Institutional Repositories v. SSRN

One of the legitimate concerns that faculty members have had since we rolled out our Scholarship at CUA Law repository is whether this detracts from their presence on SSRN. At first glance, it might appear that downloads from one site would reduce the number of downloads from another site, and therefore adversely impact a person’s statistics.

A couple of studies in recent years have shown that instead of having a negative impact on SSRN download counts, the presence of a faculty member’s scholarship on an institutional repository actually creates a synergy which boosts the overall number of downloads.

Resources:
James M. Donovan and Carol A. Watson, Will an Institutional Repository Hurt My SSRN Ranking?: Calming the Faculty Fear, AALL Spectrum, April 2012, at 12.
Simon Canick, Library Services for the Self-Interested Law School: Enhancing the Visibility of Faculty Scholarship, 105 Law Lib. J. 175

Taking TWEN To The Next Level

While most faculty use TWEN to post their course syllabus and weekly class readings, they rarely avail themselves of the more interactive aspects of the platform.

TWEN can be used to create forums, host live discussion sessions, and administer quizzes. In addition, video and audio may be added to the materials for course sites.

Although there are limitations on how much the look and feel of a TWEN site can be customized, the standard “out of the box” site can be easily improved upon with just a few key strokes.

One feature of the site used for the American Law Program in Krakow is the “Grade Book and Assignments” function. All of the exams for the various ALP courses are administered remotely using this function. It allows the faculty to return to the US, and then make the exam available for a certain period of time to the students in Poland. The completed exams are time-stamped when they are submitted.

If you need TWEN assistance please contact either Steve Young or Kyla Stone (TWEN representative), or consult the Administrator’s Guide to TWEN.