Wednesday, November 8 • 6:00pm - 6:45pm

32 ResearchGate vs. the Institutional Repository: Competition or Complement?

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The popularity of ResearchGate and Academia.edu indicates that scholars want to share their work, yet to librarians tasked with implementing an Open Access policy, it can appear as though faculty are willing to invest more time uploading articles to academic social networks—often in violation of publisher policies—than in submitting articles for deposit in the institutional repository. In this session, we will present the results of a population study and survey that revealed the practices, attitudes, and motivations of faculty at the University of Rhode Island around depositing their work in ResearchGate and complying with our permissions-based Open Access Policy. While the majority of URI faculty do not use either service, we were surprised to find that faculty who share articles through ResearchGate are more likely to comply with the Open Access Policy, not less, suggesting that librarians should not view academic social networks as a threat. We discovered that a significant barrier to compliance with the OA Policy is the fact that it targets the author’s accepted manuscript version of articles and that misunderstandings about copyright leave authors confused about options for legally sharing their work. What does it mean for the Open Access movement that only a minority of faculty choose to openly share their work and comply with Open Access policies? Does the strong preference by authors for sharing final publisher PDFs provide support for calls to hasten the transition to a Gold OA publishing system? We hope attendees will engage with us in a discussion of these issues.

Speakers

**Julia Lovett**
Digital Initiatives Librarian, University of Rhode Island

Julia Lovett is currently Digital Initiatives Librarian at the University of Rhode Island, where she manages digital projects and scholarly communications initiatives, including the URI Open Access Policy. Prior to URI, she served as Special Projects Librarian at the University o... Read More →

**Andrée Rathemacher**
Head, Acquisitions, University of Rhode Island

Andrée Rathemacher is Head of Acquisitions at the University of Rhode Island, where she administers the materials budget and is responsible for the purchase and licensing of library materials in all formats and the management of electronic resources. An advocate of open access a... Read More →

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