Introducing WSU Research Exchange

During the past year the WSU Libraries has developed an institutional repository named WSU Research Exchange to house publications, reports and other digital materials generated through WSU research activities. The WSU Research Exchange is a customized version of the DSpace software developed by the MIT Libraries and Hewlett Packard. The many benefits of depositing materials in the Research Exchange include providing higher visibility and potential impact of WSU research, including increased citation rates. WSU Research Exchange is a permanent digital archive for WSU’s scholarly output, providing stable URLs for deposited items, and this service will provide support for migration of many formats in order to maintain accessibility over time. Works deposited in Research Exchange are freely accessible to anyone with an internet connection.

One of the best features of the Research Exchange is that its records are included in Google and Google Scholar searches and individual items deposited in repositories are more highly ranked than most items found on general websites or even other publisher websites. That means that Research Exchange items will often be displayed near the top of a Google search results, giving your research greater exposure than research that isn’t deposited in Research Exchange. Most peer-reviewed journals permit self-archiving of published article in repositories such as Research Exchange. Content may also be harvested by discipline-specific repositories, exposing research results to peers much more easily.

The Research Exchange is built upon the concepts of communities, collections and sub-collections. Communities are usually departments, programs and/or other units of the University but may be setup in other configurations based on the needs of the unit. Collections can be individual researchers or some other sub-unit of the community. The sub-collections allow for further delineation of the materials within the collections, for instance, journal article pre- or post-prints and grant reports of an individual researcher.

Submitting materials to the Research Exchange is very easy. Records can quickly be created from the basic information required for any journal publication – author, title, abstract, keywords – a complete citation. Each item is assigned a “handle”, a permanent URL, that can be used for citing the item or easily recalling an item for further review. And Research Exchange provides statistics on the number of times an item is viewed as an indicator of the scholarly impact of the deposited item.

The next step in the development of the Research Exchange is to fill it with publications produced here at WSU. If you are interested in bringing your research into the limelight, please contact Kay Vyhnanek (kayv@wsu.edu, 335-9514), Al Cornish (cornish@wsu.edu, 335-1895), Joel Cummings (jcummings@wsu.edu, 335-6493), or your Library liaison for more information of the Research Exchange. It’s one more way that the WSU Library works with you to contribute to our World Class university.

To access the WSU Research Exchange see https://research.wsulibs.wsu.edu:8443/dspace/.