Beprexit to Nowhere: The Institutional Repository Platform Landscape from the Perspective of Small-to-Mid Sized Private Institutions

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Presenter 1 Title
Head of the Life and Health Sciences Division (Library)

Presenter 2 Title
Scholarly Communication Coordinator (Library)

Session Type
45-minute concurrent session

Abstract
Is your institution planning or hoping to plan a beprexit? If so, you are not alone. Many colleges and universities are seeking alternatives to Digital Commons since the August 2017 acquisition of bepress by Elsevier. The Statewide California Electronic Library Consortium (SCELC) Institutional Repository (IR) Subcommittee formed in late 2017 to perform an environmental scan of current and emerging institutional repository platforms and the ways in which they meet the needs and match the values of SCELC member institutions, the majority of which are small to midsize private colleges and universities that do not have the staff or infrastructure to build or support a homegrown or Open Source IR. The SCELC IR Subcommittee members represent a range of institutions, some that have Digital Commons, some that have another IR platform, and some that don’t yet have, but want, an IR.

Subcommittee members evaluated IR solutions from companies such as TIND and Ubquity Press and consortia such as LYRASIS. Because the turnkey IR platform solution space is still emerging, the SCELC IR Subcommittee also investigated current consortial projects. PALNI and PALCI, consortia similar to SCELC based in Indiana and Pennsylvania, are working with a developer to improve Hyku for the consortial IR environment. This session will educate attendees about for-profit, non-profit, and consortial options in today’s IR landscape, as well as provide information regarding the IR needs and preferences of SCELC member organizations.

Location
KIPJ Theatre

Keywords
Institutional Repositories; beprexit; scholarly communication

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**Beprexit to Nowhere: The Institutional Repository Platform Landscape from the Perspective of Small-to-Mid Sized Private Institutions**

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**Longer Description (max 500 words)**

Is your institution planning or hoping to plan a beprexit? If so, you are not alone. Many colleges and universities are seeking alternatives to Digital Commons since the August 2017 acquisition of bepress by Elsevier. This for-profit academic publisher and information analytics company, has been systematically closing the loop on the scholarly communication lifecycle through their acquisitions, creating a monopoly in scholarly publishing. In 2013, Elsevier acquired reference manager and academic social network Mendeley; in 2016, they acquired another such platform, the Social Sciences Research Network. In February of 2017, they acquired Plum Analytics, and then in August of that same year, they acquired bepress, the company behind Digital Commons, the only truly turnkey Institutional Repository (IR) platform available at the time. In August of 2018, Elsevier acquired Aries Systems, a tool that manages scholarly publishing workflows from submission to editorial management and peer review, to production tracking and publishing channel distribution. In December of 2018, they acquired 1Science, the creators of OAFindr.

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