

FAQ

What Is It?

The ResearchCommons (RC) is the digital archive for the University of Texas at Arlington. Here you can showcase your work and expand your visibility for increased citations. The RC allows your work to be accessible not only to your college but to the global research community. You are welcome to submit research materials in almost any medium.

What Will It Do For Me?

- The RC is the perfect open access tool for members to showcase their research (you can link from your RC community to your Research Profile page thus eliminating the need for maintaining bibliographies on multiple sites). Statistics are available for each individual item in the RC so you can easily check to see how often your work is being accessed.
- There is little to no work for faculty therefore making it easy for them to participate.
- By providing a durable URL that can be shared with colleagues, the RC is an easy, free way to ensure that your research is permanently available to a global audience.
- The permanent and durable URL also preserves your work in one centralized location.
- RC communities have a higher likelihood of being cited due to increased visibility in search engines and other harvesters, both popular and scholarly, which can result in an increased interest in research collaborations. One study has shown that open access articles are cited 44% more times or higher than non-open access articles.¹
- Fulfills the requirements of federally funded grants, such as the NIH, to publish your research in an open access repository.
- Alternative publishing method
 - Free access since your works are not hidden behind a subscription based provider. Even though your works are freely available, you still maintain copyright to the works unless stipulated otherwise by publisher contracts.
 - Immediate access to your research, no need to wait several years for an article to be published. If allowed by your publisher's copyright agreement or through the use of a creative commons license, library staff can add your pre- or post-print article to the RC in just a matter of minutes.

¹ Norris, M., Oppenheim, C., & Rowland, F. (2008). The citation advantage of open-access articles. *Journal Of The American Society For Information Science & Technology*, 59(12), 1963-1972.

- Allows you to host self-created content for your courses or your colleagues.
 - Example: Dr. Baker in Nursing needed an article published by Ms. Eckhard, one of the University's clinical instructors, for an online course being taught in the Fall 2012 semester. After being notified about this request, with Ms. Eckhard's permission, library staff added her post-print copy of the article into the RC in less than 15 minutes. We then supplied Dr. Baker the durable URL to the article, allowing her students to link directly to it.
- All mediums of your intellectual and scholarly output can be added to the RC.
- Recruitment and public relations tool.
 - Showcase what your students have accomplished
 - Showcase your areas of expertise to new audiences
 - Showcase your works to potential funding agencies and other universities
- Inter-college bragging rights.
- Promotes the open access and scholarly communication movements.

What Are Some of the Items You Can You Submit to the RC?

- Articles
- Images
- Ebooks
- Lectures
- Audio Visual materials
- Newsletters
- Technical and conference papers
- Data sets
- Theses and dissertations

How Do You Get Started?

The Library offers three different ways for you to deposit your materials into the RC. Before adding any material to the RC, it is vital to check the publisher's copyright restrictions unless you have signed a Creative Commons License.

- In order to save you time, the Library is willing to deposit your materials into the RC on your behalf. Simply contact Metadata Services and they can pull your bibliography from the ResearchProfiles, or you can provide us with one. Library staff will check the copyright, upload the materials we can legally archive in the RC, and describe the material for you. (This by far is the most popular choice for most busy faculty!)
- You can upload your materials and curate your collection or designate a GRA to do so. Library staff will be happy to get you started.

- You can upload your own materials, and Library Metadata Services staff will provide the metadata (description of the material) for your work. If you have over 100 items (articles, images or other types of works) please contact the Library so that we may assist you with this process.

Who to Contact?

Contact your liaison librarian, or:

Faedra Wills
E-mail: wills@uta.edu

Additional Talking Points

- **Scholarly Communication Crisis**
<http://uspace.utah.edu/aboutIR.php>

The need for institutional repositories arose out of a growing crisis in scholarly communication. Over the last twenty-five years, subscription prices to scholarly publications have increased at a rate so significant that many libraries have been forced to reduce their subscriptions. At the same time, the funding for libraries has stayed stagnant. What has resulted is an unsustainable model.

Publisher mergers and the now common practice of offering libraries restrictive bundled journal packages has also inhibited the ability for universities to choose the journals that best support their faculty. In addition, with the advent of electronic publishing, libraries have been offered restrictive license agreements instead of physical copies with their electronic subscriptions. This has had a negative affect when some publishers have gone out of business and access to the purchased material is no longer available.

Faculty have traditionally signed away their copyright to journal publishers upon publication. The impact of this has been tremendous, as commercial entities control most of the rights to scholarly works and research. The publisher may even have exclusive rights to reuse the material, which may prevent that faculty member from reusing their own material.

Lastly, the conundrum of paying for research through tax payer and institutional dollars and then using those same resources to fund access to the published research that resulted is also a motivating factor to form new models for scholarly communication.

- **Creative Commons**
<http://creativecommons.org/>

The Creative Commons is a nonprofit organization that enables the sharing and use of creativity and knowledge through free legal tools. Their free, easy-to-use copyright

licenses (<http://creativecommons.org/choose/>) provide a simple, standardized way to give the public permission to share and use your creative works on the conditions of your choice. Creative Commons licenses let you, the author, easily change the copyright terms from the default of “all rights reserved” to “some rights reserved.” Creative Commons licenses are not an alternative to copyright. They work alongside copyright and enable you to modify your copyright terms to best suit your needs.

- **Fair Use** – A provision of copyright law that outlines the extent to which copyrighted work can be used or reproduced without seeking the permission of the copyright holder. Libraries rely on fair use to be able to provide access to research materials, and scholars depend on it to allow them to cite the research of others in their work. For more information on Fair Use, see the University of Texas Libraries copyright page at <http://copyright.lib.utexas.edu/copypol2.html#test>.
- **Open Access** – Open access is a model of scholarly communication that advocates sharing of research via the Internet, without restrictions or barriers. OA includes peer review and focuses on literature for which the creator has no expectation of financial reward.

Links for Further Information

Copyright Toolbox - <http://copyrighttoolbox.surf.nl/copyrighttoolbox/> - Provides more information on the model agreement (License to Publish) that helps scholarly authors manage rights over their publications.

Create Change - <http://www.createchange.org/> - Provides faculty with current information, perspectives, and tools that will enable them to play an active role in advancing scholarly information exchange in the networked environment.

DOAJ - <http://www.doaj.org/> The Directory of Open Access Journals, an online database listing "free, full text, quality controlled scientific and scholarly journals."

NIH Public Access Policy - <http://publicaccess.nih.gov>

Scholar's Copyright Addendum Engine - <http://scholars.sciencecommons.org/> - Helps generate a form that you can attach to a journal publisher's copyright agreement to ensure that you retain certain rights.

SHERPA/RoMEO – <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/>. This site is useful for finding a summary of permissions that are normally given as part of each publisher's copyright transfer agreement. Each entry provides a summary of the publisher's policy, including what version of an article can be deposited, where it can be deposited, and any conditions that are attached to that deposit.

SPARC - <http://www.arl.org/sparc/index.shtml> - The Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition: “an international alliance of academic and research libraries working to correct imbalances in the scholarly publishing system. Developed by the Association of Research Libraries, SPARC has become a catalyst for change. Its pragmatic focus is to stimulate the emergence of new scholarly communication models that expand the dissemination of scholarly research and reduce financial pressures on libraries”