

Dream Institutional Repository Project

created by Bryan Brown (bryibrown@gmail.com & twitter.com/bryibrown), 6/2/2015

Institutional repositories have been traditionally defined by the functionality of existing software products, but with the rising tide of open source IRs we are no longer bound by what exists. Instead of asking “What is an institutional repository?” we can now ask “What *could* an institutional repository be?”

In an effort to answer this question, I have put together a spreadsheet where we can crowdsource an informal functional specification of our “dream repository” from the community. The information received is inherently valuable because it collects data in an open-ended way without leading to any specific product other than a better understanding of the community’s needs. Individual developers may use this data to get ideas for functional enhancements to existing open source IRs, and community members may refer to individual proposed requirements and debate their merits in an open forum. Companies *may* use this document as well to get ideas for extending their own proprietary IRs, but this is not the goal of the project.

If you have an opinion on how institutional repositories *could* work, add a line to the DIRP Response spreadsheet and make your opinion known. Even if you don’t have an idea, take a look at the spreadsheet anyways and read the responses, as you can “Like” a requirement by adding your email in the “Like” field. Requirements with the most likes will be assumed to be the most universally well received, and as a result they will have higher priority. In addition to likes, you can also add comments to requirements as well; please use professional etiquette and be respectful of others’ feelings when making comments, disrespectful and/or trolling comments will be removed immediately.

[~ Link to DIRP Response spreadsheet ~](#)

Key:

- **Name:** This is your name, whatever you go by in whatever format you like.
- **Email:** This is how we might contact you later if we need clarification.
- **Institution:** This is where you work.
- **Submitted:** This is the date that you added your line to the spreadsheet.
- **Requirement:** This is your requirement in whatever format you like. It can be a user story, a narrative, or a crazy idea for a piece of possible functionality that you would love to see in an IR that would make your life much easier.
- **IR:** This is the current IR that you use. If none, leave it blank. Otherwise, name it. If you are switching or have opinions about it, add that as well.
- **Likes:** If you are reading someone else’s idea and you really like it, add your email in this field (comma separated, please). This is how we will determine priority/popularity of features.