Academic Commons: Overview & Demonstration

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What is Academic Commons?

• Academic Commons is Columbia University’s research repository where current faculty, student, and staff can deposit electronic copies of their work.
Academic Commons

Academic Commons collects, preserves, and makes accessible the scholarship and research of the faculty, staff, and students of Columbia University. The Commons will include articles and monographs, working papers, preprints, technical reports, conference papers, datasets, multimedia creations, and other materials in various digital formats. Content will grow as new communities and collections are added to Academic Commons.

Most Columbia University content in Academic Commons is freely available to the public. Columbia doctoral dissertations, however, are accessible only to current members of the Columbia Community and those affiliated with other institutions that subscribe to ProQuest Dissertations and Theses Database (PQDT).

For Columbia departments or communities interested in joining the Libraries' Academic Commons initiative, see How to Participate.
The Center for Digital Research and Scholarship (CDRS) is dedicated to:

- Serving Columbia’s research community through the development and support of platforms and tools for advancement of research and scholarship,

- Research support that sustains ongoing academic conversations through distributed network communities, conferences, and structured user contributions,

- Education about the rapid changes taking place within the scholarly communication process.
Repository Examples

ArXiv: Open access to 511,683 e-prints in Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science, Quantitative Biology and Statistics

CogPrints: An electronic archive for self-archive papers (~3,500) in Psychology, Neuroscience, and Linguistics, Computer Science, Philosophy, Biology, as well as any other portions of the physical, social and mathematical sciences that are pertinent to the study of cognition

RePEc (Research Papers in Economics) is a decentralized database of freely available working papers, journal articles and software components.
Repository Work to Date

- Global, Collaborative
- “Bleeding edge” technology, built by users for users (e.g., physics, computer science)
- Philosophical: Open Access (gold, green) vs. Traditional Publishers
- Content: journal articles (pre-/post-print) from researchers

GREAT!!!

But…
...What about The Rest of Us?

- not in physics
- not a tech super-user
- not going to self-archive
- not willing to engage in dogmatic fights

- Have more than journal articles

INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORIES!
Repository Definition #2

[Institutional repositories are] “a set of services that a university offers to the members of its community for the management and dissemination of digital materials created by the institution and its community members.

What to Deposit

• It is the place to store, manage, publish, and preserve a digital record of your work.

• It is *not* the place to save every version of a book or paper, image or presentation.
Why Deposit in Academic Commons?

• Two types of preservation disaster:
  – The Big Bang: fires, floods, theft, drops
  – The Slow Slide: switch computers, move institutions, format degradation

• Persistent URL

• Part of Columbia ‘presence’

• Make your work more widely available

• Comply with agency / grant requirements (NIH, NSF)
Preparing items for deposit into Academic Commons

Description + Preservation + Rights Information = Levels of Access
Demo Links

• Behind the Scenes: [https://www1.columbia.edu/sec/cu/libraries/bts/academiccommons/index.html](https://www1.columbia.edu/sec/cu/libraries/bts/academiccommons/index.html)
• AC: [http://academiccommons.columbia.edu](http://academiccommons.columbia.edu)
• Collections: CJEB, Econ Working Papers-NEEO, Computer Science, Chuck Mee
Citations & Links

• Center for Digital Research and Scholarship
  http://cdrs.columbia.edu/

• Academic Commons
  http://academiccommons.columbia.edu

• Copyright Advisory Office
  http://www.copyright.columbia.edu/

• Websites listed

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Questions & Discussion