Proposal for an interactive repository for student e-prints and working papers

What is it?

1. Repository
   a. Open access
   b. Online database
   c. Not formally peer-reviewed
      i. cf. arXiv: "Papers will be entered in the listings in order of receipt on an impartial basis and appearance of a paper is not intended in any way to convey tacit approval of its assumptions, methods, or conclusions by any agent (electronic, mechanical, or other). We reserve the right to reject any inappropriate submissions. This site should not be used to distribute non-technical information (such as news or information about political causes of potential special interest to the academic community). Submission of an abstract without an accompanying paper will be rejected outright."
      ii. cf. PLoS ONE: "Each submission will be assessed by a member of the PLoS ONE Editorial Board before publication. This pre-publication peer review will concentrate on technical rather than subjective concerns and may involve discussion with other members of the Editorial Board and/or the solicitation of formal reports from independent referees. If published, papers will be made available for community-based open peer review involving online annotation, discussion, and rating."
   d. Open to papers in all disciplines
   e. OAI-compliant
   f. Run on free & open source software
   g. Open API: allow export of data to other services
      i. e.g. Facebook, del.icio.us

2. Interactive (cf. PLoS ONE)
   a. Allow user ratings, comments, annotation
      i. Could allow mark-up of particular sections of text (cf. GPL v3 revision)
   b. Employ readership data
      i. e.g. “Most popular papers this week / month / year," “Most popular papers in this field," “Highest user ratings"
      ii. e.g. “Users who liked this paper also liked…”

3. Student e-prints and working papers
   a. E-prints: Papers accepted for publication, theses, dissertations
      i. May or may not have been through formal peer-review process
      ii. May or may not have been published in formal journal (may have been published in ad-hoc, student-run journal)
      iii. May or may not be accepted in institutional repository (if available)
      iv. May or may not be accepted in subject repository (if available)
   b. Working papers: Papers for class or academic requirements, drafts
      i. Generally will fail all of the criteria above
How students could use the site

1. Read
   a. For enjoyment or intellectual advancement
   b. For help with a paper or assignment
      i. See what others have written about a given topic
      ii. See what sources others have used in papers about a given topic
         1. Could build in “Web of Science” feature: Find other papers that have cited the same source, “Papers that cited this source also cited…”

2. Upload
   a. For visibility / to increase readership
   b. For the advancement of science
   c. For a class
      i. Could be used as a “turn it in” system: Tag papers for a given assignment
         1. Allows professor to read online, export to PDF, see time submitted (before the deadline), leave comments, etc.
      ii. Professors could award extra credit for publishing paper on site
   d. For feedback on a paper
      i. Could publish drafts anonymously
      ii. Upon uploading final draft, could have submission system to OA journals

3. Annotate
   a. For enjoyment or intellectual advancement
   b. For the advancement of science
   c. For a class assignment or extra credit

For more information, contact:
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