



An exploration of fine arts faculty perceptions of institutional repositories

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Research Questions

1. What content from the College of Fine Arts is in the institutional repository?
2. What concerns and benefits do fine arts faculty identify when considering their creative work in the institutional repository?

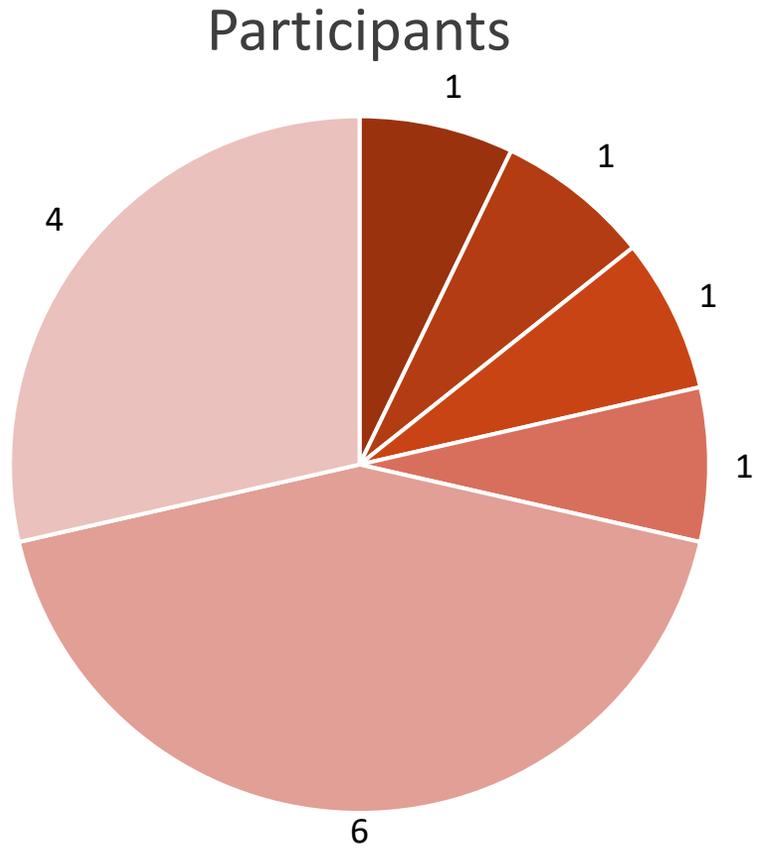


Methodology

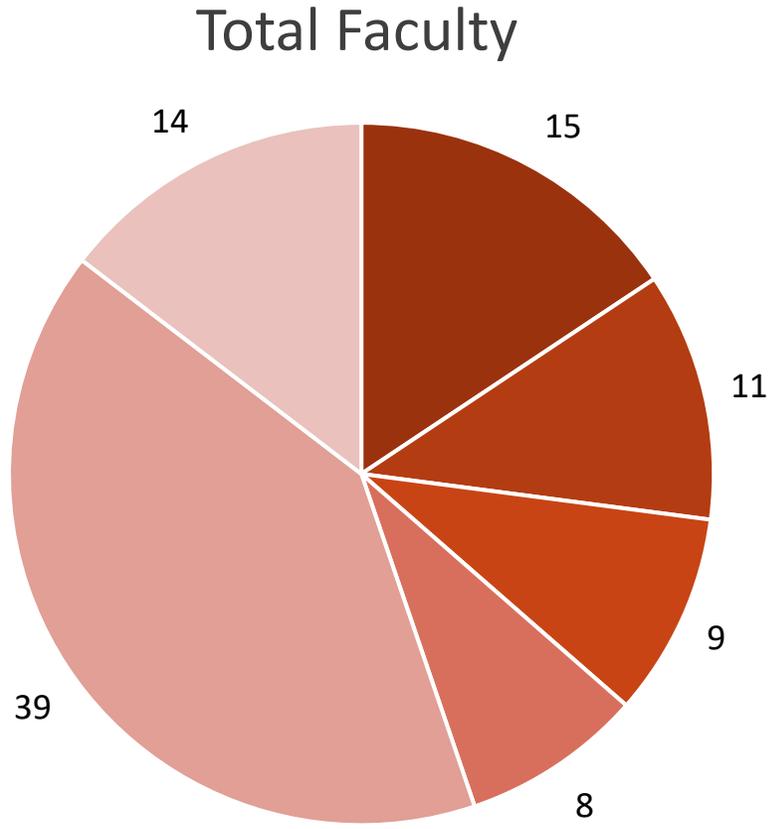
- Fine Arts includes architecture, art, dance, film, music, and theatre
- Two parts:
 - Analysis of existing content
 - Semi-structured in-depth interviews
- Interview requests were sent to all 96 full-time faculty in the College of Fine Arts
 - 19 volunteers, 12 scheduled interviews, 2 more agreed after being recommended by another participant
- Interviews transcribed and coded in Dedoose (www.dedoose.com)



Participants



- Architecture
- Art
- Dance
- Film
- Music
- Theatre





Context

THE INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY AND CREATIVE WORK



Existing Fine Arts Content

837 College of Fine Arts documents

765 School of Music performance programs

68 theses and dissertations

4 faculty documents



Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity

- Physical and digital works, including:
 - three dimensional objects
 - blogging & academic writing
 - conference presentations & informal talks
 - live performances & recorded live performances
 - studio recordings
 - original works of art or music
 - preparatory research & planning documents
 - handwritten documents
- Digital documents that are representative of the physical work (photographs, scans, etc.)
- Works done for the public



Findings

BENEFITS, CONCERNS, AND EXPECTATIONS



Benefits

- **Accessibility**
 - *“Well, the work I do is for the public, so I don’t think so because it’s for performance. I mean, a performance is for the public. So as a performance person, there wouldn’t have been any reason to want to hold it back... well the idea of it being up online I think is wonderful because then it’s universal access to information.”*
 - *“So for me, the big thing is not just holding it here at the university, I would want it, and it appears the website already does that, to be worldwide access. I think that's just very important. I think closing your doors off to just inside your little hub is very... Old-school.”*
 - *“I do keep all of the files of everything we've done but it seems like those sorts of things should become, they should end up in a repository somewhere. That was actually part of my interest in talking to you about it. You know, because they shouldn’t just live in my hard drive, they should be something that’s accessible.”*



Benefits

- **Raising awareness & promotion**
 - *“So if there’s a way to use this digital strategy... to forward the arts and to put us at the vanguard of something, or at least raise awareness of the arts...”*
 - *“... what I really feel is lacking for the whole [department] is promotion of our activities. I mean, we don’t even really have a sign on the road that says what’s happening. I think we could be doing a much better job promoting ourselves but the problem is that nobody has time. And it’s always this feeling of having to start from scratch, to build something new to make it happen...”*
- **University connection**
 - *“... particularly in an institutional repository like this one, because it gives seriousness to it. You know, I have a website, but I am just a person... it benefits me in the sense, the reason why if someone googles me and finds my name first, it’s because I’ve been referred to by [institution]... It benefits me.”*



Concerns

- **Ownership & use of materials**
 - *“Just someone, I guess, taking and downloading your work and repurposing it, or saying that it’s theirs.”*
- **Copyright**
 - *“... what we do in our areas will be difficult to make a public presentation of without a whole bunch of waivers.”*
 - *“... I don’t know about rules in terms of royalties and copyright.”*
- **Collaboration & unions**
 - *“The creative activity stuff I feel a little bit more hesitant about because it’s not fully mine in any way, because I’m part of a collaborative team.”*
 - *“... but I’m an equity union member. I cannot be recorded. I could waive those rights... for example, if I’m doing a show here... I have to get approval from my union even in order to do it...”*



Concerns

- **Financial concerns**
 - *“If I don’t make money, that’s okay because this is what I do, this is my life. But if somebody else is going to take it and make money, then I’d get mad.”*
- **Time**
 - *“I think a lot of it is simply we don’t think about it because we simply go about doing the creation of our plays, whatever we’re doing. And it’s like, to spend the time, even for a designer, to spend the time documenting how many times they work and redo renderings and come up with a model and do that, that’s fine. Is this an additional step that you wouldn’t do if you were in the actual profession.”*



Expectations

- **Intentional curation**
 - *“That this is becoming representational of who they are as a professional creator, when they may not be working in a professional setting.”*
 - *“Well, we have a very solid [ensemble] program here... but not every concert is outstanding.... There are flaws in the performances, sometimes there are wrong notes, things that are out of tune. It’s an accurate portrayal of what we do, but... some of it would not be representative of what our highest standards are.”*
- **Industry expectation: online presence**
 - *“That’s a calling card now, in a way, the website, more so than just your resume now.”*



Expectations

- **Connection between platforms**
 - *“Because, if it’s just on one platform and nobody knows about it, even though it is out there, nobody knows how to find it or cares to look for it...”*
 - *“So I have to upload to Digital Measures, the upload for the assessment plans, then upload for the institutional repository, so if I want my article to get there, there’s not a link between all of those things.”*
- **Assistance and support**
 - *“I think it would be in the way because it’s kind of like me every time I’m trying to upload something onto YouTube it’s like a huge task because I don’t really know how to do it and I guess... you know, if the process can be made very clearly with instructions and also not too complicated, then it would help a lot. Definitely.”*



Thank you!

Questions? Contact me at lambari1@illinois.edu