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The Hurdles and Highlights of Institutionalized Strategies for Disseminating Undergraduate Research

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In 2015, the researchers surveyed URPDs and librarians nationally and faculty at USU about their thoughts on the role of student research in institutional repositories (IRs). All three groups recognize the benefits of making undergraduate research available in IRs. Yet, while the benefits to students, departments, and institutions as a whole are widely recognized, survey respondents also noted concerns about making this work openly available. Survey results also indicated the need for better communication and collaboration among these various campus entities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BENEFITS</th>
<th>SUMMARY</th>
<th>CONCERNS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enhancing reputation of institution/college/department</td>
<td>In 2015, the researchers surveyed URPDs and librarians nationally and faculty at USU about their thoughts on the role of student research in institutional repositories (IRs). All three groups recognize the benefits of making undergraduate research available in IRs. Yet, while the benefits to students, departments, and institutions as a whole are widely recognized, survey respondents also noted concerns about making this work openly available. Survey results also indicated the need for better communication and collaboration among these various campus entities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highlighting diversity of research/creative opportunities across all disciplines</td>
<td></td>
<td>Quality of the work students produce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing examples of completed research projects</td>
<td></td>
<td>Content of work is slated for publication; including it in Digital Commons may prevent publication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Showcasing student accomplishments</td>
<td></td>
<td>Data are undergoing additional analysis and will be included in future publications or presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>URPD</td>
<td>Faculty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 20 40 60 80 100</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Little</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FACULTY QUOTES**

- Not all undergrad research is of equal quality. Putting the bad in with the good might not advance scholarship in the field.
- Work that appears in digital commons is "surveyed" by search engines. When this occurs, the work is considered to be "previously published" and high end journals and other similar outlets will not then publish it. Yes, this has happened!!!
- Students citing themselves as "published researchers" when all they did was write something and put it in Digital Commons. Students need to be trained extensively on what peer-reviewed research products are.
- I cannot afford to be scooped!
- Faculty want
  - the option to approve students’ work before it is added to the repository
  - a mechanism to request removal of their students’ work
- But
  - not all faculty are responsive to approving work
  - policies would be needed to guide the removal of student work
- Both faculty and URPDs recognize several benefits to exposing student research.
- Faculty have significant concerns about exposing student research in institutional repositories.
- Librarians are in a position to mitigate faculty fears and concerns while capitalizing on the benefits that both faculty and URPDs recognize.