Curating disciplinary data sets within a university repository

Christie A. Wiley, Engineering Research Data Services Librarian
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Introduction
Many institutions have conducted campus wide studies to better understand researcher's needs and guide the research data services offered by academic libraries.

Librarians have conducted a number of exploratory research activities on agricultural scientists and engineering faculty research data management needs.

Further analysis indicated researcher’s data management needs in the areas of preservation and storage.

Thus resulting in the areas of support for data deposit into institutional and external repositories and data archives.

Pilot Project
Recently engineering librarians, engineering, and physics faculty with University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign collaborated on a project to import data sets through data management consultation meetings.

Illinois Digital Environment for Access to Learning and Scholarship (IDEALS) – collects disseminates, and provides persistent and reliable access to the research and scholarship of faculty staff and students.

The objective of this project illustrates the process of importing data settings in to the repository and discusses the success and challenges of this process.

File Types
The types of files received are ascii and database files.

Ideals Metadata worksheet for deposit

Results
The examples listed below are screenshots of the datasets once they are loaded in the university repository. The metadata used is Dublin Core

https://www.ideals.illinois.edu/

Successes
• Analysis of data management plans
• Building collaborative relationships
• Increasing awareness of Research Data Services

Issues and Challenges
• Obtaining data sets
• Locating datasets in the repository
• Long-term storage options
• Engagement

Conclusions
This project is at the beginning stages. Examples used are current projects and existing datasets located in the university repository. We hope to obtain more data sets and compare these experiences in efforts to provide more services for faculty.

Email
cawiley@illinois.edu