

Institutional Repositories and the Extension Mission: Exploring Partnerships in Grey Literature

Christie Silkotch, Science and Data Librarian, The University of Vermont



The University of Vermont

About the Collection

- UVM Extension Northwest Crops and Soils (NWCS) Program
- Agronomic crop research center that "aims to provide the best and most relevant cropping information, both research-based and experiential, delivered in the most practical and understandable ways to Vermont farmers"
- Generates 40+ research reports/year
- Previously online in PDF format, but lower-level website pages with no metadata

Goals

- Demonstrate utility of *ScholarWorks @ UVM* (IR) deposit
- Generate IR buy-in with Extension faculty
- Create instructional documentation to support unmediated IR uploads by Extension faculty/staff
- Support land-grant mission with access to practical agricultural research
- Provide metrics of impact for Extension funding and legislative reporting

Process

Identified Collection as an IR Candidate

Liaison Librarian

Obtained Copyright Permission

Liaison Librarian
+ IR Librarian

Uploaded Documents

Collections Mgmt Staff
+ IR Librarian

Created Process Documentation

Collections Mgmt Staff

Upload Documents

Batch Upload

Batch Revise

Presented at Statewide Extension Meeting

Liaison Librarian
+ IR Librarian



Top Reports (# of downloads)

- 1: Industrial Cannabidiol Hemp Report (147)
- 2: Cricket Frass as a Potential Nitrogen Fertility Source (55)
- 3: Industrial Hemp Planting Date X Variety Trial (45)
- 4: Industrial Hemp Weed Control Trial (39)
- 5: Industrial Hemp Fiber Variety Trial (31)
- 6: Organic Hop Variety Trial Final Report (31)
- 7: Industrial Grain Hemp Planting Date Trial (26)
- 8: Industrial Grain Hemp Variety Trial (23)
- 9: Soybean Cover Crop Trial (23)
- 10: Hop Optimal Irrigation Trial (22)
- 11: Organic Hop Variety Trial: Results from Year Five (22)

"I am so glad that you suggested posting the research reports on ScholarWorks. The [usage] reports have been useful and certainly show me the extent to which this information is being used. It is actually pretty incredible how many people are accessing the reports. I couldn't get this info before from my website. I am looking forward to getting more reports posted."



Heather Darby, Extension Professor
Northwest Crops and Soils Program Lead



Challenges & Things Learned

- Biggest hurdle = faculty/staff time
- Batch uploads have lots of troubleshooting:
 - Ascribing metadata
 - Generating abstracts
 - Copyright concerns re: lead authorship
- Extension faculty/staff will need assistance with copyright and other unpredictable problems

Next Steps

- Identify additional Extension grey and scholarly literature for the IR:
 - scanned or born-digital > print
 - collections > individual documents
- Workflow for updates (50+ reports from 2019)
- Extension faculty/staff training to facilitate more unmediated uploads