



Institutional Repository (IR) Sycamore Scholars Crib Sheet

Ready responses to faculty questions and concerns about Sycamore Scholars.

Why should I put my stuff in Sycamore Scholars?

- Sycamore Scholars will increase the impact of your work and openly share your scholarly work with others.
- Sycamore Scholars will increase visibility and citation rate of your work. For example, Google gives preferential treatment to materials in IRs: your paper definitely is picked up, and will appear higher up on the Google results list.
- Sycamore Scholars will disseminate your work in a timely manner. Work can be made available in Sycamore Scholars much earlier than it appears in a journal.
- Sycamore Scholars will give your paper a consistent and unique URL for the long term – for example, in 10 years, a citation to your paper that gives Sycamore Scholars link will still work and get people to your paper.
- Sycamore Scholars will preserve your work for the long term. You don't need to worry about new information technologies, backups, and regular maintenance.

Can people “Google” something in Sycamore Scholars?

- Absolutely. Google actually “crawls” IRs more frequently, and puts them higher in its results lists.

How else will people find Sycamore Scholars?

- People can find Sycamore Scholars via Google, Google Scholar, OAIster (that is moving into OCLC and included in WorldCat), ROAR (Open Access Repositories), and OpenDOAR (academic open access repositories). Because the full text of the material at Sycamore Scholars is indexed by Google, Google Scholar, OAIster (that is moving into OCLC), ROAR, and OpenDOAR. Go figure! We will shortly be posting links to Sycamore Scholars in various places on the ISU website. Departments can add links to Sycamore Scholars from their WebPages to help people get there. You can send people the “handles” (unique URL) to your work in Sycamore Scholars too.

Do other schools have IRs?

- Many prestigious institutions such as MIT, Columbia, Cornell, and Cambridge have their IRs. The link <http://www.dspace.org/whos-using-dspace/Repository-List.html#U> is the list of all the IRs around the world.

What do I do about copyright?

- You retain copyright. The “click through license” (non-exclusive license) you'll see when you deposit something says that you are giving ISU right to make your work available, to migrate it to updated formats as that becomes necessary, etc. You retain all intellectual rights to your material.

If I sign my copyright away to a publisher, can I still post my article in Sycamore Scholars?

- It... depends. Some publishers will allow you to post a copy of the article. We can help you figure this out.

Does Sycamore Scholars provide the usage statistics about my article?

- Yes. Sycamore Scholars administrator will provide server statistical information and Google Analytics information on your article.

What if I want to revise a paper I've put in Sycamore Scholars? Can I add the new version, or replace the old with the new?

- Yes. We can withdraw or delete the old one and deposit the new one for you. It's easy (for us) to do this, and we are happy to – so don't hesitate to ask.

What if I really want to remove something I put in Sycamore Scholars?

- This is something you can't do yourself, but Sycamore Scholars administrator will be happy to do it for you. There are 2 levels of making something no longer available in the IR:
 - Withdrawal: the item will not be visible, and search engines will be blocked from detecting it, but the item will actually continue to exist in the IR. An Administrator would be able to reinstate it.
 - Removal: the item will be deleted from the IR, and cannot be reinstated without re-submitting it.

Who can make deposits to Sycamore Scholars?

- Basically, anyone at ISU who registers as a user and requests authorization to deposit to a particular collection. We try to set up the "collection structure" with some input from the department, so that there's some organization and sense of what's going on.

What file formats do Sycamore Scholars accept?

- Almost all types of formats can be submitted – anything, really: if you can upload it, you can put it in Sycamore Scholars. These are listed first, and include formats such as PDF, plain text, HTML, Media (video, audio, and graphics), Specialized formats (Mathematical workbook, SPSS system file, etc.), HTML web page, and many more...

What are these weird URLs? Who owns Handle.net?

- Each item deposited is given a unique and unbreakable URL, such as <http://hdl.handle.net/10484/51>, known as a "handle." To ensure that URLs don't break even though the files themselves may have to be physically moved from one storage location to another, all of the URLs point to Handle.net, which is a service provided by the Corporation for National Research Initiatives (CNRI). Handle.net then redirects the user to the current location of the file.

Is there a permanent way to cite work in Sycamore Scholars in my CV?

- Yes – that is what the "handle" system is all about. Once deposited, just copy the "handle.net/10484/..." URL that appears in the record. That is your permanent link to your item in Sycamore Scholars.

Why do we need Sycamore Scholars when we have journals?

- Sycamore Scholars is also aimed at those materials that may not, for whatever reason, make it into a journal. Things like conference presentations, preprints, working papers, white papers, theses

and dissertations, special collections (such as unique musical scores and 19th century photographs)... There are many, many great pieces of scholarship and artistic endeavor produced on our campus that don't end up as journal articles. Why not try to capture them and share them with the world?