



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**LIBRARIES**

# **Defining the nature of a digital conservancy:**

**how diverse collections and systems shape a  
unified digital repository program**

USAIN 2006

Philip Herold, University of Minnesota

# Overview

- Program background
- Institutional needs and opportunities
- Defining the program
- Implementation / integration challenges
- Program outlook

## A bit of background

In 2005 University of Minnesota, Twin Cities had:

- No institutional repository
- One subject repository
- Few digital special collections
- Little digital preservation expertise

# Many local needs

- Environmental scans make IR need evident
- Subject repository needs replatforming
- Desire to develop more subject repositories
- President's Emerging Leaders, "Archives in a Digital Age," Report, 2005
- Board of Regents policy on Libraries and Archives, revision, 2006

# Opportunities

Unified Program could serve many functions:

- Institutional Repository
- Subject Repository
- University Archives
- Digital Special Collections



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**LIBRARIES**

# What is a digital conservancy?



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**LIBRARIES**

# **Roles for the University Digital Conservancy**

Conserving the intellectual and institutional output of the University:

- capture research and institutional content
- provide for the preservation of digital objects
- provide persistent access for the long-term
- provide tools and context that add value to collections
- promote and provide solutions for open access

# Roles for the University Digital Conservancy

- provide educational and outreach services
- provide consulting services for campus communities
  - IP and copyright
  - metadata
  - best practices



# Developing the UDC

## Strategic early approach

Select a small number of collections to begin

- Relate to campus priorities
- Engage interested partners
- Represent various works of faculty
- Provide some critical mass
- Sort out issues and policies
- Learn what works



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**LIBRARIES**

# Early investments

- UMN Center for Transportation Studies
- Board of Regents Meeting minutes (historical)
- University Strategic Positioning information
- AgEcon Search
- Additional subject repository



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**LIBRARIES**

# Challenges

- Migrating an existing subject repository
- Creating new subject repositories
- Digitizing large University Archives collections
- Integrating diverse content
- Integrating diverse technologies
- Presenting a unified set of collections



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**LIBRARIES**

# Migrating existing subject repository



## AgEcon Search

Research in Agricultural and Applied Economics

WELCOME TO AGECON SEARCH - A FULL TEXT LIBRARY OF AGRICULTURAL AND APPLIED ECONOMICS SCHOLARLY LITERATURE

### Select Search Options

Boolean: ☒ AND | ☐ OR

Search by (choose one): ☐ Author | ☐ Title | ☒ Keywords in Record

Choose display format: ☒ Short Records | ☐ Long Records

Search

Reset Fields

Or...

...select an institution to search

Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit

Select Institution

Or...

...select a journal

Agrarwirtschaft und Agrarsoziologie/ Economie et Sociologie Rurales

Select a Journal

Adobe Acrobat Reader software (Version 2.0 or higher - 3.0 or higher recommended) is required to read and print AgEcon



Search documents. You can [download](#) free software by clicking the icon at the left.

# Into the University Digital Conservancy

## AgECON SEARCH DEMO

### SEARCH

[Advanced Search](#)

### BROWSE

- [By journal](#)
- [By institution](#)
- [By author](#)
- [By date](#)

### SUBMIT

- [Submit your paper](#)
- [Instructions](#)

### HELP

- [F.A.Q.](#)
- [Tips](#)
- [Policies](#)

### STATISTICS

- [Downloads per paper](#)
- [Most downloaded papers](#)

AgEcon Search >

### SEARCH

Enter some text in the box below to search the database.

[Advanced Search](#)

### BROWSE

[...by journal](#)  
[...by institution](#)

[...by author](#)  
[...by date](#)

### ABOUT AGECON SEARCH

AgEcon Search is a free database and archive of full-text scholarly literature in agricultural and applied economics, including:

- Working papers
- Conference papers
- Journal articles

[More Info](#) | [Participants](#)

### NEWS

[AgEcon Search News](#)

[Newest Papers](#)

[Sign Up for E-mail](#)

All papers are in Acrobat (.pdf) format.

# Creating new subject repositories

## Goals:

- Help facilitate communities of scholarship
- Relate to research initiatives of University
- Recruit national or international contributions

## Challenges:

- Attracting faculty drivers
- Building inter-institutional partnerships



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**LIBRARIES**

# Digitizing large archival collections


## University Regents Meeting Minutes

### Challenges:

- Scan and OCR expensive
- Local card index conversion issues
- Platform selection



# Integrating diverse content

 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

University Libraries | One Stop | Directories | Search U of M

WHAT'S INSIDE

[Login to your blog](#)  
[Start your own blog!](#)  
[UThink FAQ](#)  
[Technical FAQ Wiki](#)  
[Ways to Use Blogs](#)  
[How to use Movable Type](#)  
[Templates](#)  
[Service Guidelines and Description](#)  
[Blog Directory](#)  
[Categories in UThink](#)  
[Into the Blogosphere](#)  
[Home](#)

SEARCH

Search UThink Blogs:

Search

CATEGORIES

[Announcement](#)  
[General](#)

# U THINK

## BLOGS AT THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Bringing weblogs to the students, faculty & staff of the University of Minnesota.



WELCOME TO UTHINK: BLOGS AT THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

UThink is available to the faculty, staff, and students of the University of Minnesota, and is intended to support teaching and learning, scholarly communication, and individual expression for the U of M community. All you need to [login and start blogging](#) is your U of M Internet ID and Password. If you have any questions or comments, please send us an email at [uthink@umn.edu](mailto:uthink@umn.edu). [Give it a try today!](#)

September 01, 2006

### PODCASTS AND TEMPLATES

- Hello everyone! I hope you had a nice summer. UThink is still humming along, as is the relatively new [UThink Technical FAQ Wiki](#). If you haven't visited the UThink Wiki, it has some great posts on Layout and Customization, UThink Functionality, and Troubleshooting. And since it is a Wiki, you all have access to add and modify the content. Just login and share your wisdom.

Recently, we had someone do just that regarding podcasting. Kurtis Scaletta of the Digital Media Center wrote a wonderful "how to" concerning podcasting on UThink. If you are interested, point your browser in this



[Why Strategic Positioning](#)[Process and Timeline](#)[Task Force Revised  
Recommendations](#)[Task Forces](#)[Related News and Articles](#)[Feedback to Task Forces](#)[Strategic Positioning  
Process Home](#)

# TRANSFORMING THE U



## THE STRATEGIC POSITIONING PROCESS

The University of Minnesota is on a journey to become one of the top three public research universities in the world. That means doing an even better job of educating our students, an even better job of breakthrough research and an even better job of using that knowledge and discovery to improve lives and livelihoods for the people of Minnesota and around the world.

### STRATEGIC POSITIONING UPDATE

**Oct. 10, 2006**

University of Minnesota Provost Thomas Sullivan has appointed the advisory committee to form the new Institute for the Advancement of Science and Technology.

The advisory committee is charged with:

- Developing ideas on what the Institute must do to enhance academic synergies
- Promoting development of large interdisciplinary grants
- Bringing together productive teams of interdisciplinary researchers from across the university
- Increasing communication and collaboration across science, medical and engineering research
- Adding value to the university's research portfolio

The committee will submit its recommendations in a report to Sullivan by Spring 2007. For more information on committee membership, see the Institute for the Advancement of Science and Technology [advisory committee page](#).

#### Other Transforming the U Initiatives

- [Creating a new Institute on the Environment](#)
- [New Design College](#)

### Related Links

[Task Force Consultation Sessions](#)[A transforming U takes shape](#)[Task Force Revised  
Recommendations](#)[A vision for the future](#)[Emerging leaders forge ahead in  
strategic areas](#)[Next wave of Transforming the U  
recommendations.](#)  
From *UMNnews*, April 6, 2006[Building a financial system for a  
great university](#)  
From *UMNnews*, Feb. 22, 2006[Bob Bruininks: Becoming a leading  
research university](#)  
(video segments)[Transforming the U  
One-page description \(PDF 58 KB\)](#)[View a list of students participating  
in the strategic positioning process](#)

# Integrating diverse technologies

Dspace (institutional and subject repositories)

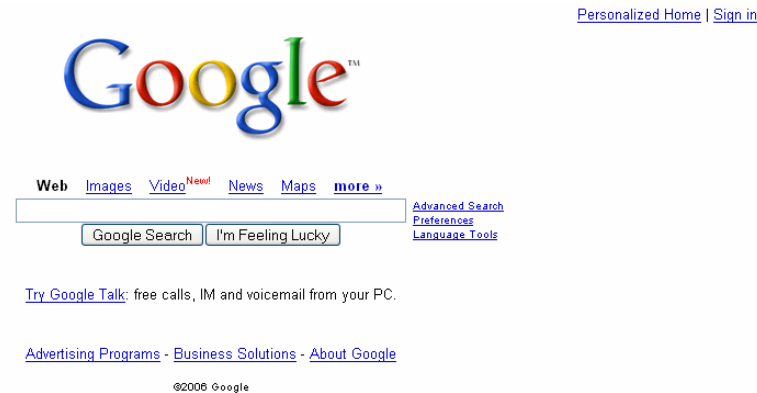
IMAGES (digital images)

Web servers (archived blogs)

DLXS (digitized books)

# Presenting a unified set of collections

- Single point of entry
  - Make it easy to use
  - Options for searching/browsing
  - Google search appliance?
  - Primo?
- Build brand identification
  - Users know what to expect
  - Influence user associations



# Benefits of a unified program

- Leverage existing expertise
- Provide stable program to curate collections
- Promote a single brand
- Single point of entry



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**LIBRARIES**

# Program outlook

- Pursue institutional assets broadly
- Educate library staff broadly
- Promote widely
- Remain flexible



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**LIBRARIES**

**Thank you!**

Questions?



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**LIBRARIES**