Beprexit: Rethinking Repository Services in a Changing Scholarly Communication Landscape

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Introductions
Data management

Digital Scholarship

Scholarly communication
Digital Scholarship

Data management

Mapping & spatial data

Scholarly communication

Digital Humanities
Overview
We are planning to leave bepress
This fall, the Penn Libraries will begin exploring open source options for hosting Penn’s institutional repository, ScholarlyCommons, which provides free and open access to scholarly works created by Penn faculty, staff and students.

For 13 years, Penn Libraries has hosted ScholarlyCommons on the platform Digital Commons, which we contract from the commercial company bepress. Through ScholarlyCommons and other initiatives, the Penn Libraries has enabled Penn authors to lower barriers to accessing scholarship, publish new research, and take advantage of library services that benefit not only our own community but those around the world.
For 13 years, bepress was a partner in this endeavor. In August, bepress sold their company to Elsevier, a business with a history of aggressive confidentiality agreements, steep price increases, and opaque data mining practices. In their acquisition of bepress and other companies like SSRN and Mendeley, Elsevier demonstrates a move toward the consolidation and monopolization of products and services impacting all areas of the research lifecycle. We are worried about the long-term impacts from these acquisitions and are concerned that such changes are not in the best interests of the library community. Therefore, we feel obligated to begin exploring alternatives. With this decision, the Penn Libraries hopes to provide a better solution for openly sharing Penn’s scholarship and asserting author rights.
We believe that scholarly research should be made freely available for the greatest global and local good. We wish to support a scholarly ecosystem in which authors can decide how to publish their work, and we will continue to provide platforms for Penn authors who find their work has greatest impact when it is shared openly and without barriers. We call on the academic community to join us in this endeavor—to partner with us, to collaborate, and to find solutions that align with our values as researchers, libraries, and universities and serve our collective communities’ needs.
We are not rushing
A Declaration by the Representatives of the UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA, in General Congress assembled.

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for people to
dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to
separate and equal

Why the statement?

We hold these truths to be

distributed by their creator with
created equal and independent, that from that equal creation they derive
inalienable, among which are

self-evident.

We hold these truths to be
We have a responsibility...
By 2017, ...the Library will be known for a well-articulated portfolio of researcher services.
researcher services

mediated deposit
permissions
build collections for research

open access support
copyright and author rights
access to dissertations
Refining the services-oriented approach
Standardized workflows for mediated faculty deposit

Comprehensive student employee training program

Clearly articulated repository services and outreach materials
Identifying unmet needs
Support for researcher data and data-intensive projects

Interactive publications and non-traditional digital projects

Multimedia and other large file types
The Stars Align

Organizational restructure

Growing demand

More staff support

Streamlined training and workflows
How do we want to grow? What does our future IR look like?
Elsevier acquires bepress, a leading service provider used by academic institutions to showcase their research.

Bepress to benefit from Elsevier’s technology and analytics to expand offerings to more institutions, while helping Elsevier drive further adoption of its research data management tools.
Opportunity
Our Approach
“People don’t buy WHAT you do… They buy WHY you do it.”

-Simon Sinek
What is an IR?
Library Stewardship
We have questions.
Before we plan...we learn.
What is being created, and how is it being disseminated?
What are current uses, needs, and desires for new repository systems?
What are the options for alternative repository systems?
Taskforce

Charge

This taskforce is charged with carrying out an environmental scan and campus discovery research over a 9 month period. The taskforce will research platform options; explore collaboration opportunities; and ascertain the Penn community’s current uses, needs, and desires for repository services.

Goals

● Learn about current uses of ScholarlyCommons and collaboration opportunities
● Determine user needs and desires for new repository services
● Conduct an environmental scan of platform options, requirements, and feasibility (staff, time, cost, etc.)
● Benchmark services we have offered or could offer against institutions included in the environmental scan
Research

User Research
- Surveys
- Interviews
- Design thinking

Environmental Scan

Conversations and Collaborations

Informal Conversations

Internal Collaborations

External Collaborations
Making things open

Operation beprexit
Documenting Penn Libraries' journey toward open source repository solutions

beprexit.wordpress.com

@beprexit
Re-imagine the **scope** of what we collect

Consider scholarly expression at a range of **scales**

Accept the need for **multiple** tools, **platforms**, and **approaches**
Building refuge for federal climate & environmental data

DataRefuge helps to build refuge for federal data. It supports climate and environmental research and advocacy. We are committed to fact-based arguments. DataRefuge preserves the facts we need at a time of ongoing climate change.

This site is one part of the project. The vast majority of the government information gathered through this project is available from the Internet Archive through the End of Term project. This data catalog is a place to store data that is difficult or impossible to harvest through web crawlers. Beginning to add difficult data to this website is one of the tasks of the DataRescuePhilly event on January 13th and 14th.
Stewardship in the “Age of Algorithms”

by Clifford Lynch
Multiple scales
Collections as Data is an Institute of Museum and Library Services supported effort that aims to foster a strategic approach to developing, describing, providing access to, and encouraging reuse of collections that support computationally-driven research and teaching in areas including but not limited to Digital Humanities, Public History, Digital History, data driven Journalism, Digital Social Science, and Digital Art History.

collectionsasdata.github.io
Unstable resources
Projects at Price Lab

Currently Funded

Completed Funding

Other DH Projects at Penn

Paraphonotext in the PennSound Archive
Orchid Tierney
Unearthing new connections in poetry from the PennSound Archive.

Baroque Topologies
Andrew Saunders
Preparation for an international traveling exhibition of the research on Baroque Architecture.

Python in the Archives
Sudev J Sheth
Synthesizing approaches in data science with historical questions and primary sources from early-modern India (AD 1352-1850).
Variety of platforms
Federal data ➔ webpage

Basic HTML ➔ Internet Archive

Embedded Content ➔ WayBack Machine

Directories of Files ➔ DataRefuge

Query Interface

Research Dataset
Platforms

Functions

Services