

Trace Digital Repository Renewal Request
Submitted by Barbara I. Dewey, Dean of Libraries
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In May 2009 the University of Tennessee signed a three-year contract for the Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress) Digital Commons platform to launch Trace, Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange, the university's digital showcase and archive. Funding of approximately \$10,000 each was provided by the University Libraries, the Office of the Provost, the Office of Research, and the Science Alliance to launch Trace. **I now ask that you consider renewing your support of Trace for the coming year in the amount of \$10,000 each.** Trace's existence as a campus program is very important, especially at this stage of its development.

Trace is fulfilling its mission to promote visibility and access to University of Tennessee scholarly and creative work (<http://trace.tennessee.edu/>). Five journals are in the formative stages. The University of Tennessee Press offers formerly out-of-print works for free, along with a link to purchase the work via print-on-demand. Faculty who have learned about the service are enthusiastic about its potential impact on increased use of their scholarship. Trace is also raising awareness about open access. Perhaps the best is yet to come, as UT authors use Trace to preserve and share content that has not traditionally been accessible—data sets, technical reports, conference and working papers.

Development and customization of Trace services included the following preparations:

- Created a web identity including navigation, policies, benefits, and “first” communities
- Reallocated a full time library support staff position to serve as Trace administrator
- Made presentations about campus repository services to the UT Scholarly Communication Committee, the Graduate Deans Group, the Faculty Senate and to university librarians.
- With representatives of the Graduate School established preliminary processes to enable direct submission of theses and dissertations in Trace.
- The Trace Advisory Group identified potential first communities and created talking points to encourage content submission.
- Provided training sessions and one-to-one assistance with early adopters of SelectedWorks.

Trace was officially announced to the campus community during the first week of September when press releases appeared both in the Library News and in Tennessee Today (<http://info.lib.utk.edu/news/blog/2009/09/08/trace/>; <http://www.utk.edu/tntoday/2009/09/11/trace/>). On September 17 the *Daily Beacon* ran a front-page story about Trace. More than 100 communities have been established with some twenty collections started. Eighteen UT authors have SelectedWorks personal pages that highlight their scholarly and creative work. Authors are receiving monthly notices of the number of times each of their works has been downloaded.

As content is deposited to Trace during the next few months, the Trace Advisory Group will be developing a business plan on the basis of initial experiences with the service. Trace partners are featured prominently on the home page. Daily statistics also presented on the home page reflect 73 individual items posted with 376 full text downloads.