UPR Digital Repository Instrument of the Community of Practice to Support Research

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Abstract

This poster illustrates all the steps taken to create a UPR Digital Repository to support the research and creative work in UPR. This initiative is part of the project AILCUPR a Community of Practice to Support Research . It generates a UPR Digital Repository (http://dspace.uprrp.edu:8080/dspace/), a place in which UPR collects, preserves, disseminates and provides access to gray literature from researchers, faculty and student investigations from the University of Puerto Rico. Our faculty and graduate students can deposit their research into the Repository. They can place posters, power point presentations used in conferences and proceedings, and dissertation and master thesis.

The strategy used by the University of Puerto Rico to develop its digital repository is through a community of practice, defined as group of people who share an interest or passion for something they do, and learn how to do better as they interact regularly (Wenger).

Strategy

Some steps were taken to develop a digital repository for the University of Puerto Rico (UPR).

The first one was the creation of a Community of Practice called Apoyo a la Investigación y Labor Creativa (AILCUPR), in English, Support to Research and Creative Labor. AILCUPR is composed by librarians from eleven campuses and units from UPR system. The community has the responsibility to learn, help and share information in support to research and creative labor. Information and developed materials are available from a blog http://ailcupr.bogspot.com and a wiki http://ailcupr.wikispaces.com AILCUPR maintains strong communication between their members through the blog, wiki, emails, Skype and DimDim. The last two serve as a tool to celebrate meetings, particularly when people are at considerable distances.

The second step consists on the selection of DSpace platform and the creation of the digital repository, available from http://dspace.uprrp.edu The first installation was on a computer, then on a Natural Sciences server where a prototype were allocated. Now, the UPR's Central Administration acquired an institutional server repository for the digital repository.

The collection development was taken from the administrative hierarchy of UPR System. As shown in the next image, the first mention corresponds to the campus and the dependent items are its schools and departments.

Each member of the community was responsible to identify schools, faculties and research centers of their institutions in order to strengthen the sense of community between librarians and faculty. The project began at the Natural Sciences Faculty of the Rio Piedras Campus.
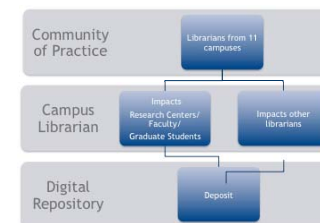

Third step deals with librarians' exposition to concepts related with scholarly communication. AILCUPR members, before they began talking about the repository, first, took some seminars related with scholarly communication issues. These seminars were offered during 2008-2009 academic year and included aspects like open access, DSpace, how to publish, how to follow-up submitted articles for publication, for example.
The selection of seminars themes was made after a study conducted to identify ways in which librarians support authors (based on a Science Direct publication 15 Ways to Support Authors).

The next image shows some members at one of the seminars. On next academic year, the wiki will include more tutorials on how to work with Dspace and will offer /provide workshops on the use of it.

The way the community works to develop the repository is as shown in the next graphic. AILCUPR exposes members to workshops, discussions, blog rolls and seminars about scholarly issues and DSpace platform. These members share their knowledge and developed materials, available through the blog and wiki, with campus librarians, faculty and research centers. They will be their support in each campus for faculty and graduate students to deposit supported items like poster, power point presentations used in conference proceedings, dissertations and master thesis.

References

Library Connect Editorial Office. 15 Ways to Support Your Authors. Available from http://libraryconnect.elsevier.com/lcp0301.pdf (Acceded on October, 2008).

Wenger, Etienne. Communities of practice a brief introduction. Available from http://www.ewenger.com/theory Accesed on October, 2007.