

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

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Abstract: This poster presents a research project that explores the challenges presented to Institutional Repositories (IRs) by the requirements of long-term digital preservation and copyright compliance. IRs have been developed by universities throughout North America and Western Europe with the goals of preserving and making accessible the scholarly output of academic communities, including materials that 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.

IRs face some serious challenges: 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? This research seeks pragmatic answers to these questions through the development of policies and procedures for acquisition, long-term preservation, and copyright compliance, incorporating archival and legal requirements into a dynamic and complex environment.

This poster illustrates how the collaboration between academic researchers on digital preservation and intellectual rights and library professionals plan to find answers to this problem through cIRcle, (University of British Columbia's IR) InterPARES 3, and the University Institutional Repositories: Copyright and Long-term Preservation Project. This case study puts theory into practice to ensure that materials in cIRcle maintain their authenticity and accuracy in the face of the challenges presented by technological obsolescence and the need to protect authors' intellectual rights.

About the author:

Elizabeth Shaffer is a doctoral student at the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies at the University of British Columbia under the supervision of Dr. Luciana Duranti. Her research interests include social media, privacy, and copyright and intellectual property. She is a graduate research assistant on InterPARES 3 (International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems) and the University Institutional Repositories Copyright and Long-term Preservation projects.