DLIST: Opening LIS Research and Practice

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ABSTRACT
In this paper we describe DLIST, a digital library for Library and Information Science Research and Practice and for Information Technology as it relates to LIS. It is built upon the open access eprints model, but that extends materials in the collection beyond the formal, scholarly literature to include other types of content created by researchers and practitioners. DLIST is intended to promote resource sharing in LIS and IT and to attempt to bridge the gap between research and practice. The notion of open access is briefly discussed as a central tenet for the development of the intellectual commons as an interactive space for learning.

Categories and Subject Descriptors
H.3.7 [Digital Libraries]: User issues

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1. EXTENDED ABSTRACT
DLIST, Digital Library for Library and Information Science and Technology, is a digital repository for research and practice publications. It uses the eprints software, but extends the collection development scope of the library beyond the products of research. Scholarly literature reflecting other types of content such as data sets assembled by researchers and instructional materials or bibliographies compiled by practitioners can be deposited in DLIST. By integrating the products of research and practice, DLIST attempts to bridge the growing gap with practice and facilitate the retrieval of diverse materials. Open access is the central tenet for the development of DLIST. But, the power of resource sharing is also harnessed making DLIST an interactive space for learning, research and practice that provides heterogeneous resources and serves diverse user communities. DLIST is an initiative of the School of Information Resource and Library Science at the University of Arizona in partnership with the Arizona Health Sciences Library. DLIST has been in existence since June 2002. It has approximately 500 users from around the world. Resources in DLIST are OAI-PMH compliant. These resources can be found directly at DLIST, through Yahoo or through OAI service providers such as OAIster.

Successful libraries build and support community among diverse users by building bridges between different types of information resources and their uses. While digital libraries have the potential to do this they must move beyond digitized versions of print materials and access tools to do so. [1] One way for digital libraries to make this transition is to develop in the open access model toward an ‘intellectual commons’. In some disciplines (e.g., Physics), open access digital libraries have become central to the discipline’s research culture. This generally has not been the case for LIS. There is evidence that disciplines that do not have strong preprint traditions will not be able to develop a strong eprint repository.[2] However, LIS does have a resource-sharing tradition which may allow it to overcome this barrier. Building partnerships with practitioners is proving to be a key strategy in enabling resource sharing that results in deposits into DLIST.

The blending of research and practice, as well as the needs of each, demand a new and more inclusive type of intellectual commons for sharing knowledge and building community. Just as librarians are becoming more engaged in information literacy instruction, LIS researchers are realizing the importance of making available the data sets that underpin their work.

We have briefly shown how the DLIST objective to integrate research and practice is grounded in values of resource sharing, open access, and interdisciplinarity.

2. REFERENCES