

Is a Scholarly Commons What We Really Want?

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The term “Scholarly Commons” has been used much of late, but it often feels like we are not all talking about the same thing. In a short talk or poster the differences between a “Scholarly Commons” and a few other possible organizational methods for future scholarly communications will be discussed through a metaphorical “potato commons.” The differences between potatoes at a grocery store, a co-op, a farmer’s market, and a commons will be used to illuminate similar differences in how we work together and share scholarship. This lighthearted approach will incorporate a smattering of commons theory to open a window to a digestible understanding of what a scholarly commons might be and beg the question, “Is that what we really want?”