Leveraging Bepress's New API for Metadata Transformations

What is the project about?

For years, our law school has maintained a Bepress Digital Commons repository - the [Texas A&M Law Scholarship](#) repository - to help publicize our faculty's work and other important institutional information. Getting content and metadata put into the repository was straightforward enough, but getting content out of the repository was limited and difficult. After discussing this issue with Bepress, they got to work on developing better solutions, and they recently announced a [Digital Commons API](#) for customers to use that aims to improve the ability of users to engage with and export metadata and other information about the repository. This project explores how I use the new API to extract metadata from the repository and transform it into clean metadata for import into the researcher information system used by our university.

What are the project goals?

This project has several goals:
- Transform metadata from Bepress Digital Commons into clean metadata required by my institution's researcher information system.
- Eliminate duplicative work - instead of manually entering in the metadata into each platform, we can enter into Digital Commons and then export it out to different platforms using APIs and custom scripts.
- Get familiar with the API to explore other potential uses and applications (marketing publications or extracting information for ad-hoc queries, for example).

What tools/skills/applications are needed to do this project?

Projects like this really only require a little technical skill (familiarity with scripting languages and interacting with APIs) and time. For this, you'll also need access to the Bepress API by requesting a token from customer service, and documentation for either [Version 1](#) or [Version 2](#) of the API. During discussion, I can expand on more specific tools and applications that were helpful in making the transformations.

Things to look out for over time

This project is implementing a bridge solution, which is subject to being broken over time as initial circumstances change. For example, if Bepress or the RIS changes the metadata schema being used, then this solution will be outdated and will no longer work properly. As a result, it is helpful to keep note of the different custom scripts being implemented across your services and applications.