Maintaining Continuity and Legacy through Academic Restructuring: Applying Archival Description to Institutional Repositories

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Abstract
Institutional Repositories (IRs) have been developed by many universities in Canada and the United States as a means to collect, manage and provide access to scholarship produced on campus. Many IRs group their content into communities, which often align with the academic and administrative units of the university. Universities, however, frequently endure academic restructuring as academic units are created, folded, merged and renamed, which raises a number of questions for IR managers. Does academic restructuring require a reorganization of the IR? How can continuity between the scholarship of a newly created department and its predecessors be illustrated? What is the value of the academic and administrative contexts of scholarship in an IR?

Iowa State University's IR, Digital Repository @ Iowa State University, was launched in April 2012 and was immediately faced with the division of the Department of Art and Design into five separate departments and the merger of two education departments into a new School of Education. This poster communicates Digital Repository @ Iowa State University's adaptation of archival principles and practice in organizing and describing its content. Through the use of elements from archival science, it was able to address the challenges posed by academic restructuring. Specifically, the repository drew from archival arrangement and the principle of provenance to devise its organizational system and utilized elements from ISAAR (CPF), the International Standard Archival Authority Record for Corporate Bodies, Persons and Families, to create descriptions for campus units represented in the repository.

Keywords
institutional repositories, archives, arrangement and description, provenance

This poster is available at Iowa State University Digital Repository: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/digirep_conf/2
Maintaining Continuity and Legacy Through Academic Restructuring
Applying Archival Description to Institutional Repositories

Harrison W. Inefuku, Iowa State University

Introduction
The literature that discusses the contributions (potential or realized) of archivists to the management of institutional repositories (IRs) has focused on archivists’ experience with preservation, authenticity and appraisal. Given the community-based structure of many IRs, drawing from archival arrangement and description can be beneficial to IRs, as well.

This poster describes the development of Digital Repository @ Iowa State University’s organizational structure based on the principle of provenance, as well as the development of community descriptions based on ISAAP (CPF).

The Problem
Digital Repository @ Iowa State University is organized into communities that correspond to campus units, including academic colleges and departments, administrative and service units, research centres, institutes and student organizations.

Soon after the repository was launched in 2012, several academic departments represented in the repository were affected by academic restructurings, including the merging and division of departments.

Is IR organization flexible enough to respond to such changes?

Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering
Department Chair: Steven K. Mickelson

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. In 1906, 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
1907–present

Historical Names
Department of Agricultural Engineering (1907–1990)

Related Units
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (parent college)
College of Engineering (parent college)
Department of Agronomy (predecessor, 1907)
Department of Industrial Education and Technology (merged, 2004)

Related Resources
Agricultural Engineering Digital Collections, Iowa State University Library

Archival Arrangement and Description and Digital Repository @ Iowa State University
The Iowa State University Library felt it was important to draw from the principle of provenance to guide IR organization. Parallels were drawn between IR and archival terminology—creator=campus unit, function=discipline, etc. When functions are transferred to new or other campus units through academic restructuring, new communities are created in the IR, maintaining accurate contextual links between Iowa State scholarship and the campus units that participated in the scholarly process.

The structure of community descriptions in Digital Repository @ Iowa State University are derived from ISAAP (CPF), which gives users and IR staff information about the functions of a campus unit, a history of the campus unit, links to related campus units and links to related digital library resources.

Benefits
Developing an organizational structure based on the principle of provenance and community descriptions based on archival description allows repositories to:

• Provide contextual information for the scholarly works held in the repository;
• Respond to academic restructuring;
• Link to related communities, allowing departments and other campus units to maintain disciplinary community and departmental legacies;
• IR communities are mapped to University Archives’ fonds and sous-fonds; and
• Link to related resources, including archival finding aids and digitized archival materials located outside the repository.

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