Accessibility of Institutional Repository Content: Current Landscape and Ideas for a Path Forward

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Presentation Agenda

• Limitations of this presentation
• Current landscape of institutional repository (IR) accessibility
• University of Minnesota Duluth’s path forward
• Barriers and some possible solutions
Limitations of This Presentation...

...also known as “The Fine Print”
Current Landscape of Institutional Repository (IR) Accessibility
Current Landscape

- Desire and need for digitally accessible content
- Lack of IR-content-specific accessibility statements
- Lack of instructions for submitters to make content accessible
- Lack of instructions for users to request accessible versions

*SOME EXCEPTIONS EXIST!*
See my “IRs with Digital Accessibility Features” slide near the end for examples you might adapt for your use.
University of Minnesota Duluth’s
Path Forward
Steps We’re Taking / Planning to Take

1. Remediating all content we (Digital Services @ UMD) create before adding to our system-wide IR (University Digital Conservancy)

2. Pursuing partnerships to increase accessibility of externally-submitted content

3. Adding statement to all item records about requesting remediated content
Barriers and Some Possible Solutions
Barriers and Potential Solutions

- Reliance on self-submission: Add “quick fixes” section to submission workflow.
- Limited staff and funding: Tie accessibility efforts into institutional diversity and inclusion goals or efforts.
- Lack of staff expertise: Attend trainings, do research, build a community, and then share what you know!
Resources


IRs with Digital Accessibility Features*

- Cornell University [Web accessibility][IR-specific accessibility policy; resources for submitters]
- Duke University [IR accessibility policy][IR-specific accessibility policy; method to request accessible version; resources for submitters]
- George Washington University [GW ScholarSpace Submission Form][requires submitters to affirm that their pdf is accessible]
- Harvard University [IR accessibility][IR-specific accessibility policy; method to report accessibility problem; resources for submitters]
- Indiana University [Submission Guide][resources for submitters]
- Michigan State University [Remediation Requests][method to request accessible version]
- University of Michigan [FAQ on Preservation and Accessibility][resources for submitters]

*Not a comprehensive list; let me know if I missed your IR!
Thank You! - and - Questions??

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