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March 2006

Digital Commons: NU-IT Day Presentation

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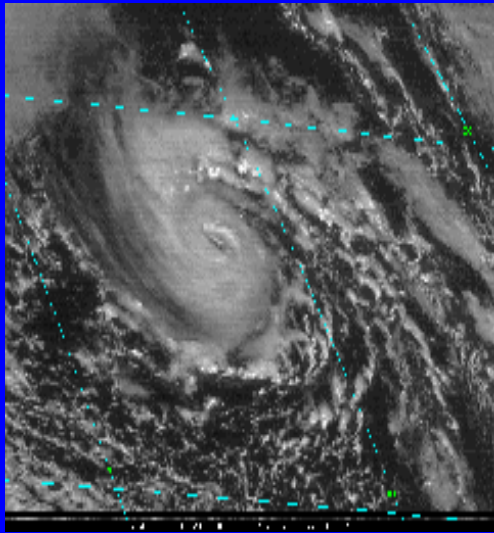
University of Nebraska
Information Technology Day

UNL Digital Commons

Paul Royster

Coordinator of Scholarly Communications

UNL Libraries



A convergence of factors has created “a perfect storm” in the library-information world:

1. The crisis in scholarly publishing
2. The crisis in library budgets
3. The challenge of digital preservation
4. The costs of disseminating research

The crisis in scholarly publishing:

- The consolidation of commercial publishers
- decline of library market for monographs
- scholarly publishers issuing fewer books
- university subsidies are flat or decreasing
- no market for new journals



Scholarly publishers' business model is outdated and outmoded

- the more books you publish the more money you lose
- average fixed costs to develop and publish a book is about \$25,000
- average income from a published book is about \$15,000
- You do the math: "We lose money on every item, but we make it up in volume." ???



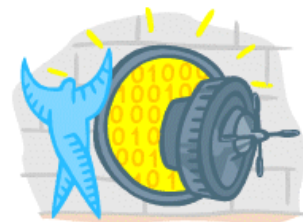
The crisis in library acquisitions budgets

- acquisition budgets are flat, at best
- Prices for subscriptions and electronic databases are approaching the limit of what the market will bear
- annual subscriptions to many journals in science and medicine are in the five figures (i.e. > \$10,000)
- Libraries are now leasing rather than buying content
- 1990: 70% of library acquisition budget was for new monographs
- 2005: 70% of library acquisition budget was for online database access



The challenge of digital preservation

- Electronic materials disappear when they go off-line
- Superseded software and file formats are not supported
- Magnetic storage media have a limited life span (10 years or less)
- Materials are being created at an expanding rate
- When libraries do not continue their subscription to electronic resources, they lose access to materials
- Many places on the World Wide Web are here today, gone tomorrow: “Error 404, file not found”



The costs of research

The public (or the university) pays for research multiple times by paying for

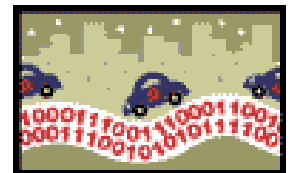
- salary and benefits of researchers & support staff
- labs, equipment, materials, and overhead
- the research funding and grants
- (sometimes) publication fees to publish the research
- subsidies to university presses
- buying (or leasing) the publication



The open-access movement, digital archives, and “Cyberinfrastructure”

Goals / Values

- long-term preservation of electronic resources
- widest possible access to research and scholarship
- respect for intellectual property rights





Digital Commons

digitalcommons.unl.edu



Digital Commons is:

- a new program started by the Libraries in June 2005
- an “Institutional Repository” (IR) = an digital archive for UNL-related documents
- an opportunity for electronic publishing



The “Institutional Repository” (IR)

- receives and archives one electronic copy
- preserves this copy permanently in the UNL Libraries collections
- creates a stable URL with a unl.edu address
- provides and controls electronic access
- migrates the data as formats evolve



Electronic Publishing

- places scholarly publication tools directly in the hands of the faculty: publishing online requires 1) MS Word, 2) a browser, 3) an email address
- each publication series is controlled by its own editorial board
- no limits on article length or number, size, or colors of illustrations
- *"Freedom of the press is limited to those who own one."-- A. J. Liebling*



What does it contain ? (3/14/06)

- 9,503 UNL dissertations
- 1,419 articles, ebooks, & presentations
- 1 electronic journal
- 138 "communities"
- 193 series
- Works from more than 100 UNL faculty & researchers



An “Open Access” archive

- “Open Access” means anyone can browse, read, and download full-text
- **Not** limited to specific institutions or domains; **not** limited to subscribers
- Dissertations in UNL’s IR are open access, but not free to outsiders.
- Access to all other materials is free.
- Access to other materials can be restricted at depositor’s request.

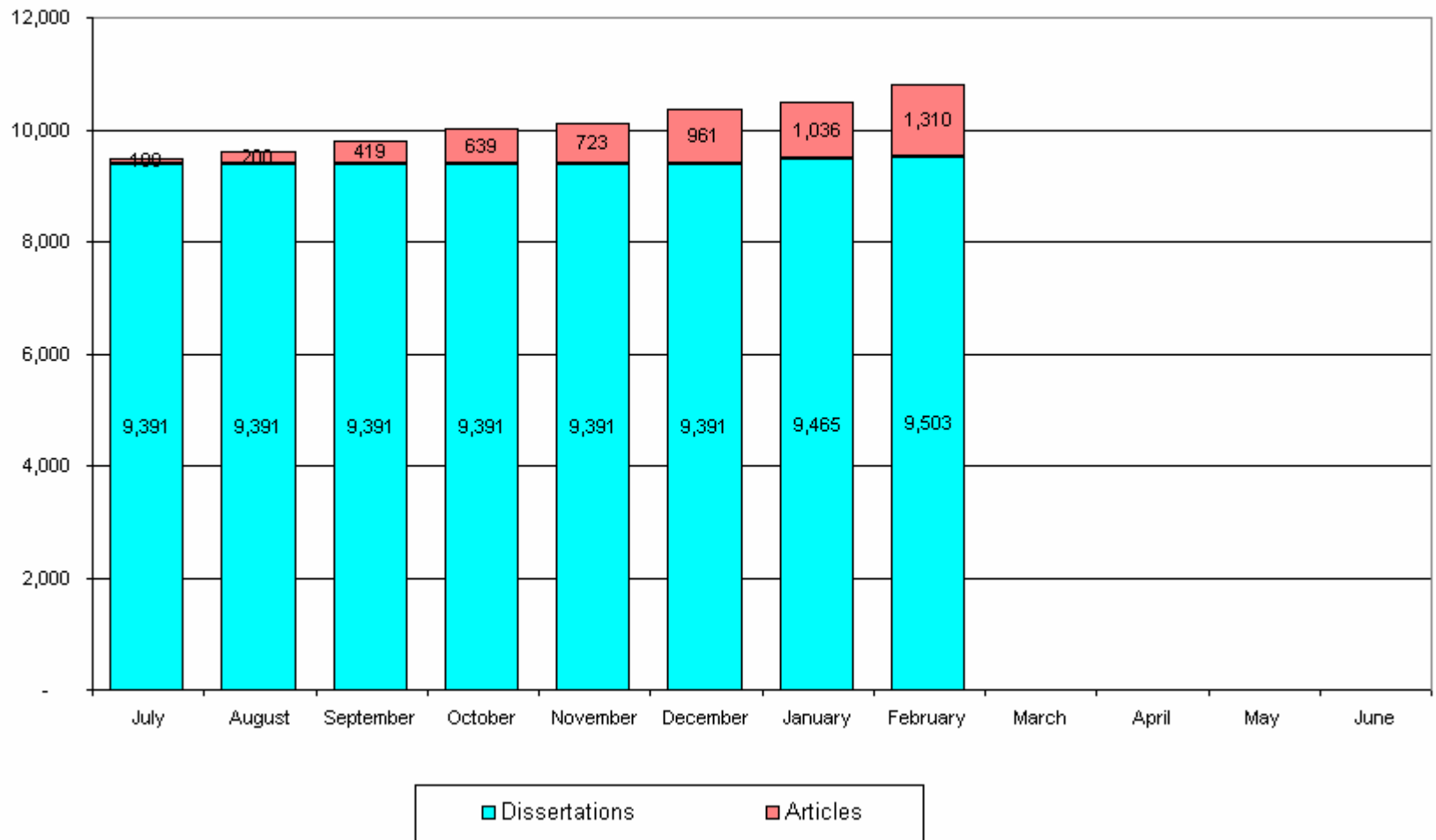


Who goes there ? (or how many ?)

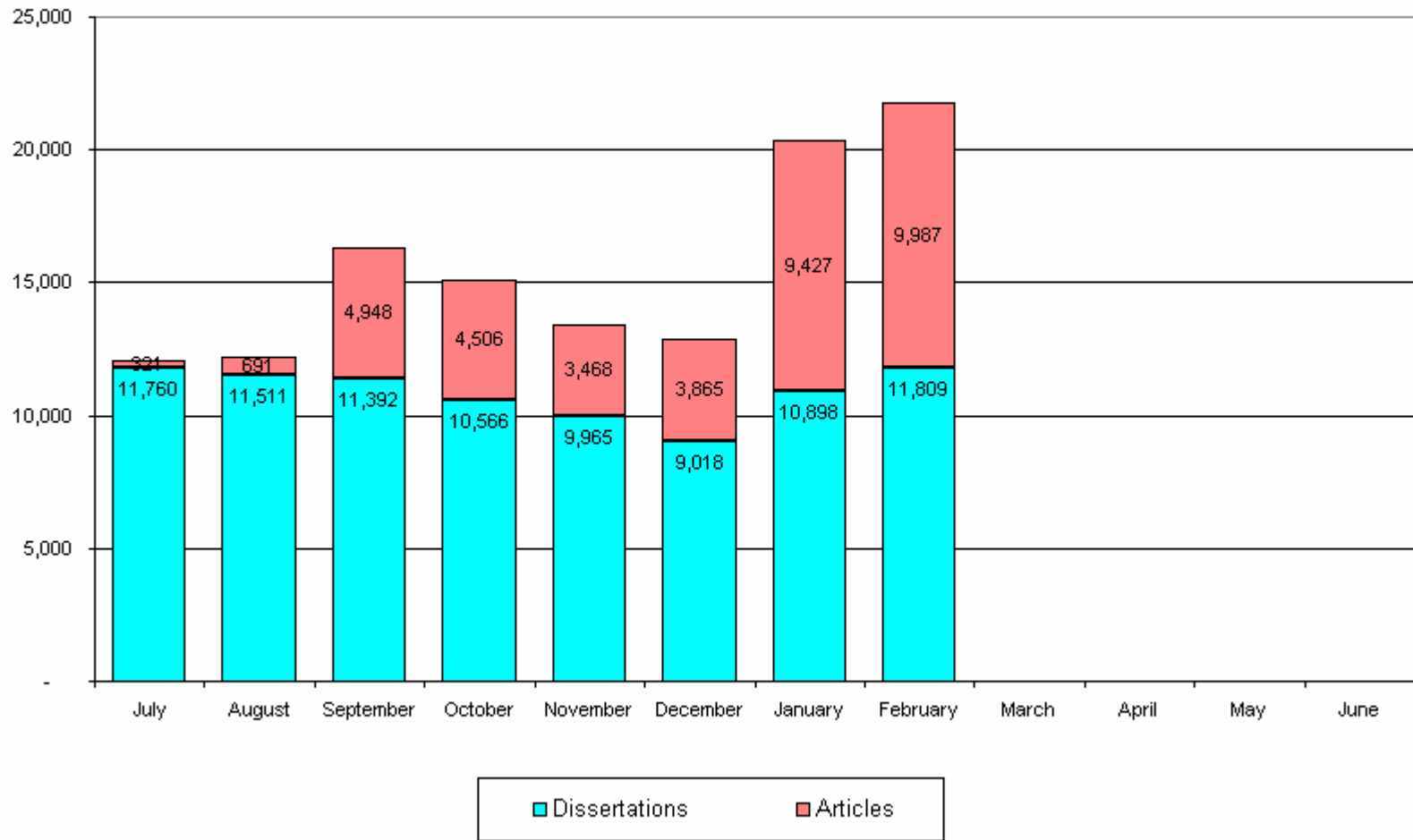
- 124,132 “hits” in first 8 months
- 36,617 downloads in 8 months
- 8,963 downloads in February 2006

- Most downloaded work:
“Online Dictionary of Invertebrate Zoology”
= 6,669 downloads thru 3/9/06

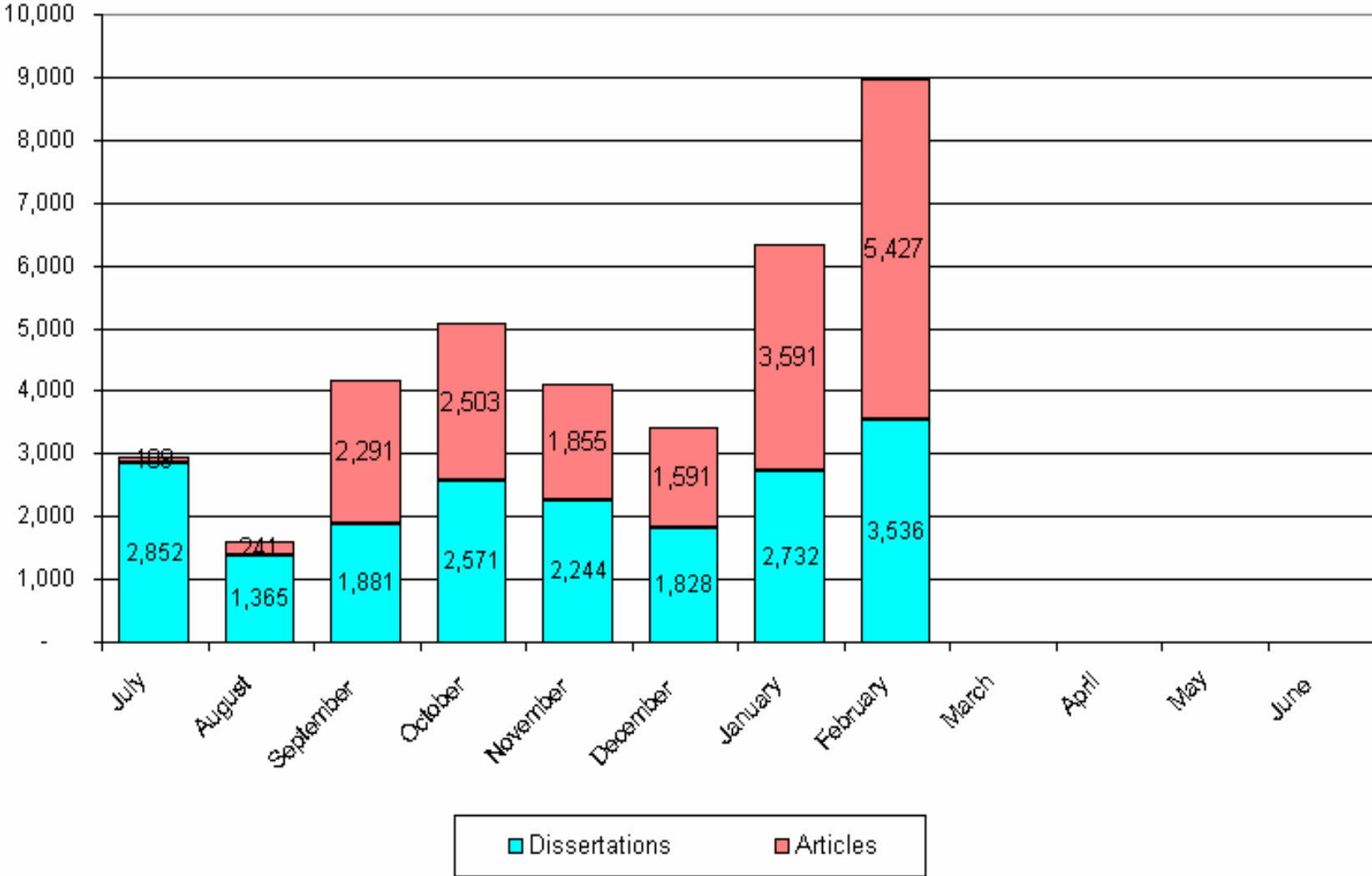
Repository Contents



IR Hits (monthly)



IR Documents Downloaded (monthly)





Benefits: online work is

- accessible immediately, 24/7, worldwide
- visible to common search engines (such as Google and Google Scholar)
- viewed and cited more frequently, especially by students
- identified with the author's name and date of submission
- collected together in one place
- permanently housed, even after author retires or moves to another institution or to a different "plane of existence"



Who controls the copyright ?

- the author/creator or the party to whom copyright has been sold or licensed by the author
- not the library; not the university (unless by separate agreement)
- Online publication does not affect the copyright of previously published works.
- Online publication establishes copyright for previously unpublished works.



Rights to published works

- 93% of journals allow pre-publication posting to an IR
- 60% of journal publishers have blanket policies allowing post-publication deposit
- most of the remaining 40% of publishers will give authors permission to deposit in their home institution's repository



Publishers with policies permitting archiving:

- American Economics Association
- American Institute of Physics
- American Mathematical Society
- American Psychological Association
- Am. Soc. of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- American Society of Plant Biologists
- Annual Reviews
- Arnold Publishers
- BioMed Central
- Biophysical Society
- **Blackwell**
- BMJ Publishing Group
- CAB International
- **Cambridge University Press**
- Ecological Society of America
- **Elsevier**
- **Haworth Press**
- **John Wiley & Sons**
- **Johns Hopkins University Press**
- Kluwer
- **Marcel Dekker**
- National Academy of Sciences
- Nature Publishing Group
- **Oxford University Press**
- **Sage**
- Springer Verlag
- **Taylor & Francis**
- **University of California Press**
- **University of Chicago Press**

Source: <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/index.html>



The Library wants to publish:

- Previously published articles
- Presentations, talks, unpublished manuscripts
- Out-of-print books
- Hard-to-find texts & documents
- Teaching materials
- Research, scholarship, or creative activity of any kind



The Digital Commons offers:

1. Immediate electronic publication, with 24/7, worldwide, free access to materials
2. Design & typesetting services
3. Permissions & copyright clearance
4. Regular usage reports by email
5. Permanent URL for linking
6. Long-term archiving, storage, and migration.



Getting started: the D.I.Y. model

1. Find an existing series; or establish a new one (1-page questionnaire)
2. Log in to register and receive a password at <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/myaccount.cgi>
3. Begin uploading your own Word or pdf files

Submitting an article takes less than 2 minutes.



Getting started: the **D.I.F.M.*** model

1. Email me your *vita* or list of publications: proyster@unl.edu
2. (There is no step 2.)

*D.I.F.M. = "Do it for me"

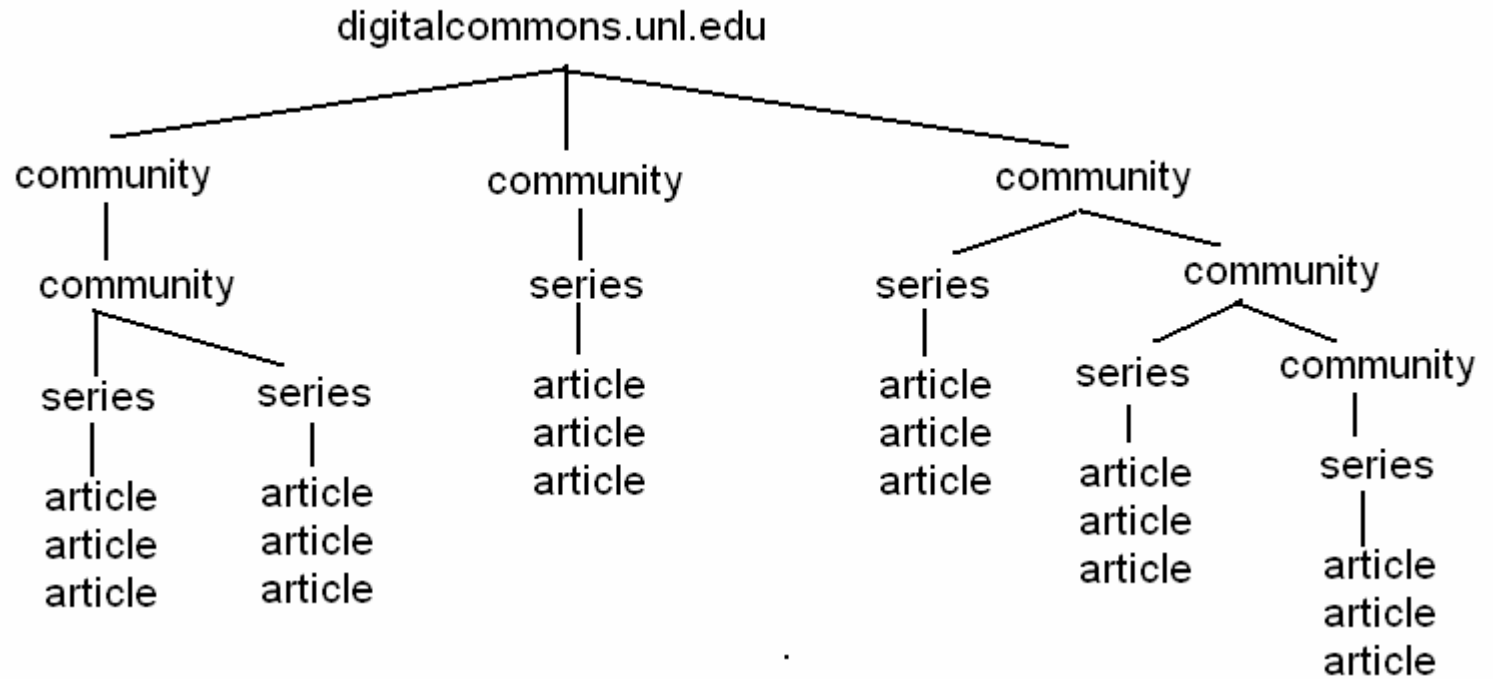
To establish a new “series”

1. Decide its affiliation or sponsoring “community” (department, school, college, etc.)
2. Give it a name
3. Recruit or volunteer the series editor(s)
4. Email the information to proyster@unl.edu



You can publish your own work, plus work from colleagues at this or any other institution.

Site structure



Article page

Metadata:

- title, author(s), comments, abstract, keywords
- format, size, and date of all linked files

Link to download document

Links to download supplemental files

Links to go to

- series & higher-level communities
- my account, help, policies, etc.
- UNL Libraries
- UNL

Document file

default = .pdf

toggle on = any file type

.doc
.jpg
.tif
.pdf

.xml
.bat
.qt
.qxd

.htm
.wks
.bmp
.cdr

.sit

.gif
.wmf
.mpg
.mp3

Digital Commons
full path

List of all articles by this author w/ links

User Account

UNL Libraries
iris

UNL.edu



Costs

- There are **no costs** to the publishing unit.
- Hardware, set-up, programming, maintenance, and support costs are paid by the UNL Libraries.
Annual fee < \$35,000.



Why put work online?

- Widest possible access—delivered directly to the screen (and hard drive) of any Internet-connected computer, anywhere, anytime.
- Full text is linkable from any web page, email, vita, or hypertext document.
- Build and enhance an online presence, identity, and reputation.



“But my article is already online . . .”

Is it . . .

- Free? Or behind a wall—for paid users only?
- Available off-campus, in hotels, airports, internet cafes?
- Available in Delhi, Lagos, Beijing, or Bagdad?
- At its own linkable URL, or at the end of a Java search syntax?
- Indexed by Google?
- Contributing to the unl.edu domain?
- Accessible to your mother?



A cybernetic experiment:

- “Google” your article title and see what you get.
- Is there a free-access, full-text version listed in the top 10 results?
- If not, then the Digital Commons can possibly help put one there.



What if I change my mind ?

- The depositor or editor can post a **revised** version or change the “metadata” at any time, from any connection.
- Any article can be **withdrawn** by the depositor or editor at any time; it will no longer show up on the site.



What does the Library get out of it ?

- Access
- Dissemination
- Preservation
- Collection development
- Recruitment of faculty
- Enrollment of students



Contact

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UNL Libraries

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Places to visit:

Front door: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/>

Main directory: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/communities.html>

ODIZ: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/onlinedictinvertzoology/>

Music Performance: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/musicperform/>

Podcasts: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/podcast1/>

Ornithology: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/biosciornithology/>

Vert Pests: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/vpcthirteen/>

Library Faculty Pubs:

Timoleon, Etc. <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libraryscience/16/>

De bestiis marinis <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libraryscience/17/>

Pynchon chronology <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libraryscience/2/>



Google searches

<http://www.google.com/>

Richard Wright Pagan Spain

Lyly Midas

Ultraviolet Birds of Nebraska

Joshua Scottow

primase structure and function

androsynhesmia (= "A group of males gathered together during mating season.")