Professional Development Leave Application

Summer 2011
Submitted by Jessica Lu, August 30, 2010

Purpose and Goals
Since late 1990s, libraries across the country have engaged in mass digitization projects and years of hard work has accumulated a wealth of digital content, a large part freely accessible online. Open access movement in recent years has further contributed rich and current content to the freely available information repertoire. On the other hand, many resource strapped libraries that could benefit most from this vast store of content probably are not aware of many of these resources. Publications about individual projects abound, but few comprehensive guides exist, if at all, documenting the different types of repositories that are available to the general public.

Therefore it is my goal to survey and develop a research guide to repositories with open content that can later be used for reference or incorporated into subject guides. My starting point will be the Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROAR) http://roar.eprints.org/, which has registered over 1800 repositories all over the world. English language based ones will be my focus. This registry is by no means complete and many repositories may not be listed at all. For those I will review digital repository literature, particularly those reporting on specific projects, to identify potential entries for the guide. Currently three types of repositories are my main targets: subject specific repositories, format specific repositories, and all-comprehensive repositories.

In addition, this process will inform me on the various repository systems and features. I will also review general topics on digital repository to keep up with new development in the field. It is my second goal for this leave to establish a long-term strategy and plan for the Gleeson Library’s repository development effort that both fits our institutional needs and meets the professional standards.

Professional Benefit
This project will not only keep me current on the subject of digital repository development and thus benefit my work on digital collections, but also provide the library with a usable tool to identify additional free research resources. Subject liaisons can also pick and choose from the guide to enhance their subject guides where applicable.

Time Schedule
I propose to take a continuous 7-week leave during the summer of 2011, depending on departmental needs. I do not anticipate any funding needs for this project. At the end of my leave I will produce a guide to digital repositories as my final report for this leave.