

Florida State University Libraries

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From: Micah Vandegrift, Scholarly Communication
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CC: Garnett Stokes, Julia Zimmerman, Nancy
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Re: Feedback on SHared Access Research Ecosystem
(SHARE) proposal for universities as digital
repositories for their federally funded research
articles and data.

FSU Libraries prepared with infrastructure and staff to assist with new grants compliance measures

The directive issued by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), that federally-funded research be made easily accessible and available to the public, is in line with initiatives that FSU Libraries began three years ago. The establishment and ongoing development of DigiNole Commons: Virtual Repository of Electronic Scholarship (VIREs), FSU's open access institutional repository allows our research community to deposit their research products and make them freely available and accessible to anyone with an internet connection. Presently, DigiNole hosts peer-reviewed scholarly articles from faculty in 17 departments, the Graduate School's Theses and Dissertations, Undergraduate Honors Theses and three scholarly journals, resulting in 276,999 full-text downloads by 46,000 unique visitors from 169 different countries between January and December 2012. **Florida State University can support and assist our scholars with compliance to the OSTP directive simply by promoting DigiNole Commons as the repository into which their research should be deposited.**

In addition to the technical framework, the Libraries perform regular outreach efforts, primarily through the position of the Scholarly Communications Librarian, to the Faculty Senate Library Committee, various Colleges and Departments, the Graduate School and the Office of Undergraduate Research about the University's responsibility for the dissemination, discovery and preservation of its research products. A product of that work, in October 2011 the Faculty Senate passed an Open Access Resolution, in line with many other peer and prestige universities, affirming the principle that publicly-funded research should be available to the public and charging the libraries to take a leading role in exploring this topic.



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The OSTP directive presents an opportunity for libraries, research offices and faculty to optimize the systems already in place and ensure compliance to funder's requirements. This is also an opportunity to ensure broad access to high quality scholarly literature, with efforts scaled across research institutions to minimize individual development costs. The proposed development of the SHared Access Research Ecosystem (**SHARE**) will build on and from the foundational work already in process at FSU and in many research universities:

- SHARE is explicitly designed to help researchers and their institutions comply with OSTP directive. This will require education and training, which is already a primary responsibility and area of expertise of the Scholarly Communication Librarian.
- SHARE envisions extended capacities for use of peer-reviewed publications, and over time, data. For example, paleo-neurological research on Einstein's brain is important for the academy as well as for inspiring students in public schools.
- SHARE will use open metadata and open standards to maximize public discovery through a variety of search systems, including commercial search engines (Google, Bing, etc.) and library discovery tools. DigiNole Commons already meets these standards and supplies open metadata to discovery platforms.
- All institutions do not need to have all pieces of the SHARE infrastructure. For example, storing and sharing data will be more complex than publications in many ways, but there are libraries already ingesting the data underlying research articles and SHARE anticipates collaboration among libraries and consortia, as well as existing federal and non-federal repositories. Conversations about data management are underway through FSU's E-Science Librarian.
- SHARE reflects the current and developing usage environment, standards, and best practices by utilizing industry-standard interfaces to maximize compatibility with existing library tools and applications and related campus infrastructure.
- SHARE would extend the current role of research libraries as partners in campus research efforts, a role FSU Libraries in growing into and very excited to pursue.

The value of centralizing scholarly products and making them openly accessible extends to a variety of stakeholders: faculty benefit from usage metrics on their articles deposited in institutional repositories, indicating that easier access to publications would increase article citation rates and impact; the University has a tangible point of reference for the high quality work its research community produces; the Libraries play a new and important role in the cycle of scholarly production, providing the resources to build upon, and also the preservation and dissemination of new knowledge; and finally, the public (independent researchers, under-funded institutions, public schools and libraries, the global community) can share in the progression of the human mind.

Practically, SHARE would allow those invested in the research process to have greater ownership and investment in the scholarship produced by bright faculty at world-class institutions. Research libraries have worked toward a productive opportunity like SHARE for nearly a decade, and with the potential for U.S. public and private research universities to utilize existing technologies like DigiNole Commons to support this new phase of scholarly communication, it is our whole-hearted opinion that participation would ensure FSU's continued proof of preeminence in Florida, the United States and internationally.

