Building Your Online Research Presence

A brief introduction to Digital Repository @ Iowa State University for graduate students

DIGITAL REPOSITORY @ IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY provides free and open access to scholarship created by Iowa State’s students, faculty, and staff. It is a great way to increase exposure of your scholarship as you apply to further your education or enter the job market. By making your work available through the repository, it can be used by scholars and professionals from around the world.

All of Iowa State’s graduate theses and dissertations are made available to the public through the repository, but we can support a wide range of scholarship. Consider using the repository to showcase your:

- Journal articles and manuscripts;
- Conference proceedings, presentations and posters;
- Artwork, apparel designs, architectural plans and other visual work;
- And much more!

Theses and Dissertations

All theses and dissertations written by Iowa State’s graduate students are uploaded into Digital Repository @ Iowa State University. You retain copyright in your thesis or dissertation when it is uploaded into the repository, allowing you to pursue later publication of your work. The vast majority of publishers do not consider an electronically-available version of a thesis or dissertation a prior publication.

Iowa State’s theses and dissertations are the most popular type of scholarship available in Digital Repository @ Iowa State University. Several theses and dissertations in the repository are downloaded over 5,000 times a year. Because the repository makes it easier to access our theses and dissertations, researchers and professionals can read and use the excellent works produced by our graduates students within a month of completion.
Our theses and dissertations have been cited in peer-reviewed journal articles, spurred heated debates in blogs and social media, and have been referenced in many other types of publications.

However, if you are seeking to publish your thesis or dissertation and are concerned about having your work available over the Internet, or if your work contains intellectual property with commercial potential, we can place an embargo on it. If your thesis and dissertation is embargoed, your work will not be viewable or downloadable for a specified period of time—typically one or two years. This will give you time to pursue publication of your work or patent your invention.

**SelectedWorks Profiles**

We can also make you a SelectedWorks author profile. This profile will allow readers to discover all your work in one place—instead of having to search through different journals, databases and Websites. The profile also allows you to provide context for your scholarship through an introductory statement, a list of your research interests, your honors and awards, and links to your personal Website and social media profiles.

It’s also easy for readers to follow your work, ensuring they’re kept up-to-date on your latest publications. Social media buttons make it simple to share your work, through Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Google Plus, and over 250 other social media platforms.

Your SelectedWorks profile is also portable—you can continue to update it after you’ve graduated from Iowa State University. If you move on to another university that also provides SelectedWorks author profiles, updating your profile to reflect your new university’s branding is easy.

**Measuring Impact**

We provide every author with work in Digital Repository @ Iowa State University detailed reports on the number of downloads they’ve received. Every month, we’ll send out an e-mail telling you how many times your works have been downloaded. With a repository account, you’ll be able to access the Author Dashboard, which provides charts that track your downloads over time, as well as download statistics for each individual work in the repository.

**Stability and Preservation**

Every item uploaded to Digital Repository @ Iowa State University is given a stable URL. This means that you and others can cite and link to your work without having to worry about broken links—your work will always be available, no matter how many times you redesign your Website. We’re also committed to ensuring continuing access to your work, taking the need to preserve your files out of your hands. If your hard drive crashes or you lose your flash drive, you’ll be able to download a new copy of your work from the repository.

**For More Information**

If you’re interested in exploring how Digital Repository @ Iowa State University can expand access to your work and raise your scholarly profile, please contact Harrison W Inefuku, Digital Repository Coordinator at the Iowa State University Library, at hinefuku@iastate.edu.

—Harrison W. Inefuku

_Digital Repository Coordinator_  
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