

SCHOLARSHIP

Their Own Space

A digital library for York researchers' work

How's your "IRQ" (institutional repository quotient)? If it's not up to snuff, maybe you need to talk to York's digital initiatives librarian, Andrea Kosavic (pictured). She's the person in charge of YorkSpace. Known in the digital world as an "institutional repository", YorkSpace is designed to offer greater access to York research via the Internet.

Impetuses for platforms like YorkSpace (yorku.ca/yorkspace) include the rise of the open-access movement and an insistence by government funding agencies that the results of research be publicly accessible, says Kosavic. "YorkSpace enables York community members to post, organize and preserve their research online in an institutional context. It also makes it easier for people to discover your research online."

Why not just have your own Web page? You could, says Kosavic, but YorkSpace was specifically developed for the purpose of storing, organizing, preserving and disseminating data. "YorkSpace acts like a digital library, instead of a data dumping ground. It can also be searched and browsed, and items are 'catalogued' based on standards," she says. Also, research deposited into YorkSpace is harvested by many other search engines besides Google, which makes discovery of YorkSpace items more likely, she notes.

At present, YorkSpace features a small but eclectic mix of items ranging from York's *Toronto Telegram* Photograph Collection to a dissertation on the Don River, as well as Design Department chair Wendy Wong's essays on Hong Kong cartoons. Says Kosavic, "With YorkSpace, scholars and researchers are able to ensure their research is exposed to the largest possible readership." ■

