

JONES, C. *Institutional repositories: Content and culture in an open access environment*. Oxford: Chandos Publishing, 2007.

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This book does not purport to be an exploration of the technical infrastructure required to establish an institutional repository. At the outset the author asserts that the book will concentrate on the ‘policy and cultural aspects’ of implementation (Preface) – in effect, the more potentially problematical issues of adoption, use and the change management required for successful implementation, particularly when operating within an open access environment.

At the beginning of the book Jones addresses the task of defining an institutional repository and the different circumstances in which repositories are developed according to user needs and organisational requirements. She also discusses open access and the assumptions that can be made regarding access; terminology such as ‘institutional repository’ can imply that ‘wherever legally possible, the content will be freely accessible’ (p.6) and briefly considers the issues of open access to scholarly work. This is useful and essential scene-setting for the ensuing discussion as the book concentrates on the development of organisational repositories and the key issues of content, preservation, implementation and use.

The 8 chapters provide excellent accessible guidance on the approaches that need to be considered when implementing an institutional repository. Jones is well placed to provide a very straightforward, useful and personal account of these stages having been the project manager for e-Pubs, the institutional repository of the Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils (CCLRC). The practical nature of the book is noticeable from the first page and is a fundamental success factor of this publication. The CCLRC development is also one of the case studies (p.138).

The first 5 chapters of the book are concerned with the changing nature of information access and management including a very useful summary of institutional repository development. Particularly important threads running throughout the book are the pivotal role that library and information professionals should play in working with a project team to establish and maintain the repository, and the important role of stakeholders in determining the development and use.

Jones continually advocates for library and information professionals to have early involvement in any repository project planning activity. In particular she discusses involvement in decisions regarding content, repository maintenance, version identification and preservation. Of equal importance is the role of the stakeholders in projects of this nature; Jones, using her science research background devotes a number of pages to this important requirement and argues for clear definition of the stakeholder ‘market’ in order to determine user needs and potential input into the repository development.

The sixth chapter provides an insight into three case studies – two UK developments and one in New Zealand. Jones posed a series of questions to each case study team and this provides a useful overview of some of the pragmatic issues encountered during repository design and implementation.

Jones concludes the publication with a reflection on some of the future possibilities for institutional repositories and considers that such developments can be very positive and exciting. She re-iterates the importance that she places on the role that library and information professionals can and should play in using their skills in a different context and the need to demonstrate this transferability within the organisation.

Each chapter is clearly laid out and easy to follow. It would have been useful for there to be a glossary of terms included in the book; there is some assumption that the reader will understand the terminology associated with institutional repositories. However, each chapter contains references to relevant projects and after each chapter there are notes for further research which helps inform the more novice reader.

I would also have liked to have seen a little more on the relationship of repositories to teaching, learning and research as a 'selling point'. In addition there is limited discussion regarding some of the legal aspects of repository content in terms of intellectual property rights and copyright. Nevertheless the book does provide an overview of the issues of content and its management (Chapter 4). Inevitably given the author's background, the book focuses on higher academic institutions and repositories that have a research focus. The case studies are very subject-specific (science) and research oriented which may limit the appeal of the book to other sectors in terms of general repository development. Whilst the principles of institutional repositories can be transferred to other learning organisations it would have been interesting to have an example from other sectors such as Further Education, thereby possibly widening the appeal.

Nevertheless the lessons learned by the case studies serve as excellent pointers for any future repository projects and, whilst taking these minor criticisms into account there is no doubt that this book has tremendous value as an excellent starting point regarding the issues surrounding repository development. In conclusion, this book succeeds because it is a very practical, easy-to-read exploration of the policy and cultural aspects of institutional repository development and implementation. The author is to be commended on achieving a publication that should be on the shelf of any organisation looking to practically develop and effectively use a repository.

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