IR Presentation to the Faculty Senate

September 9, 2008

Thank you for inviting us to speak.

The Institutional Repository Project is a joint venture of Academic Library Services and the Health Sciences Library. We started working on the project last academic year—forming a task force, researching other IR's, gaining the support of the administration, and purchasing software and hardware necessary to build and host an Institutional Repository.

So what is an Institutional Repository or IR?`

- I have distributed a brochure that explains IR's in general and ECU's The Scholarship in particular. An Institutional Repository is a digital collection capturing and preserving the intellectual output of a community—in our case, East Carolina University. The internet and robust search engines such as Google have given us all access to and an appetite for more and more information.

- IR's are the outgrowth of the Open Access movement. Open Access literature is digital, online, free of charge & free of most copyright and licensing restrictions.

- Librarians and the scholarly community are dissatisfied with the traditional print and electronic journal pricing and marketing strategy— for example ECU pays more than $4M a year to access online journals, which, for the most part contain, articles provided to the publishers free of cost.

- Publishers want to maintain tight control of information in order to protect and increase their profits.

- Scholars want free and easy access to information and librarians want to provide this.

- Scholars also want to guard their copyright as well, and librarians, many of whom are also authors, understand and support that right.

- The IR will not insert itself into the peer review process—it simply will be a way to provide a means for self archiving.

Why now?

- The Institutional Repository movement is not something new—many colleges and universities across the country have well established and robust IR's. No doubt many of you have heard about the Harvard University's College of Arts & Science's faculty vote to require deposit in the Harvard IR—this is spreading to other schools as well—Stanford University's School of Education faculty have also voted to require deposit. The National Institutes of Health has decreed that all medical science research which receives any federal funding will have to be deposited in Pub Med Central within six months of its publication.

Why should anyone bother to deposit their article on the IR?

- From a recent faculty survey, the Library has learned that an ECU Institutional Repository is important to only about 30% of our faculty. So we are ahead of the curve, but I am also willing to bet as time goes by and as the impact of other IR's grow, we will see more faculty understanding and actively supporting this initiative

- By providing your article to TheScholarShip, you will be participating in the Open Access movement. Once your article is in TheScholarShip, it will be more accessible to a variety of users.

- Google and other search engines crawl institutional repositories and these engines will have access to TheScholarShip.

- Open Access very likely will mean that more people will be able to see, use, and cite your article.

Where are we in our process?

- I will admit to you that the ECU ScholarShip IR has gotten off to a slower start than I had envisioned, but we are now prepared to move ahead. I want to thank those members of the faculty in the School of Medicine, the School of Music, and the Dept. of Interior Design and

Marketing who have agreed to deposit their research in the pilot. This has been extremely valuable and helpful.

- You can go to the website listed on the brochure and see the pilot—but we are not quite ready to accept any new submissions, but we will be very soon and we hope many of you will be willing to deposit your articles in ECU's The ScholarShip.
- During the fall semester we will be coming to departments, schools, and colleges talking about the IR and seeking more depositors.
- We will provide workshops and individual help on the deposit process.
- We will need your help and participation to make this a success and useful.

Thank you again & are there any questions?