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We Have Only Scratched the Surface: The Role of Student Research in Institutional Repositories

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The role of student research in institutional repositories

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Why undergraduate research?

- Undergraduate research is recognized as a high impact educational practice

- Value to showcasing this?

- How can libraries promote undergraduate research?
Surveys

- URPD—undergraduate research program directors
  - CUR (Council for Undergraduate Research)
    - 65 responses

- IRL—institutional repository librarians
  - OpenDOAR
    - 77 responses

- Faculty (coming soon)
- Students (coming soon)
What’s being captured?

- Posters presented at campus events

Note: Not counting honors theses, Undergraduate research journals, capstone projects
What’s yet to be discovered?
URPDs-what is produced vs. IRLs-what is collected

- More than 90% URPDs report undergraduates presenting posters at off campus events
  - Only 35% IRLs report capturing these posters
- More than 75% URPDs report undergraduates presenting at off campus conferences
  - Only 35% IRLs report capturing these presentations
What are the benefits?

- IR Librarians Perceived Benefits
  - Sharing scholarship with prospective employers and graduate schools
  - Providing concrete examples of open access scholarship to students early in their academic careers
  - Capturing student scholarship enhances the institution’s reputation by demonstrating student engagement with research
What are the benefits?

- URPD Perceived Benefits
  - Showcasing student accomplishments
  - Providing examples of completed research projects
  - Highlighting diversity of research/creative opportunities across all disciplines
Challenges for IR librarians

- Difficult to know where/when students are presenting research
- Difficult to know when a student publishes a paper with faculty
- Collecting scholarship from students
- Not enough staff time
Other stakeholders/next steps

- Stakeholders
  - Individual faculty members
  - Undergraduate students
  - Admissions office

- Next steps
  - Faculty survey (distribution spring 2015)
  - Student survey (distribution fall 2015)
Implications for academic libraries
What are our next steps?