IR Management: Handling the Hard Cases

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Northeast Institutional Repository Day, December 1, 2022
Session overview

- Three case studies
- Walking the path alone
- Concluding thoughts
Case 1: The thesis

Issue: A local business demanded removal of a graduate student’s master’s thesis

Resolution: Removed the paper and the abstract from the IR record

Challenges: Content removal; purpose of theses and dissertations; academic/first amendment freedoms(?)

APPROVAL PAGE TEMPLATE (To be included in your ETD copy. Delete instructions.)

TITLE - ALL CAPS AND DOUBLE SPACED

By

FULL LEGAL NAME (MIDDLE INCLUDED)

Previous Degree, College or University, City, State or Country, Year

Dissertation/Thesis Professional Paper (choose one)

presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Degree (Example - Master of Arts)

in Major, Option (Example - Fine Arts, Integrated Arts and Education)

The University of Montana

Missoula, MT

Official Graduation Date (Example - May 2006, July 2006 or December 2006)

Approved by:

Name

Graduate School Dean

Committee Member Name, Chair or Co-Chair

Department

Committee Member Name, Co-Chair or remove title

Department

Committee Member Name, Co-Chair or remove title

Department

Committee Member Name

Department (Dissertation Only)

Committee Member Name

Department (Dissertation Only)

Committee Member Name

Department (Dissertation Only)
Case 2: The student newspaper

Issue: Former student requested removal of an issue of the student newspaper

Resolution: Redacted student’s name from several issues; revised IR policy

Challenges: IR policy; access and privacy; access and authenticity
Case 3: The news release

**Issue:** An individual requested removal of his name from search results

**Resolution:** Redacted his name

**Challenges:** Privacy; Open Access
Walking the path alone
Concluding thoughts

• We will encounter situations that challenge our policies or our professional values
  • Remain aware of slippery slopes
  • In some cases, there is no "best" solution

• We may not like to remove/redact content from our IRs, but sometimes we must

• Make friends with your institution’s legal counsel

• Repeated “problems" can point to unrelated, underlying issues

• Hard cases aren't always obviously hard
Thank you.

Questions?

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