

Northeastern Illinois University is a hub for teaching, research, and innovation. However, as is the case with many universities, academic departments and centers at NEIU struggle to gain awareness of research agendas and activities in departments outside of their own. Institutional repositories – digital platforms that host pre-print, post-print, and journal versions of articles as well as conference proceedings and creative works – can act as centralized locations for publicizing and archiving the research and creative output of faculty and staff.

Many questions can arise surrounding institutional repositories. Some are confused about what exactly they are, while others point to existing services like the Social Sciences Research Network (SSRN), Academia.edu, and ResearchGate and wonder why a separate service is necessary. Ronald Williams Library faculty have spent the past several years examining and researching institutional repositories alongside the open access research movement and will provide answers to these questions.

This years-long examination of institutional repositories culminated in the creation of NEIU Digital Commons, our institutional repository that we are building to better support open access to faculty research. During this presentation, we will discuss the process of depositing your work in Digital Commons, provide a live overview of the site's different capabilities--including tracking downloads of your work--and answer any questions about this resource.