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New Content in Digital Repositories: the Changing Research Landscape

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Book Review

New Content in Digital Repositories: the Changing Research Landscape by Natasha Simons and Joanna Richardson, Oxford, Chandos Publishing, Chandos Information Professional Series, 2013, 252 pp., A\$ 95 (paperback), ISBN: 978-1-84334-743-9 (print), ISBN: 978-1-78063-409-8 (online).

Keywords:

Digital repositories, Institutional repositories, Research data management, Metadata schemas

As academic and research libraries assume diverse responsibilities for research data management and digital repositories within their institutions, there is an urgent need for new literature to illuminate this complex area. At some universities and research institutions, librarians are already playing a leading role in supporting research data management and repositories, while at others there is a desire to become more involved. At present, there is a dearth of literature to guide the uninitiated. This book will help to fill that gap and provide guidance on digital repositories, research data management and digital curation generally.

The book draws on current examples from the digital repository and research data landscape worldwide, but more particularly in Australia, the UK and USA. It gives a snapshot of the current state of play for research data management across those regions, outlining how each country has moved forward, to build research data capacity. *New Content in Digital Repositories: the Changing Research Landscape* describes research data success stories from the Australian National Data Service (ANDS) as well as the Joint Information Systems Committee (Jisc) and Digital Curation Centre (DCC) in the UK. Some successful models of research data management at specific institutions are described, such as the Griffith Research Hub, at Griffith University in Queensland, Australia.

As the book's title indicates, there is a focus on "new content" for digital repositories. For libraries planning to expand the scope of their digital repositories, new content might include research data or visual media. The chapter on new content discusses ways to deal with potential difficulties that may arise when handling such new content. However, the book's title is somewhat misleading, because its coverage is much wider than merely providing guidance on new content for repositories. In fact, the scope of the book is quite comprehensive. In addition to the early chapter on new content types in repositories, there are chapters on: developing and training repository teams; metadata schemas and standards; persistent identifiers for research data and authors; research data; exposing and sharing repository content; selecting repository software and repository statistics and altmetrics.

This book offers something for everyone involved in the research data community. The introductory chapter provides a useful starting point for those who are quite new to research repositories for research data. The subsequent chapters that deal with metadata and persistent identifiers are pitched at a more advanced level and assume some existing knowledge of digital repositories, metadata

schemas and the research data management landscape. The chapters on new content, metadata, persistent identifiers, research data, repository content, statistics and altmetrics would be of interest to all research librarians, data librarians, repository librarians and managers. However, the chapters on developing and training repository teams and selecting repository software would be of particular interest to research library managers and others involved in decision making research support roles outside the library, within universities and research establishments.

The authors, Natasha Simons and Joanna Richardson, are both highly regarded and knowledgeable in the field and they draw on their wealth of collective experience in research institutions and libraries both in Australia and North America. Their writing is clear and they provide examples and explain complex terms.

The book is clearly laid out, starting with more rudimentary topics and moving into more complex, technical areas. Each chapter has an abstract and several keywords, giving guidance as to its content. And there is an index, which is useful for zeroing in on a particular topic of interest.

New Content in Digital Repositories: the Changing Research Landscape is an important new work in the field and is highly recommended reading for research librarians, repository librarians, research support staff and library managers.

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