

Brandeis IR user interface discussion, June 20, 2008

We concur on the following improvements to the Brandeis IR:

Footer: add navigation.

- Contact us form

- Feedback form

- Copyright statement

- Link to Brandeis University home page

- Other possible links include: Privacy and Disclaimer

Color

- Bolder colors strong contrast

  - Brandeis blue and ??

- Well defined spaces within the page

Navigation

- Left-hand column for site navigation, with logical groupings

- How many and which nav elements on home page versus administrator page vs collection page? Needs further discussion

- Breadcrumbs

- Banner header and footer will each have some navigation.

- Note that the Open Repository's lefthand "browse" navigation allows toggling between community and all or collection and all, depending on where you are in the hierarchy. This appealed to everyone but with some question about having all three or context sensitive?

- User must have clarity about whether s/he is searching repository or one community or collection.

Image:

- Interest in a series of rotating collection image on home page, possibly with link to the collection. What does this imply for re maintenance, number of images needed?

- Initially, we can decide on image size and placement, then fill space with images specifically related to the IR and its collections. Future steps can include Flash slideshow or rotating images or another feature.

- Encourage each community/collection to select an appropriate image to represent the community/collection - branding.

Other ideas we discussed

- Need to test the behaviors of items or collections that belong to more than one collection or community. How does search work on the secondary location of an item or collection.

- Share this item with a colleague – a prominent link in the RIT Digital Media Library

- Consider the social networking options at Open Repository @BMC. Since we're introducing similar features in LOUIS and possibly other interfaces, we should consider them for the IR.