

Figshare Repository

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Figshare Repository

Figshare is an online repository for preserving and sharing data on the World Wide Web. Signing up for an account is both free and easy. Users can easily upload files and create tags, private links, and a digital object identifier for each of their files. Creating tags, along with a description, allows scholars to find and access materials written by other scholars. The user interface is very basic, but it has very few graphics to explain information to people who have never utilized a data repository before. It has very basic search capabilities that will leave users unfamiliar with data repositories in a state of frustration as they try to find useful information. In order to make Figshare useful, librarians would need to spend hours combing through documents in order to create finding guides for researchers.

Without advanced searching of metadata data terms, users are left with tags to click on and multitudes of documents that may or may not be useful to the researcher. Creating an advanced searching option is a must in the next version of Figshare. Users also have the option to collaborate on projects with other researchers, but it is recommended that users find a different collaborative tool, such as Google docs or Dropbox in order to share documents and work together on a project. The no-frills appearance of Figshare does not make it attractive to work with. Sharing research should be a primary goal of every researcher, so Figshare is recommended as a repository to share information, especially since it is free to use. However, it should not be the primary repository that one uses. This project introduced me to the idea of uploading and preserving materials using an online repository. Preserving information is vital, but perhaps researchers should utilize a system with an advanced interface that is more user-friendly.

References

Figshare (2016, February). Retrieved from <https://figshare.com/>