Structure of IDEALS

IDEALS content is organized around communities which generally correspond to scholarly or research units such as schools, departments, labs and research centers. Communities can be organized into sub-communities, often used for narrower research units, or collections. Like a community, a sub-community can contain sub-communities and collections. A collection can contain deposited items. A full list of communities, subcommunities, and collections is available to browse.

IDEALS allows scholarly or research units to manage their own communities; for example, communities can decide:

- The structure of their community;
- Who can submit items;
- Whether there will be a review process for submitted items; and
- Whether there will be access restrictions on a specific collection.

Each community has its own entry page displaying information, news and links reflecting the interests of that community, as well as a descriptive list of sub-communities and collections within the community. See the IDEALS Community Policy page for more information on communities.

To establish a community and collections for your research group, department, or other formal/informal group, please see Starting a Community or Collection.

There is also an open community (Illinois Research and Scholarship (Open Community)) where individuals whose departments have not yet established a community within IDEALS can deposit their research.