

The institutional/disciplinary divide, a barrier to open access

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Open Access Collections
Brisbane 14 February 2008

What is a repository?

- This talk is about Institutional Repositories
- Digital repositories are "usually considered to mean a place where one deposits (hence repository) born-digital objects such as peer-reviewed research manuscripts for the purpose of providing open access."
- Arthur Sale - <http://eprints.comp.utas.edu.au:81/archive/00000222/>

Repositories in Australia

- Of 38 Australian universities – 22 have repositories
- Five have < 1000 entries
- Thirteen have 1000 –5000 entries
- Four left:
 - ◆ Adelaide University >14,000
 - Qld University of Technology > 9000 items
 - Griffith University > 13,000 items
 - Swinburne University of Tech > 6000 items

Ref: OpenDOAR – <http://www.opendoar.org/> and private correspondence

Convincing people to use repositories

- In the past –
- ‘Build it and they will come’

- Currently –
- ‘If only they understood’

- Future –
- ‘How does this fit with current practice?’

Consider this

- A scientist working in a laboratory with high tech equipment
- A historian whose research is text based
- Are these the only differences in the way they work?

Research design

- 43 interviews at UNSW & ANU
- October 2006 – April 2007
 - ◆ Chemists
 - ◆ Sociologists
 - ◆ Computer Scientists
- Interviews analysed using Grounded Theory

Research Question

- What are the barriers to the uptake of Open Access publication options in Australia?
- Sub-questions explored here:
 - ◆ How do you keep up with the literature?
 - ◆ Why do you publish?

Disciplinary Differences

- Publication patterns are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the differences in disciplines.

Information seeking

Directed searching -

Is like following a map

- Undirected searching -
Is like navigating a maze

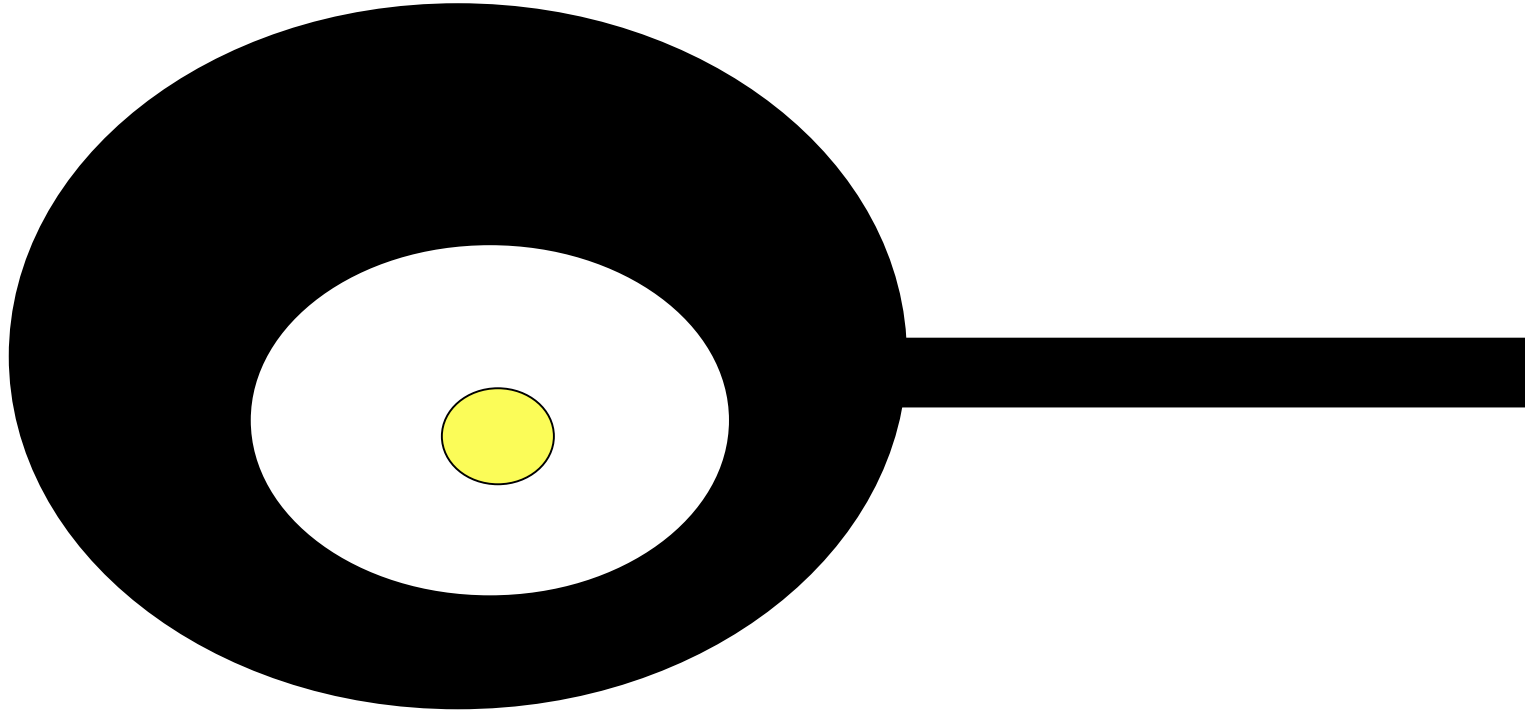
Keeping up

- Chemists –
 - ◆ Systematic reading
- Computer Scientists –
 - ◆ Specific conferences
- Sociologists –
 - ◆ Serendipity

Directed searching

- Chemists – use databases, less general searches
- Computer Scientists – almost exclusively use Google
- Sociologists – snowball (a mixture of text and paper)

Sub-disciplines are very small



Colleagues are scattered

- Those 10 people are unlikely to work in the same building, institution or even country as each other
- Undergraduate courses are partly the reason

Marketing 101

- What is your repository for?
- This will tell you what 'message' you are trying to sell

Institutional / disciplinary divide

- Institution: Promotional reporting
- Government: Grant applications
- Community: International reputation

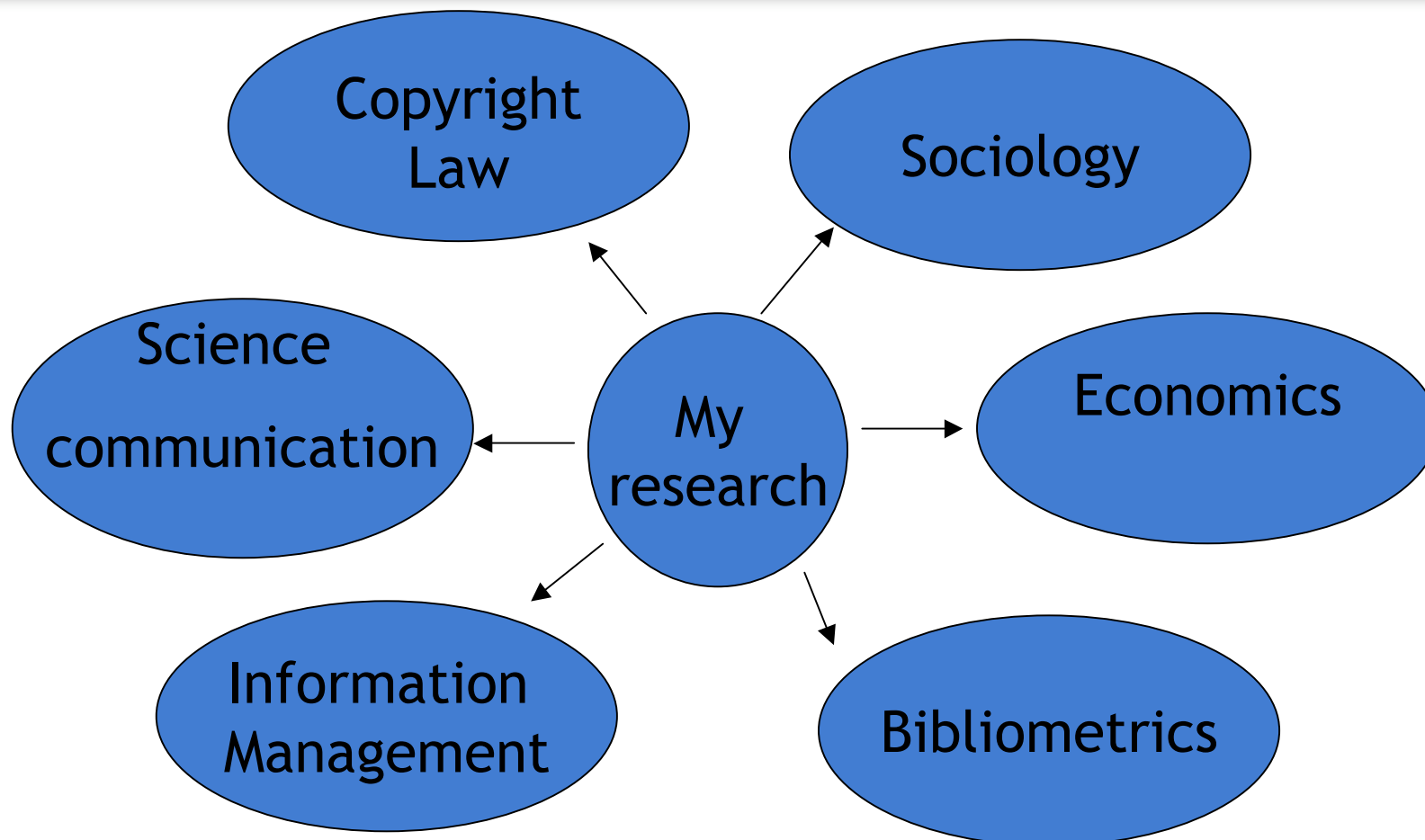
Institutional / disciplinary divide

- “there is a tendency –
 - for administrators to lay down uniform specifications to be observed across the whole range of departments, even where these are clearly inappropriate”
- T. Becher (1994) ‘The Significance of Disciplinary Differences’, *Studies in Higher Education*, 19, 151-161

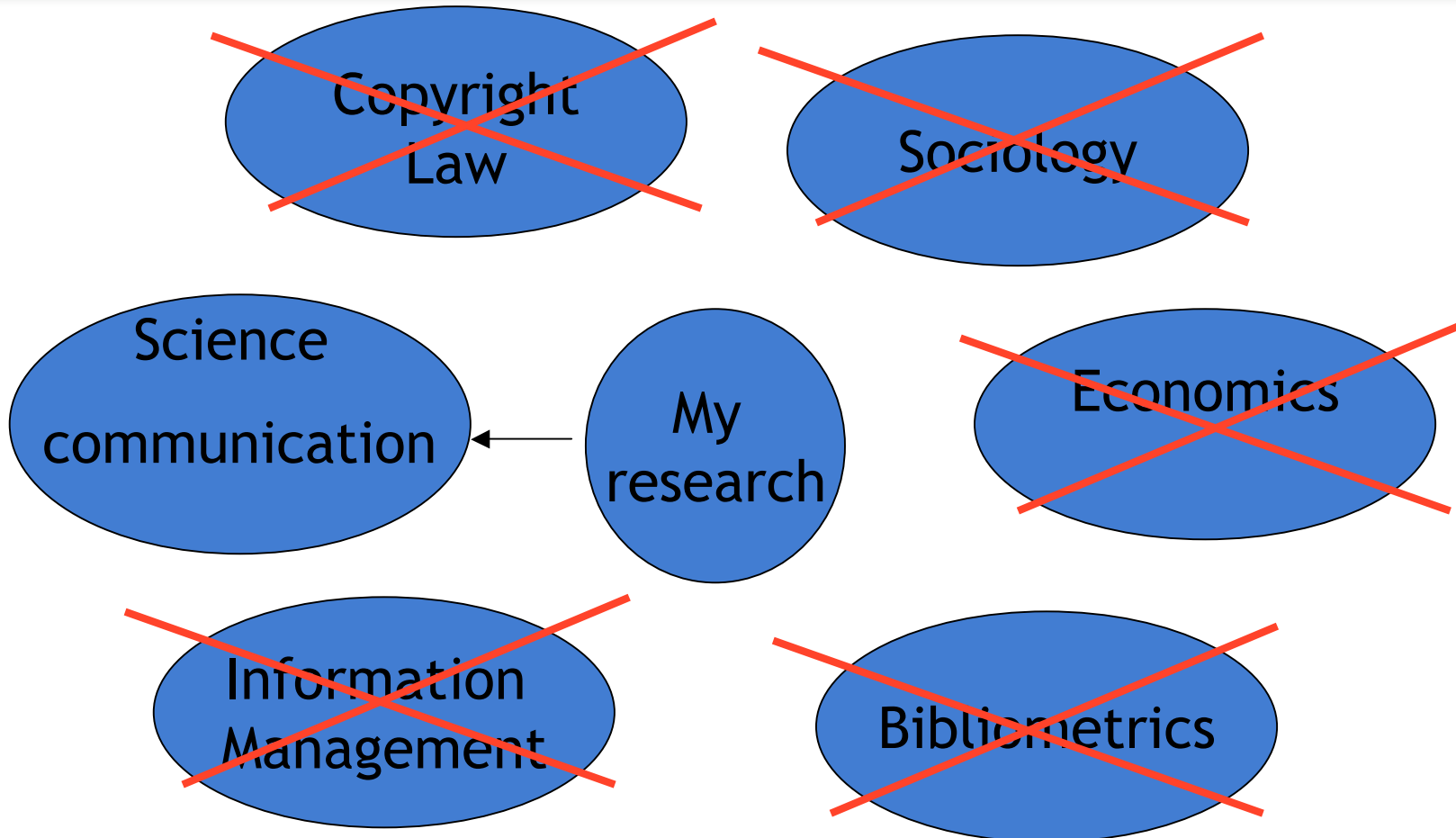
Institutional / disciplinary divide

- “there is a tendency – which a proper attention to disciplinary cultures can help to check – for administrators to lay down uniform specifications to be observed across the whole range of departments, even where these are clearly inappropriate”
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How I view my research communities



How the ANU views me



Marketing 102

- Innovations (repositories) are more likely to be adopted if they are perceived to have:
 - ◆ relative advantage (to status quo)
 - ◆ Compatibility (to status quo)
 - ◆ trialability
 - ◆ observability
 - ◆ less complexity .
- Everett Rogers (2003) *Diffusion of Innovations*, NY, The Free Press

Loyalty

- Academics have a greater loyalty to their research 'community' than they do to their institution.
- Invisible colleges vs institutions

Case Study – Economists

- RePEc – Research Papers in Economics
– <http://RePEc.org>
- IDEAS – Internet Documents in Economics Access Service –
<http://ideas.RePEc.org/>
- QUT ePrints

Work out your message!

- Most institutional repositories exist to serve institutional and funding bodies
- Perhaps it is up to the institution NOT the individual to populate it?
- If it is about open access – choose your targets

Further discussion

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