

Scenario 6: A subject-based repository

Consider the following case history

The International Diatom and Desmid Society (IDDS) are considering developing a subject-based repository for the following practical reasons:

- It has been bequeathed an extensive world famous collection of color slides of the diatoms of Lake Balaton
- Members have shown interest in depositing pre-prints and various data collections from their research with the society
- The annual meeting generates proceedings and presentations which have not been thoroughly archived by the society although they have acquired the intellectual property rights and the materials to do so each year.
- The Publications Manager noted at a recent Publications committee meeting that more and more research articles include or refer to datasets and supplementary material which at present authors are leaving on their own or their institutions' web site and the links from research articles in the journal to some of these are clearly not well maintained or in any way permanent.

In order to set up such a discipline specific repository the society needs to understand the strategic implications of doing so. To move ahead to implementation they need to establish if their Members and authors would be willing to populate the repository – a live test may be the best way to determine this. They need to find an appropriate provider of the online infrastructure - preferably Open Source, and then establish the rules and procedures for submission to the repository and set up the test. Finally they need to find out the cost of the whole process and whether they will need to hire additional staff.

The Society leadership believe this should all be within the scope of the work of the Publications group (3 FTE's) but the Publications Manager already feels swamped as the Annual Meetings in May and October are also now generating additional workload for her and her staff.

In discussion with your group please answer the following points based on your and your group's combined experiences and reflecting on this case history:

1. In what ways will establishing a subject-based repository complement the strategy of this society?
2. Who should be permitted to deposit content into the repository and how will the society ensure that the quality and integrity is maintained?
3. How should they go about finding an appropriate provider of the required infrastructure?
4. Who in the society should be responsible for the repository which is likely to include a broad range of content such as images, reports, datasets and peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed research?
5. How would the society judge the success of the repository 12 months after it was set up?