

Poster Title

More than seeing what sticks: Aligning repository assessment with institutional priorities

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Proposal

In 2012, the Iowa State University Library launched Digital Repository @ Iowa State University (DR@ISU), Iowa State's institutional repository. The launch of DR@ISU corresponded with the Senior Vice President and Provost's development of his strategic initiatives. In support of the Provost's efforts, each academic and administrative university reporting to the Provost, including the library, identified goals and related metrics that would be embedded in the Provost's strategic plan.

Each goal needed to align with a divisional priority—in other words, the goals and metrics identified by the Library needed to directly support the mission and priorities of the Provost. Three of the five goals submitted by the Library related to the growth, development and impact of DR@ISU. The Digital Repository Coordinator and the Assistant to the Dean, who has assessment responsibilities, developed metrics to support the Provost's strategic plan that illustrated DR@ISU's impact on research and scholarship. This process underscored the importance of aligning library activities to the mission and priorities of the university, and identifying metrics that underscore the benefit of the repository to the university as a whole.

While the Provost's efforts provided the impetus to identify metrics that DR@ISU should collect, the repository also developed metrics that demonstrate the repository's support of the institutional mission, outside the specific goals identified for the Provost. In developing these metrics, the authors drew from the library standards ISO 11260: Library Performance Indicators, NISO: Information Services and Use: Metrics & statistics for libraries and information providers and ISO 16439: Methods and procedures for assessing the impact of libraries, the latter of which is still in development.

Although metrics were identified in accordance with institutional goals and international standards, in practice the data collected is constrained by the limitations of the tools available to the library. The next steps for the authors include the development of metrics to gather data that will allow institutional repositories to compare their growth and success with other repositories. These metrics will need to account for bias related to the size of the institution, the age of the repository and the platform and tools utilized by the repository.

Through this poster session, the authors hope to cultivate a conversation related to international metric development and data sharing.