

Pitch Perfect: Achieving Faculty and Administrative Support for Techie Projects

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Background

Technology can be daunting, but understanding difficult concepts is essential for a successful institutional repository manager. When beginning an innovative IR project, the “how” may seem the most difficult piece. However, understanding your own project is just the beginning. How do you then explain and sell your project to a group lacking IR expertise? This article will discuss the complications and best practices associated with garnering support from vital faculty and campus administrators for IR projects centering on technological concepts unfamiliar to them.

What is the project about?

I am currently working with the Scholarly Communications Librarian for our General Library System to establish a pilot project on campus using Crossref to mint DOIs for our student run journals. This project was inspired by the work of Malukah Hall, Aaron Retteen and Valeri Craige. I quickly learned the easiest part of this project was understanding the technology behind it. My university is part of a large system and I need to navigate many layers of approval and coordination to successfully begin and complete this type of project. This creates challenges and the purpose of this future article is to identify these challenges and identify best practices for dealing with them. My project is still in the very early stages, so the majority of my content is based on literature review. I hope people bring their own experiences and recommendations to the discussion; I would like to aggregate the information from my experiences and the experiences of others to create an article which will assist someone thinking of embarking on their own tech heavy project.

What problem is the paper addressing?

- You have a tech project and need to pitch it to major stakeholders that may lack an understanding or vocabulary for meaningful discussion of the project
- It is difficult to garner support for your project when the major stakeholders do not share your understanding of the importance or feasibility of the project
- The difficulty in getting faculty response or involvement generally
- Completing a project on a timely basis when there are so many factors vying for our time
- Working with other units on campus
- Time & Money equation
- The COVID factor (working remote / professional burnout / general disinterest)

Bigger/Global Issues in Librarianship

- Few (any) librarians are solely tasked with repositories, how do you justify the importance of focusing on an (optional) project when there are other duties vying for your time
- Should technology and programming be required in a general library science degree (how many programs already require this; what about law librarian specific programs)?
- Should project management be required in a general library science degree (how many programs already require this; what about law librarian specific programs)?
- The difficulty in managing projects when you do not manage/supervise the other participants

Discussion Ideas

- What are tactics you've used to gain the attention of law faculty for library projects?
- The student question: law review staffs cycle out yearly, but they are the publishers of law reviews; what is the duty of librarians to involve them in such a project? What are the benefits?
- What to do when there isn't a shared vocabulary?
- What if the idea doesn't catch on?

Preliminary References (no particular order or style at this time)

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DOI Handbook

<https://www.doi.org/hb.html>

CrossRef Education

<https://www.crossref.org/education/>