From Domestic Art to Graphic Design: Reflecting academic restructuring in institutional repositories

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From Domestic Art to Graphic Design: Reflecting academic restructuring in institutional repositories

Abstract
As programs and departments merge, faculty retire and institutional priorities shift, academic restructuring can have significant implications for institutional repositories. If repositories are arranged into communities, the reorganization of campus units can quickly make repository organization out of date. This poster communicates how the use of archival description can allow repositories to accurately link scholarship to the campus units that participated in its creation, while maintaining disciplinary continuity through academic restructuring.

Keywords
academic restructuring, institutional repositories, archival description

Disciplines
Archival Science | Library and Information Science
Institutional repositories

- Provide open access to scholarly works created by faculty, students, and staff
- Often organized into “communities” that parallel existing campus units

Academic restructuring

- Includes the creation, closure, merger, division, or renaming of campus units or programs

The question

How can institutional repositories that are organized into communities reflect academic restructuring?

Archival description

It is important:
- that repository organization accurately reflects the context of a work’s creation; and
- disciplinary continuity is maintained despite academic restructuring.

Archival description describes:
- aggregations of records;
- the functions that generated those records; and
- the creator(s) of those records.

If repository managers think of campus units as record creators and academic disciplines as functions, then archival description can be a useful tool in describing repository communities.

Archival description describes:
- the creator(s) of those records.
- the functions that generated those records; and
- aggregations of records;
- disciplinary continuity is maintained despite academic restructuring.

Archival description

Since 1905, the Department of Agricultural Engineering, now the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (ABE), has been a leader in providing engineering solutions to agricultural problems in the United States and the world. The department’s original mission was to mechanize agriculture. That mission has evolved to encompass a global view of the entire food production system—the wise management of natural resources in the production, processing, storage, handling, and use of food fiber and other biological products.

History

In 1905 Agricultural Engineering was recognized as a subdivision of the Department of Agronomy, and in 1907 it was recognized as a unique department. It was renamed the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering in 1990. The department merged with the Department of Industrial Education and Technology in 2004.

Dates of Existence

1905–present

Historical Names

- Department of Agricultural Engineering (1905–1990)

Related Units

- College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (parent college)
- College of Engineering (parent college)
- Department of Industrial Education and Technology (merged, 2004)

Related Resources

- Agricultural and Engineering Biosystems Engineering Digital Collection
- Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering photographs and scrapbooks from Iowa State University Department of Special Collections and University Archives.

ISAAR (CPF)
International Standard Archival Authority Record for Corporations, Persons and Families
http://www.ica.org/download.php?id=1648

- Describes entities responsible for creating records; and
- Documents relationships between different records creators.

Conclusion

Creating community descriptions derived from ISAAR (CPF) allows repository managers to create community descriptions that accurately describe the academic and administrative contexts of university scholarship, while linking to the predecessors and successors of campus units, thus maintaining disciplinary continuity.

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