Institutional Repository Task Force (IRTF) Meeting, October 12, 2004

Present: Bicknese, Blaszczak, Cullars, McGowan, Stefancu, Weller, chair, Zhao

Weller convened the meeting at 9:02. Cullars volunteered to take the minutes. Weller reported that she, Austin, and Blaszczak will be attending the institutional repository workshop in Washington DC on November 18-19. The 2005 ACRL Conference in Minneapolis will have an IR workshop, and a member of the TF might attend.

1. The minutes of the September 21, 2004 meeting were approved.
2. The TF considered the evaluation of the following software options that had been assigned to its members:
   (a) Zhao discussed DSpace. She was highly favorable, ranking it 8 out of a possible 10. She loaded it and checked different formats, which worked. She did a brief film of a Cataloging Department party. Unless it is an html file, images must be saved separately from the text. She suggested that UIC might wish to customize the entry data for files beyond the submission date, author/supplier name, and title as well as descriptions of the content of entries. The online instructions are clear enough that most users should be able to use the system without frustration. It is easily customized. It would require a server, backup, and staff time.
   (b) Stefancu and Cullars evaluated DXLS. They agreed that it was intended mainly for images and that it is an expensive (over $10,000) system. Blaszczak pointed out that the basic package is free, but the more sophisticated software needed for a project such as we are considering requires a high initial subscription cost and lower, but still high, annual fees for subsequent years. Stefancu ranked it at 3 out of 10, thus effectively eliminating it from further consideration.
   (c) Bicknese and McGowan looked at Eprints: It is used by over 140 institutions, but not exclusively: many use other systems such as DSpace in conjunction with it. It is most valuable for administrative and maintenance than IR purposes. It is mainly meant for print files and requires a lot of tweaking for other formats; it does not offer effective search capabilities for media and other non-print formats. They ranked it a 6 or 7 out of 10 and felt that DSpace was better for our needs.
   (d) Blaszczak looked at ContentDM and ISAAC (from Ebrary): ILLINET has chosen ContentDM for its digital software management software, but UIC has a considerable investment in the Luna software. Other institutions accessing it from outside UIC, if we bought it, would not be able to upload it and would have to rely on UIC to provide what they need. Thus it is not appropriate for UIC’s needs. ISAAC, based on a demo given by the vendors, has excellent search capabilities, is quick, and is intended for repositories. It is a commercial product and not yet on the market. We don’t know what it will cost, but it won’t be cheap. We estimate that eventually OA sources will be able to offer similar services. So, it too is not recommended for UIC.
3. Review IRFT Report: Weller said that the audience for the report at this point is our TF and the Steering Committee. We will add a recommendation for DSpace to the report. Each member of the TF selected an institution using DSpace from a list that
Stefancu provided and will check its website to find answers to questions that are as yet unresolved:
- http://www.ucalgary.ca/library/dspace/ - Doug
- http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/dspace/ - Ann
- https://kuscholarworks.ku.edu - Mircea
- http://tspace.library.utoronto.ca - John
- http://ospace.scholarsportal.info - (David ?)
- http://dspace.library.cornell.edu - Sara
- https://ford.ischool.utexas.edu/index.jsp - Rich
- https://dspace.lib.rochester.edu/index.jsp - Lisa

After the Washington DC workshop, we will do brownbags at both Daley and LHS between December 8 and 10 to begin a discussion with a wider group of library faculty and academic professionals with Sara providing demonstrations of DSpace.

The next IRTF meeting will be on November 23 at LHS. Weller adjourned the meeting at 10:10 AM.

Submitted by John Cullars
October 13, 2004