital Preservation Policy
• Intellectual Property Policy

Advocacy, by identifying UIR specific concerns on an institutional and national scale to help policy creators and legislators

• **Copyright Recommendations** were submitted to the Canadian Copyright Consultation during the call for opinions before a review of the current Canadian Copyright Act. The submission addresses numerous issues involving the intellectual property, dissemination of materials and the operations of UIRs.

Moving Forward

• **A Model Preservation Plan** based on that developed for the case study will be made available.
• **A White Paper** will be published regarding the necessary changes to copyright legislation

References & Acknowledgements

InterPARES Project: International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic System http://www.interpares.org
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Riel, M. (2007) Understanding Action Re- search, Center For Collaborative Action Re-search. Pepperdine University. http://cadres.pepperdine.edu/ccar/de9ine.html [accessed April 3, 2010].
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