MBLWHOI Library’s institutional repository stewardship responsibility

Slide 1:
Good afternoon everyone, I’m Debbie Roth, the repository manager of the MBLWHOI Library. The Library’s Institutional Repository (IR), is a CoreTrustSeal certified repository. We chose to go through this process to demonstrate our commitment to quality stewardship and to be a trusted option for our researchers facing funder and publisher requirements that data be accessible, and more recently, also citable with a DOI.

CoreTrustSeal is an international, community based, non-governmental, and non-profit organization promoting sustainable and trustworthy data infrastructures. It has become the accepted certification organization in the data management community. Some repositories still work to achieve ISO certification, but most don’t have the staffing or funding to be able to achieve that.

Slide 2:
The mission of the Woods Hole Open Access Server, WHOAS is to capture, store, preserve, and redistribute the intellectual output of the Woods Hole scientific community in digital form. The community includes: Marine Biological Laboratory, SEA Education Association, NOAA Fisheries, USGS Woods Hole Coastal and Marine Science Center, Woodwell Climate Research Center (formerly Woods Hole Research Center) and WHOI.

We want to be able to share and redistribute, this output, and we feel the best way to do that is to store items in a trustworthy repository. Data created and used by scientists should be managed, curated, and archived in such a way to preserve the initial investment in collecting them. Researchers must be certain that data held in archives remain useful and meaningful into the future. Funding authorities increasingly require continued access to data produced by the projects they fund, and have made this an important element in Data Management Plans. Some funders now stipulate that the data they fund must be deposited in a trustworthy repository.

Slide 3:
The Library always recommends that researchers deposit data in an appropriate subject or community repository, but there are many cases where the dataset needing a DOI does not fit that scenario. The ability to quickly and easily deposit data in a certified repository is a value-added service for our users.

This list of deposits shows the types of items that are in WHOAS. DOIs are created for datasets, technical reports, theses, posters, and presentations.

Slide 4:
WHOAS was CTS certified under the 2017-2019 requirements. The process began with the application. There were 16 categories we had to review and complete. As you can see it is very comprehensive list. This process challenged us to examine and evaluate our repository, enhance our documentation, review our procedures, and focus our stewardship to support the mission and goals of the Woods Hole scientific community.

Becoming CTS certified was not a smooth process.
The first version of the application was completed by the Repository Manager in 2018. Once submitted the Repository Manager kept following up with the CTS administrator because the review was taking months. By time the reviewers sent back their comments and questions, the Repository Manager retired and I replaced her. I reviewed the feedback and worked with the MBLWHOI Library Manager and Data Librarian to address the issues and comments listed in the review. Since it was a learning curve for me, it took a few months to complete the second version of the application.

An issue that did come out in the first review, in the security section, was that we used links to provide our security policy guidelines but they didn’t work outside our firewall. We had to contact our IT department look into this and that took some time to fix, taking longer to complete the second version of the application.

There were other challenges with this process including: communication, time difference and European summer vacations.

When I tried to submit the revised version, to CTS, I received an error with a message telling me to contact their administrator. I emailed the administrator and because of the time difference, I did not receive a response until the next day. The recommendation was to use a different browser. After trying 3 different browsers, I emailed them again to let them know that the submission application was not still not working. Due to the time difference, it took a while for a response. I was told they would look into the issue. After a month and half, I was notified that I could resubmit application. Their IS team had updated the production version of the Application Management Tool without testing it. I was finally able to submit the application almost 2 months later. At this time, my contact person was out on vacation for almost a month with no backup. Again, this delayed correspondence.

The second version took 3 months to be approved because they had to find a second reviewer. I had to keep emailing CTS on the status of our application.

Lastly, I did not actually receive an email that we were approved, I received an email stating that now we are CTS certified, would I become a reviewer.

While this process was not smooth, the Library recognizes the importance of demonstrating our commitment to quality and the Library’s continued efforts with the repository to remain on the forefront of technology with linked open data, and schema.org. It is another way to participate in data management community and stay on top of new trends and initiatives.

The MBLWHOI Library was an early adopter of CoreTrustSeal. In the time since we were certified, the organization has refined operations, created new requirements for 2020-2022 and enlisted more reviewers.

**Slide 5:**
They do have more reviewers of which I am one. The reviewers are supposed to complete the review within a month of the application submission. We try to complete reviews in a timely fashion. CoreTrustSeal has certified over 160 repositories.
Notes:
ISO 16363 certification of Trustworthy Digital Repositories

Publisher activity lately develop standards for what a repository needs to have. People in the data management community are not thrilled with this. Danie Kinkade of BCO-DMO is leading an effort by the Council of Data Facilities to address concerns.

https://fairsharing.org/