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Collaborative repository transformation and the work of building a sustainable Islandora for All

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Collaborative repository transformation and the work of building a sustainable
*Islandora for All*

Este Pope, Amherst College
Sarah Lippincott, Born-Digital
Outline

● LASIR: Enhancing Open Source Options for IRs
● ISLE: ISLandora Enterprise
● Islandora For All: ISLE + LASIR + Community
LASIR: Enhancing Open Source Options for IRs
Northeast Institutional Repository Day
Sarah Lippincott // Born-Digital
Islandora Scholar
an existing suite of modules designed to help Islandora 7 function as an Institutional Repository

LASIR
a Mellon-funded initiative to make strategic enhancements to Islandora Scholar and its submodules, with the end goal of creating a turnkey Islandora-based IR platform
Enhancement 1 ➔ Search Engine Optimization
Enhancement 2 → Usage Statistics

188 views | 59 downloads | 0 citations

Dear Author,

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Enhancement 3 → Author Profiles
Enhancement 4 → Self-Submit
Enhancement 5 → Metadata Export
MIGRATION PATHWAYS

Today

Commercial Institutional Repository Software

ISLE

Islandora 7

2019

Before 2022

Islandora 8
Born-Digital

Noah Smith  
CEO / Founder

Derek Merleaux  
Team Lead

Sarah Lippincott  
Senior Consultant

Patrick Dunlavey  
Lead Developer

Gavin Morris  
Systems Developer
Islandora For All

ISLE + LASIR + Community

a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Islandora for All

ISLE + LASIR + Community

Building community is critical to sustaining an open-source project.

ICG built strong LAC community (Hack/Docs, ISLE, LASIR)

Islandora for All:

1. ICG’s focus on building larger community
2. The ICG is moving towards supporting an environment that includes everyone, and that includes sharing leadership positions.
LASIR: Liberal Arts Sprint for Institutional Repositories

Goal: develop a robust suite of IR features within Islandora through community involvement, coding new features, and creating thorough documentation

Five major areas: SEO and Google Scholar, data visualizations and reporting, improved scholar profiles, self-deposit workflow, and data outputs
ISLE: ISLandora Enterprise

Goals:

● Make stack installation easy so that it lowers the barrier to entry for Islandora/Fedora adoption
● Make maintenance and sustainability easier across a variety of institutions
● Provide a viable open-source repository choice for organizations with smaller staffing levels
Islandora Collaboration Group (ICG)

The Islandora Collaboration Group (ICG) is a group of colleges supporting and extending the Islandora repository through development, resource pooling, and advocacy.

https://github.com/Islandora-Collaboration-Group
ICG Members

- Amherst College
- Barnard College
- Colgate University
- Hampshire College
- Mount Holyoke College
- Grinnell College
- Hamilton College
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

- Smith College
- Tri-College Libraries Consortium
  - Bryn Mawr College
  - Haverford College
  - Swarthmore College
- Vassar College
- Wesleyan University
- Williams College
Community - Benefits

- Help to minimize risk; greatest strength in numbers
- Targeting resources to steward unique aspects of our institutions
- Small consortial investment yields great rewards
  - Ability to join governance of larger community (e.g., Islandora Foundation)
  - Seats on board of directors, technical, and planning roadmaps
- Investing resources to products and platforms that we need in a way we can sustain
Community - Challenges

- Project Management, relationships and communication.
- Risk management and resource allocation, gaining support from senior leadership for this type of work/system.
- Open source isn’t free. Mitigating needs with both money and staff time are necessary. Sharing across institutions helps.
- Our projects are from primarily white institutions and elite colleges with financial and staffing resources. Potential to increase stakeholders in the development process of open source.
The Future

● Continued sustainable collaboration in the open source repository space.
● Alignment with Islandora 6 and Fedora 8
● Collectively developing migration plans and pathways
● More ISLE members - consider joining!
● More shared development projects
● Increasing Islandora expertise of library staff and software developers
Questions?

Importance of open source in open access

Benefit of having a wide range of participants in building out the tools

Challenges to making community-supported software work well