Academic Commons FAQ

What is Academic Commons?
It is Columbia University's research repository.

What does Academic Commons do?
It's a place to store, manage, publicize, and preserve a digital record of your work. However, it is not the place to save every version of a book, paper, image, or presentation.

Who can deposit items?
Current students, faculty, and staff of Columbia University and its affiliates.

What types of items can be deposited?
Articles and monographs, working papers, preprints, post-prints, technical reports, conference papers, datasets, multimedia creations, and other materials in various digital formats.

What if my items are only in print?
Sorry, we can only include digital items in the repository at this time. There may be other options for having your materials digitized by someone else.

Why should I deposit my work in Academic Commons?
Insurance can't replace the lost intellectual property on an old, stolen, or damaged computer.

If I deposit my work in Academic Commons, what happens to it?
It will be stored on a secure server that is backed up regularly, as well as described by metadata to enable search, discovery, visualization, and other services that CDRS is developing. Your work will also receive a URL for citations.

I already participate in my discipline's research repository. Can I still put items in Academic Commons?
Yes, of course! We would like to include the citations for your items in other repositories, too. And, there may be other items that you would like to preserve and manage in Academic Commons.

For more information on Academic Commons and related CDRS services, please contact:

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The Center for Digital Research and Scholarship (CDRS) at Columbia University Libraries/Information Services can support your research process and projects with expert advice, innovative tools, and a diverse set of services.

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