Collaborative, Centralized Infrastructure for Open Access Scholarship in Maryland

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Shared Governance

Configuration and customization of MD-SOAR is driven by the Governance Group, composed of one voting representative from each of the eleven colleges and universities currently participating in the project. Chuck Thomas, Executive Director of the University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions consortium (USMAI), serves as liaison, to the Governance Group, from the Council of Academic Library Directors. David Dahl, Director of Consortial Library Application Support (CLAS), also serves as a liaison.

Organization

DSpace uses the concept of "communities" and "collections." In MD-SOAR, each institution can assign its communities and collections into a useful hierarchy of resources that suits its needs. Each community, collection, and record has a handle assigned. A handle is permanent identifier that is expressed as a URL in MD-SOAR. MD-SOAR records are indexed by GoogleScholar (https://scholar.google.com/), expanding the availability of records to those who do not directly access the repository site.

Flexible Metadata

MD-SOAR uses Qualified Dublin Core metadata and has added customized fields to suit the needs of academic institutions. Dublin Core metadata is simple, extensible, and used worldwide for metadata description in a variety of disciplines. MD-SOAR provides custom fields for electronic dissertations and theses (ETDs), reports, other documents. Each MD-SOAR institution can decide how brief or detailed they want their records to be.

Analytics Partnerships

As part of the initial installation, Google Analytics was implemented to track user traffic and usage of uploaded resources and records. While the default DSpace features allowed for the tracking of actual bitstream downloads, item-specific metadata was unavailable — a serious drawback for our consortial model. In light of these failings, the Governance Group elected to pursue implementation of Google Tag Manager: a centralized analytics administration platform that supports easy analytics customization and distribution. To help investigate alternate approaches to usage data collection, the MDSOAR team has partnered with the Repository Analytics & Metrics Portal (RAMP) project, an OCLC- and IMLS-supported initiative that is developing a novel methodology for collecting and assessing analytics for institutional repository sites (http://ramp.montana.edu/). This partnership will lead to not only better approaches to analytical data for the MDSOAR platform, but will also aid in the development of exciting new approaches to the critical assessment of institutional repository statistics and usage patterns.

Frostburg State University • Goucher College • Loyola Notre Dame Library • Maryland Institute College of Art • Morgan State University • Salisbury University • St. Mary's College of Maryland • Towson University • University of Baltimore • University of Maryland, Baltimore • University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Institutions interested in joining MD-SOAR should contact Chuck Thomas (cthomas@usmd.edu), USMAI.