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The UNF Digital Commons

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The UNF Digital Commons

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Thomas G. Carpenter Library



What is an Institutional Repository?

An institutional repository or IR is an online platform for collecting, preserving and disseminating the intellectual output of an institution in digital format.



Let's start with some background context of what Digital Commons is. It is our institutional repository, which means that it provides us a way to collect, preserve, and disseminate, in a digital environment, the scholarly and intellectual productivity of the university.

Development of IRs

- Beginnings
- Focused initially on faculty
- Shifted to include emphasis on student works
- New trend shows use as a platform for peer-reviewed and student-managed journals.

IRs, as an idea, started back in the 1990s and initially grew out of efforts such as the Open Archives Initiative, which wanted to provide “free online access to the full text of all refereed research journal articles” (Harnand).

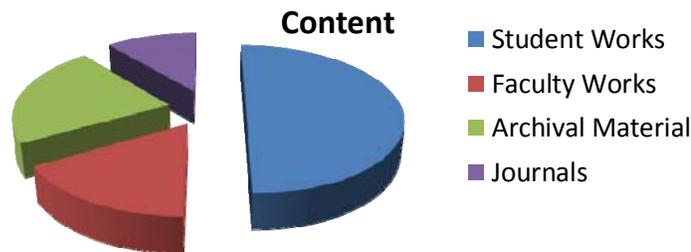
That was very ambitious and initial development efforts were focused on highlighting faculty achievements. However, due to multiple factors, including copyright, there was some difficulty with focusing solely on faculty works.

This resulted in a shift away from this initial focus towards including student research as well, specifically with things like thesis and dissertations.

Recently, a new trend has emerged where institutional repositories are being used as platforms for peer-reviewed and student-managed journals.

Content of IRs

- Student works – 45%
- Faculty works – 15%
- Archival material – 20%
- Journals (Student or Faculty) – 10%



Until 2010, research on IRs had focused on how to institute one or on what platforms were being used, but, a 2010 study looked instead at whether the promises made by these systems were being achieved. They did this by looking at what is actually being placed into various IRs.

As it turns out, student scholarship makes up the largest portion of the actual content placed into IRs. There are a variety of reasons for these numbers.

First, many institutions choose to focus on only one aspect of the IR, such as getting their students thesis and dissertations in the system or focusing on their institutions archival material.

Of the 50 institutions involved in this study, only 12 had made significant progress in including their faculty publications and the majority of those showed a clear focus on their faculty, meaning they had significantly less content in the other areas.

Secondly, the trend of using this kind of platform for journals is relatively new, which explains why that is such a low number.

Our numbers as of April 2, 2012: (IN CASE SOMEONE ASKS)

Student – 44%

Faculty – 12%

Journals – 1%

Archives – 38%

Other – 5%

The UNF Digital Commons!



So let's move on to what we are doing here in the library. The UNF Digital Commons platform is provided by Berkeley Electronic Press or Bepress, which is a major publisher of digital content, particularly online journals.

There are now 200 institutions using the bepress system. This growing community includes a variety of scholarly institutions such as colleges and universities, law schools, medical schools, and various societies and associations.

But why choose bepress? There are other systems out there, so what circumstances led the library to this decision?

Notable bepress customers: (IN CASE ASKED)

Universities:

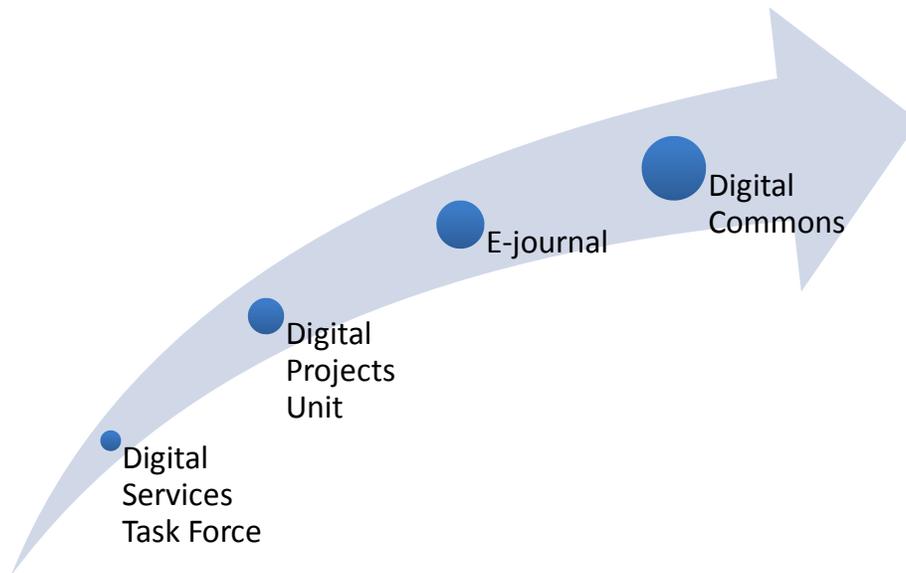
American
Boise State
FIU
Florida State
Northeastern
Pepperdine

SMU
Syracuse
Univ. of Kentucky
UMASS
Univ. of Miami
Univ. of South Florida

Law Schools:

Boston College
Cornell
Georgetown
Florida
Penn State
Yale

Where we started?



Choosing the bepress platform was the result of a progression of events. Two years ago, our Dean recognized the growing significance of digital collections in libraries and established a task force to look into what kinds of services our library could provide in that area. This Task Force concluded that there was a great need for providing digital services to the UNF community, particularly in areas such as digitizing thesis and dissertations, special collections, and archives.

In response to this report, the library established a digital projects unit to take on this work, converting our physical materials into digital format and making sure it is preserved. In addition, the Task Force recognized a need for an institutional repository so that we could also provide access and searchability to those materials.

This need became imminent when a department on campus approached the library for help in creating an e-journal. Following this request, additional research was done to determine the best way the library could help to achieve this goal. After presenting the several options to them, there was a clear preference for the platform provided by bepress, Digital Commons. The library then took the next step of presenting this platform to other areas of the institution that might have interest, including the Graduate School and Academic Affairs among others. This presentation generated a lot of excitement and so the library moved forward with this platform.

Advantages of Digital Commons?

- A fully hosted platform
- Increases visibility, accessibility and prestige of UNF, its faculty, students and their intellectual output as well as for the Northeast Florida region
- Goes beyond traditional IR



What about this platform generated so much excitement? Three major advantages stood out. First, as a fully hosted platform, the library is able to focus on the needs of our faculty and students, the digitization process, and the creation of content and collections rather than having to focus on hardware and software issues.

Second, it provided a method for increasing visibility and accessibility of the scholarly product of the university.

Finally, this platform offers us the ability to go beyond the traditional IR. With it, we can serve our faculty in unique ways, partner with those in our community, and know just how the system is being used.

Increases Visibility

- Full text indexing in major indexes
- Higher rankings in Google and other search engines
- Linked to all 200 Digital Commons participants
- Indexed in our own OneSearch platform

So, just how do these advantages work? How does it help us increase our visibility, accessibility, etc.? Well, by choosing the Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress) system, the UNF Digital Commons site gets full text indexed in major indexes along with other bepress online content.

Also, our materials get ranked higher in Google searches, which makes our material more likely to show up on the first page of results in a simple Google search. I'll show some examples of that in a minute.

Another way visibility is increased is by how the UNF Digital Commons is linked to all the other 200 participants. Using the system, we can search our material or we can search all 200 sites at once. This means that our content can also show up in the searches at any of those other institutions.

Finally, we are able to index everything in the UNF Digital Commons in our library search tool, OneSearch.

Now, let's look at those Google searches.

Google

Search About 24,000,000 results (0.23 seconds)

Everything [Welcome to Weiss Instruments - Manufacturer of Temperature and ...](#)
www.weissinstruments.com/
 Manufactures *temperature* and pressure measuring instrumentation for commercial and industrial applications.

Images

Maps

Videos [Curie temperature - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Curie_temperature
 Jump to [The Curie-Weiss law](#): A simple theory predicts that, above the Curie *temperature*, the magnetic susceptibility, χ , is given by the Curie-Weiss law: ...

News

Shopping

More [Curie Weiss temperature](#)
202.127.145.151/siocl/cdbank/WebHelp/gmelin/.../cmdcuwe.htm
 Description: The Curie-Weiss *temperature* is the temperature at which a plot of the reciprocal molar magnetic susceptibility against the absolute temperature T ...

Jacksonville, FL
 Change location

Show search tools [Temperature Test Chamber WT - Weiss Umwelttechnik GmbH ...](#)
www.wut.com/en/schunk01.c.11587.de/all_wvproductsarticle
 Temperature Test Chamber WT. The test chambers of the WT series are both highly effective and economical. They are equipped with everything which is ...

[Scale Thermometers - WEISS - Temperature and Humidity ...](#)
www.grainger.com/Grainger/scale.../temperature.../N-bewZ1z0qn9g
 Shop for WEISS Scale Thermometers at Grainger. Over 900000 MRO products - fast & convenient for the ones who get it done!

[PDF] [Experimental Determination of the Weiss Temperature of Mn12-Ac and digitalcommons.unf.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1009...](#)
 File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat
 by C Lampropoulos - 2010 - [Related articles](#)
 Nov 3, 2010 – Experimental determination of the *Weiss temperature* of Mn12-ac and Mn12-ac-MeOH. Shiqi Li, Lin Bo, Bo Wen, and M. P. Sarachik ...

This first one searches Weiss Temperature in Google...this very general search got 24 million hits and right there at number 6, is an article from the UNF Digital Commons by one of our faculty.

Google french american media

Search About 575,000,000 results (0.29 seconds)

Everything
Images
Maps
Videos
News
Shopping
More

Jacksonville, FL
Change location

Show search tools

[ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF SHAPE FRANCE - American Media, Inc.](#)
www.americanmediainc.com/.../american-media-inc-announces-laun...
Sep 28, 2011 – No other publication currently exists in the **French** market, like Shape **France**. We have built upon the foundation of Shape US being the ...

[French-American Foundation | Equality of Opportunity Program ...](#)
equality.frenchamerican.org/
This conversation is part of a series of interviews filmed by the **French-American** Foundation between Daniel Sabbagh and five **French** experts on the theme of ...

[French-American Foundation | Fellowships](#)
equality.frenchamerican.org/page/fellowships
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS. The **French-American** Foundation and its **Media** Advisory Committee will consider **media** professionals: from all types of **media** ...

[Selected Media Clippings | French-American Foundation](#)
www.frenchamerican.org/press/media-clippings
Cultural Services of the **French** Embassy : "**French-American** Foundation Launches First-of-its-Kind Equality of Opportunity **Media** Library" March 31, 2011 in ...

[French Reporters Amid the New York News Mix - NYTimes.com](#)
www.nytimes.com/.../french-reporters-amid-the-new-york-news-mix....
May 22, 2011 – Tired, Testy, Even Rumbled: **French** Reporters on the Big Story ... little deference by the **American** news **media**, and some unease over their failure to ... It was easy to spot the **French** men and women among the **media** hordes.

"Pardon Our French: French Stereotypes in American Media" by ...
digitalcommons.unf.edu/ojii_volumes/7/
by L. Ferber - 2008 - [Related articles](#)
According to the mental models approach to **media** effects, **Americans** with no **French** contact are more likely to believe **media** display a more accurate picture of ...

Here's another example. The search French American media got 575 million hits. Once again, we have a piece of research that is in the system from one of our students right there at number 6.

So, the system helps make us more visible.

But what about accessibility? Obviously, with our materials coming up in Google searches, we are more accessible, but this system lets us go even further.

Increases Accessibility

- Extends beyond traditional publishing model
 - Provides full text download statistics
 - Provides online referral statistics
 - Allows us to publish things that don't fit the typical model

How does it do that?

Specifically, it takes our scholarly output and provides information never before available in the traditional publishing model. For instance, in the past, a faculty member would need to rely on citation reports to know if their article is being read and cited. While you can still do that, this system takes it to new level. Now, you can know exactly how many times your work has been downloaded, but, in addition to that, you can also know just where those downloads are coming from. These are called online referrals. Finally, we can make material available that simply don't fit a traditional publishing model.

Increases Accessibility

- First digital object loaded on Feb. 28, 2011
- 740 total digital objects as of April 5, 2012
- 33,334 total full-text downloads as of April 5
 - Over 13,000 ETDs
 - Over 10,000 Osprey Journal
 - Nearly 5000 Faculty
 - 1500 downloads from e-journal

So, we began putting material into the UNF Digital Commons just over a year ago, on Feb. 28, 2011.

Over that time, we've placed a total of 740 objects into the system for all the world to see. The result is impressive.

In that single year, we have seen our publications downloaded over 33K times. There are some particularly notable results I'd like to highlight.

One, we have one operating e-journal that has been in the system for just over 2 months and its articles have been downloaded 1500 times, and this is with it placed behind a pay wall.

Also, we have added 13 faculty members works to the system to date, which constitutes nearly 100 different works and we've seen them downloaded 5000 times.

A particular note of interest is what has happened with our student scholarship. Typically, thesis and dissertations get written and then sit in a printed form on a library shelf and are rarely looked at again. Since we've been placing our students work in this system, we have gotten about 200 thesis and dissertations loaded and they've been downloaded 13,000 times. We also loaded all the issues of our undergraduate journal, the Osprey Journal, into the system and they've had 10K downloads. This is due to the increased visibility and particularly the increased accessibility this system provides.

6600 Overseas Downloads



Now, I mentioned that we are able to know where our stuff is being downloaded from. The reports we get out of the system allow us to know exactly what is being downloaded and how many times, but also we get referrals telling us where these downloads are coming from. In this past year, 6600 of those 33,000 downloads have come from foreign countries. In fact, our publications have been downloaded from 128 different countries. Without this system, it is likely that these overseas researchers would not have access to these materials.

Goes Beyond IR

- SelectedWorks
 - Faculty receive their own space
 - Space is fully portable
- E-Journal
 - Can create open or closed access journals
 - Provides fully functional workflow
- Conferencing
 - Plan and promote conference
 - Submit materials
 - Publish conference papers

Finally, the system really goes beyond what even the traditional IR can provide. It allows us to provide a unique service to our faculty through its SelectedWorks capability. This part of the system is really an advantage for our faculty. It allows each faculty member to have their own space where they can place their publications and make them more broadly available than what they get in traditional publishing. This space is also portable for any faculty who may go to another institution using the bepress platform. Currently, we have 13 participating faculty. Initially, we approached the Presidential and Distinguished professors. That resulted in our first 6 participants. Since then, we've been growing this site by actively advertising it to the faculty.

Also, Digital Commons provides the ability to create open or closed access journals complete with workflow functionality that includes what is needed to successfully publish a peer reviewed journal. This functionality allows the peer review process and the journal publishing process to happen much more quickly than normal and in a very automated way.

This same workflow functionality can be used to provide an entire platform for planning and promoting a conference, including marketing the conference, submitting conference materials, and publishing them online at the completion of the conference.

Live demo

- <http://digitalcommons.unf.edu>



So, now I'm going to show you some of what we've done so far.

References

- Harnand, Stevan, The Implementation of the Berlin Declaration on Open Access, *D-Lib Magazine*, Vol. 11, no. 3, March 2005.
- Xia, Jingfeng et al., Current Trends in Institutional Repositories for Institutions Offering Master's and Baccalaureate Degrees, *Serials Review*, Vol. 36, Iss. 1, March 2010, pp. 10-18.
- www.bepress.com

For more information on the history of institutional repositories and current trends, as well as more information on the Digital Commons platform, please see the references above.

Questions?

Any questions?