Exposing Undergraduate Research in Institutional Repositories

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Exposing exemplary works by undergraduate students in institutional repositories (IRs) can have a number of benefits:

- Providing permanent, searchable access to works for inclusion in CVs & graduate school applications.
- Promoting research opportunities.
- Exposing students to open access self-archiving early in their academic careers.

To date, however, Canadian IR services engaged in such practices is low.

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**Findings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provide clear deposit guidelines</th>
<th>Undergraduate work (N = 42)</th>
<th>Graduate work (n = 36)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide clear deposit guidelines</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contain theses</td>
<td>54% (Mdn = 20) (M = 48)</td>
<td>97% (Mdn = 4450) (M = 4547)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Require thesis deposit</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contain works other than theses</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List in browse menus</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*IRs for 36 of 42 institutions sampled offer master’s & doctoral degrees.

**Recommendations**

- Provide clear deposit guidelines for undergraduate work.
- Promote student-focused repository services to faculty.
- Teach undergraduates about opportunities to share work.
- Mandate IR deposit for undergraduate honours theses.
- Showcase student work in IRs on university websites.

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