A Peer-to-Peer Approach to Review Compliance with Trustworthy Repository Audit and Certification (TRAC)

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1.   Introduction

The activities of a trusted digital repository incorporate many interrelated activities. The Center for Research Libraries (CRL) and OCLC (Online Computer Library Center, Inc.) chose to define a trusted digital repository as "a mission to provide reliable, long-term access to managed digital resources to its designated community, now and into the future" (CRL/OCLC 2007). In light of the exponential growth of digital libraries and repositories that relied upon information technology infrastructure, it is necessary to begin to audit and certify these operations so that content contributors and users can use these systems with an understanding of policies, procedures and practices related to digital preservation, stewardship, and sustainability.
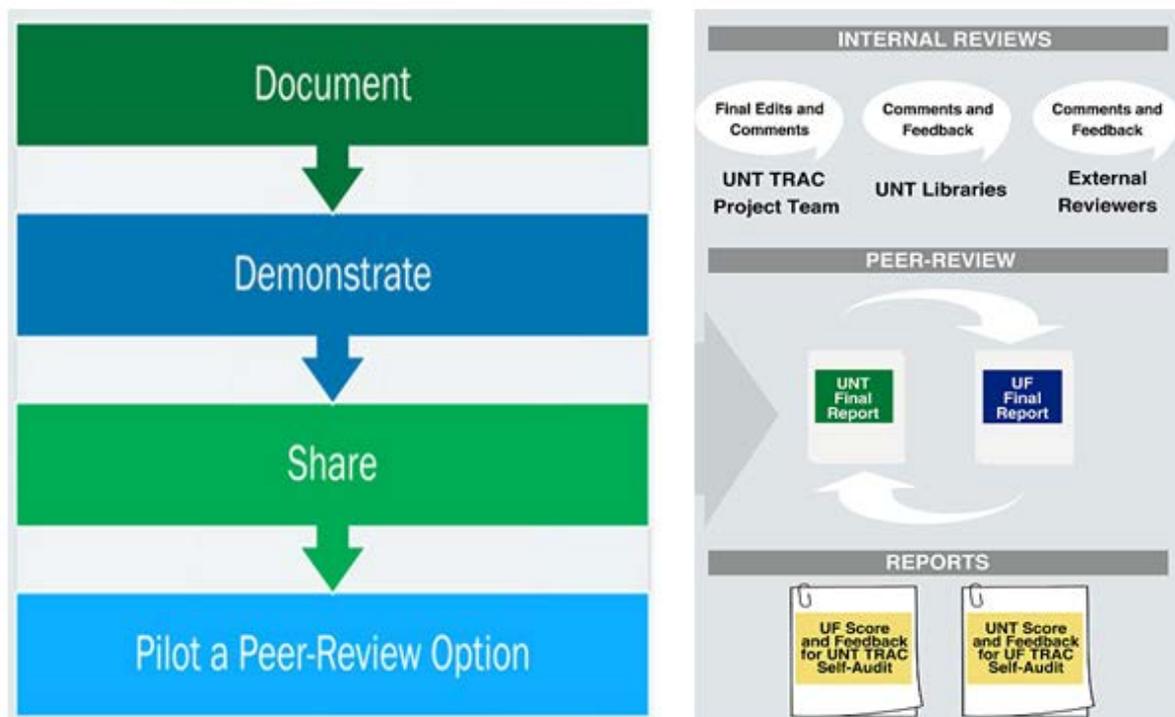

Figure 1. Major Steps and activities in a Collaborative Approach to the Trusted Repository Audit

In light of the increasing recognition of audit and certification of repositories in the digital preservation community, the University of North Texas (UNT) and the University of Florida (UF) have collaborated during the past year on a new peer-review model and process to complete the Trusted Repository Audit Checklist (TRAC) for each institutions' digital library programs. In this peer-review model, each institution completes a TRAC self-audit, after which each institution has agreed to participate in a peer-review process to evaluate and score each other's self-audit and locally-generated TRAC documentation.

This presentation discusses the implementation of a peer-to-peer process to review compliance with TRAC. In particular, based on the UNT and UF peer-reviewing experiences, this work in progress presentation shares lessons learned in the process towards becoming a Trusted Digital Repository, documentation needed, and how this type of process supports future collaborations for achieving TRAC goals in digital libraries.

References

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