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Services Make the Repository

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Abstract

This paper provides an overview of the collaboration between the Perseus Project and the Digital Collection and Archives (DCA) at Tufts University in moving the collections of the Perseus Project into the DCA's Fedora based repository as well as a listing of potential services necessary to support a successful institutional repository.

Keywords

Digital repositories, Fedora, digital library services

Introduction

Many assume, for better or for worse, that libraries and archives will be able to maintain bits over time, migrating them from one system to another, converting one image format into another, and executing the suite of complex processes necessary to maintain digital objects in well-established formats. While such an assumption does not do justice to the challenges of the task, the preservation of digital objects is a necessary, but by no means sufficient condition for successful curation. At the same time, as institutional repositories (IRs) have multiplied at academic institutions around the world, those engaged in building and managing the IRs have lamented the poor levels of contributor participation that many repositories have seen.

While the literature about institutional repositories and digital repositories in particular is quite extensive, it has often focused on the use of repositories as a place to manage faculty preprints rather than diverse research materials or object types. Beyond simple dissemination, there has been less discussion of what types of behaviors will become essential components of these repositories if they are to become truly successful. Research has focused on how to build a repository ([Gibbons 2004](#)), how to get

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