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Lee Dirks is the Director of Scholarly Communications for Microsoft's Technical Computing initiative (reporting into Microsoft Research division), where he manages a variety of research programs related to open access to research data, interoperability of archives and repositories, and the preservation of digital information. Lee holds an M.L.S. degree from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill as well as a post-masters degree in Preservation Administration from Columbia University. In addition to past positions at Columbia and with OCLC (Preservation Resources), Lee has held a variety of roles at Microsoft since joining the company in 1996 - namely as the corporate archivist, then corporate librarian, and as a senior manager in the corporate market research organization. Additionally, Lee teaches as adjunct faculty at the iSchool at the University of Washington, and serves on the advisory boards for the University of Washington Libraries as well as the iSchool's Master of Science in Information Science program.

An 18-year veteran across multiple information management fields, Lee is a frequent speaker at international conferences and events. During his career, his team's work on the <http://library> intranet site at Microsoft was recognized as a "Center of Excellence Award for Technology" in 2003 by the Special Library Association's (SLA) Business & Finance Division. Additionally, Lee was presented the 2006 Microsoft Marketing Excellence Award by Steve Ballmer -for a marketing & engineering partnership around a breakthrough market opportunity analysis process which is now a standard operating procedure across Microsoft.