



Perceived Values and Benefits of Institutional Repositories: A Digital Curation Perspective

IMLS-Funded MIRACLE Project
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MIRACLE Project Goal

- Institutional Repositories
 - IRs are increasingly deployed in academic institutions to manage a variety of digital content including educational, research, and archival materials
- Goal
 - To identify models and best practices in the administration, technical infrastructure, and access to repository collections

Major Project Activities

- Completed Activities :
 - Nationwide Census of IRs
 - Telephone interviews with IR staff
- Future Plans
 - Case studies of 5 IRs
 - Survey of IR users
 - Experimental study of IR searchers

Values and Benefits of IRs

- IR values and benefits and digital curation
 - Spans the information life-cycle
 - Conceptualizing the benefits of IRs effects all other digital curation decisions
 - Identification of explicit benefits and values would assist IR administrators and staff in justifying the establishment of an IR

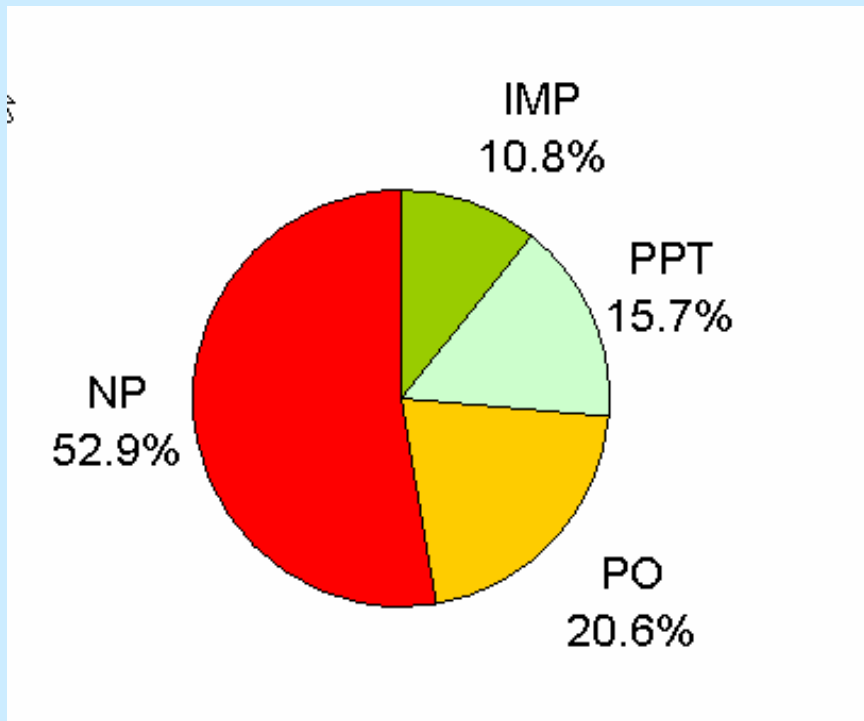
Research Questions

- Do IR administrators and staff agree on a set of values and benefits of IRs?
- To what extent do IR administrators and staff understand the role of digital curation in the process of IR establishment?

IR Values and Benefits from Census

- National Census of IRs: Web-based Survey
 - 2,147 Email invitations to academic library directors or senior administrators
 - 446 responses (Response rate 20.8%)
 - Library directors (73.7%), library staff (10.2%), assistant-associate library directors (7.9%), archivists (2.3%), and chief information officers (CIOs) (2.0%).

Extent of IR Implementation



Implementation (IMP): 48

Planning and Pilot Testing (PPT): 70

Planning Only (PO): 92

No Planning (NP): 236

Research Universities and IRs

- 83 research universities responded:
 - 30 Implemented (36%)
 - 26 Planning and Pilot Testing (31%)
 - 14 Planning Only (16%)
 - 13 No Planning (15%)
- 48 IMP institutions (CCHE classes)
 - 30 Research universities (63%)
 - 1 Doctoral university (2%)
 - 9 Master's (19%)
 - 5 Baccalaureate (10%)

Top-ranked IR Benefits

Top-ranked benefits (1 to 7)	NP	PO	PPT	IMP
Capturing the intellectual capital of your institution	2	2	2	1
Better service to contributors	(8)†	6	3	2
Exposing your institution's intellectual output to researchers around the world who would not have access to it through traditional channels	(9)	(9)	(7)	3
An increase in your library's role as a viable partner in the research enterprise	6	5	4	4
Longtime preservation of your institution's digital output	3	3	5	5T*
Better services to your institution's learning community	1	1	1	5T
A solution to the problem of preserving your institution's intellectual output	5	4	6	7

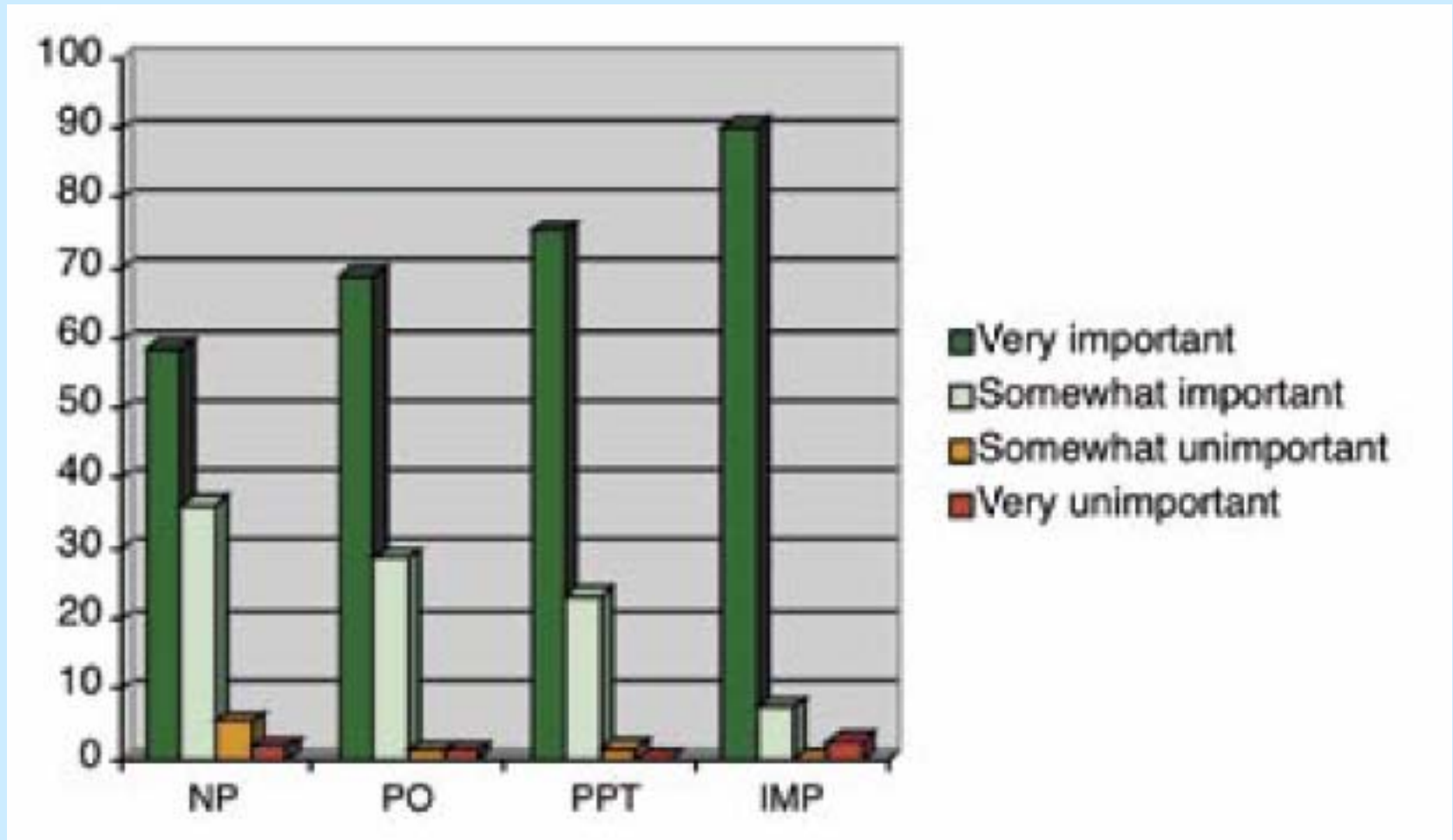
Middle-ranked Benefits

Middle-ranked benefits (8 to 14)	NP	PO	PPT	IMP
An increase in the accessibility to knowledge assets such as numeric, video, audio, and multimedia formats	(7)	8	8	8
A boost to your institution's prestige	14	13	10	9
Maintaining control over your institution's intellectual property	(4)	(7)	9	10
Contributing to the reform of the entire enterprise of scholarly communication and publishing	13	14	12	11
New services to learning communities beyond your institution	10T	10	11	12
A reduction in the amount of time between discovery and dissemination of research findings	12	11T	13	13
Providing maximal access to the results of publicly funded research	10T	11T	14	14

Bottom-ranked benefits

Bottom-ranked benefits (15 to 16)	NP	PO	PPT	IMP
An increase in citation counts to your institution's intellectual output	15	15	15	15
Reducing user dependence on your library's print collection	16	16	16	16

Increasingly positive nature of respondents' ratings for IR benefits



Increases in Importance of Benefits for Institutions with Operational IRs

- An increase in your library's role as a viable partner in the research enterprise (48.7%)
- Longtime preservation of your institution's digital output (35.0 %)
- An increase in the accessibility to knowledge assets such as numeric, video, audio, and multimedia datasets (35.0%)
- Better service to contributors (34.2%)
- Better services to your institution's learning community (34.2%)

IR Values and Benefits from Phone Interviews

- 176 Volunteers for phone interviews from the Census
- A purposive sample of 36 participants
 - IR stage of development
 - Various positions: library staff (11), library directors (9), assistant-associate library directors (4), archivists or directors of archives (4), heads or directors in libraries (4), CIOs (3), associate dean for research (1)
 - Size and type of institution (small colleges to large research universities)
 - Geographically dispersed

Major Findings from Phone Interviews

- Unique digital collection building
 - Faculty e-prints, student work, and archival primary source material
- Centralizing access to digital collections
 - Making digital objects accessible any time anywhere
- Use and sharing of IR materials
 - More usage, and increasingly importance of sharing resources
- IRs as an intellectual preservation venue
 - Concerns and perceived risk in “making the promise that you’re going to keep it forever.”

Conclusion

- IRs require a digital curation perspective
- Management of digital assets
 - Digital collection building
 - Access to digital collection
 - Use of IR materials
 - Long-term preservation
- IR policies and practices for digital curation vary depending on the size (Carnegie Classification) and IR development stage (NP, PO, PPT, and IMP)

Next Steps

- Further analyses of phone interviews
 - General characteristics of IRs, content and content recruitment, policies and access, end users and use of IR, preservation, services, evaluation, financial issues, institutional commitment, intellectual property rights, IR system features, maintenance, and selection, metadata...
- Case studies of five IRs
- Survey of IR users
- Experimental study of IR searchers

Stay Tuned on MIRALCE Project

- **Project Web site: <http://miracle.si.umich.edu>**
- **Markey, K. Rieh, S. Y., St. Jean, B., Kim, J., & Yakel, E. (2007, February). *Census of Institutional Repositories in the United States: MIRACLE Project Research Findings*. Washington, D.C.: Council on Library and Information Resources. Available: <http://www.clir.org/pubs/reports/pub140/pub140.pdf>.**