
Building Trustworthy Digital Repositories provides a detailed and comprehensive overview of how to create and support the development of digital repositories and archives. Edited by Philip C. Bantin, an adjunct associate professor and director of the Archives and Records Management Specialization in the Indiana University Department of Information and Library Science, this volume’s process-oriented organization is a testament to Bantin’s expert knowledge gained as a practitioner, teacher, presenter, and author on the topic of electronic records management. In the preface, Bantin states that this book was conceived to help fill a critical gap in the literature demonstrating the connection of the theory of constructing trustworthy digital repositories with examples of how to complete this implementation. He states that the target audiences for this book include a wide range of professionals in the fields of “archives, records management, library and information management, and information technology” (xv) who are looking to begin a trustworthy repository, as well as instructors and students interested in this topic.

To be accessible to such a wide range of audiences, Bantin elected to organize this book around ten different concepts that are integral to building a trustworthy repository. Each concept is its own chapter, with each chapter featuring an overview that grounds the concept in theory and why that particular theory is important when considering how to build a trustworthy digital repository. The theory section is directly followed by an implementation section, which features anywhere from one to three essays written by seasoned practitioners. The purpose of these case studies is to provide real-world examples of how consideration of the theory translates to creating a successful trustworthy repository. Each implementation section features consistent headings, which include strategies, challenges encountered, evaluations and outcomes, and lessons learned. The theory overviews and implementation summaries are written by authors in a wide range of positions from institutions including governmental agencies, institutions of higher education, industry, and nonprofit organizations. The book is not entirely centered on practices in the United States; it features authors from Canada, Italy, and Australia as well.

The first chapter of Building Trustworthy Digital Repositories focuses on the fundamental step of selecting a repository. This often undervalued first step of creating a repository is crucially important because of the implications this decision has on all that can be done with the repository in the future (for example, the metadata schemas that can be used, how users can interact with the repository, the ease of which preservation strategies may be implemented, and others). This chapter is a particularly valuable section for anyone who is looking to select a digital repository for the first time or is in the process of evaluating new possibilities for a digital repository. Following the overview of several repository auditing resources provided in the theory section, Jim Corridan and Tibaut Houzanme, both of the Indiana Archives and Records Administration (IARA), provide an extremely useful overview of how IARA selected their digital repository. Of particular value is a ten-page table that IARA used to evaluate each digital repository solution they examined. This table could easily be adapted by any institution seeking to evaluate potential digital repositories for adoption.

From there, the book features a mix of chapters focusing on how to use and build the digital repository (highlighting such topics as ingesting materials, creating and maintaining metadata, creating a secure system, and generating an access strategy for users) and less visible yet extremely important steps of maintaining a trustworthy repository (retaining logs of policies and resources, capturing audit trail data, reten-
tion and disposition of data, and creating a preservation strategy). The final chapter of the book examines the current status of trustworthy systems and ideas about what trustworthy systems may look like in the future. This chapter would be of particular interest for anyone who is responsible for long-range planning of developing and/or maintaining a trustworthy repository.

Bantin did an admirable job in his selection of authors for this book. Each section is written in a way that is beneficial for both new and seasoned practitioners in the field, including those chapters that are more technically based that are traditionally more challenging for nonexperts to read. Many of the implementation articles also include useful tables and figures that provide a valuable visual aid to the chapter content. However, the print quality of some of the more detailed images is poor, rendering some of the diagrams illegible.

Although the content of each chapter is exceedingly valuable to the reader, some of the typical conventions of an edited volume fall a bit short. Each chapter features its own list of notes and works cited, but a comprehensive bibliography covering all of the resources addressed throughout the book would have been a welcome addition. The index includes cross-references of the acronyms referenced in each chapter. Lacking, however, is a glossary of some of the unfamiliar terms used throughout the book that would be of particular benefit for people who are newer to the topic or less versed in a certain aspect of digital repositories. The index is fairly comprehensive, although it is focused a bit more heavily on the institutions represented in the case studies as opposed to some of the topics that were addressed. For example, the term “metadata” is not listed in the index, despite the fact that there is an entire chapter dedicated to it and metadata is referenced in several chapters throughout the book.

Despite the minor issues mentioned above, Building Trustworthy Digital Repositories is a well-written and thoughtfully constructed book. Depending on their individual focus and personal expertise, readers may be interested in reading the volume in its entirety or selecting only certain chapters to read to gain a deeper understanding of a particular topic. Bantin and his highly qualified authors have assembled a book that more than succeeds in its goal of providing a comprehensive overview of the full process of creating, supporting, and preserving a trustworthy digital repository. —Lisa M. McFall, Hamilton College


Writing about technology, especially writing guides for technology, has often been compared to hitting a moving target or trying to nail gelatin to a wall. In fact, the process is more akin to trying to nail smoke to a wall; at least one can hold gelatin in place. Changes in the technology landscape happen at such a pace that a guide composed a year ago is nearly obsolete, while anything greater than five years old often has little more than historical value. So, when writing a guide for technology, it is important to focus on concepts that will hold true over time rather than dwelling on particular providers or specific systems. With a few exceptions, Library Technology Buying Strategies falls neatly into this category. Of equal importance, the book meets its stated objective: “My aim is to provide substance beyond the buzzwords and hype” (viii).

Initially, one notices the lack of a chapter about hardware in this book about library technology. Items such as PCs, tablets, and other physical devices are discussed only in terms of how they relate to services. However, the introduction, that too often ignored section of any book, clearly lays out the scope and purpose of the work. In the case of this book, the term “library technology” refers to the framework of systems
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