

*Digital Commons - Information and Tools*  
*Digital Commons / Institutional Repository*  
*Information*

---

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

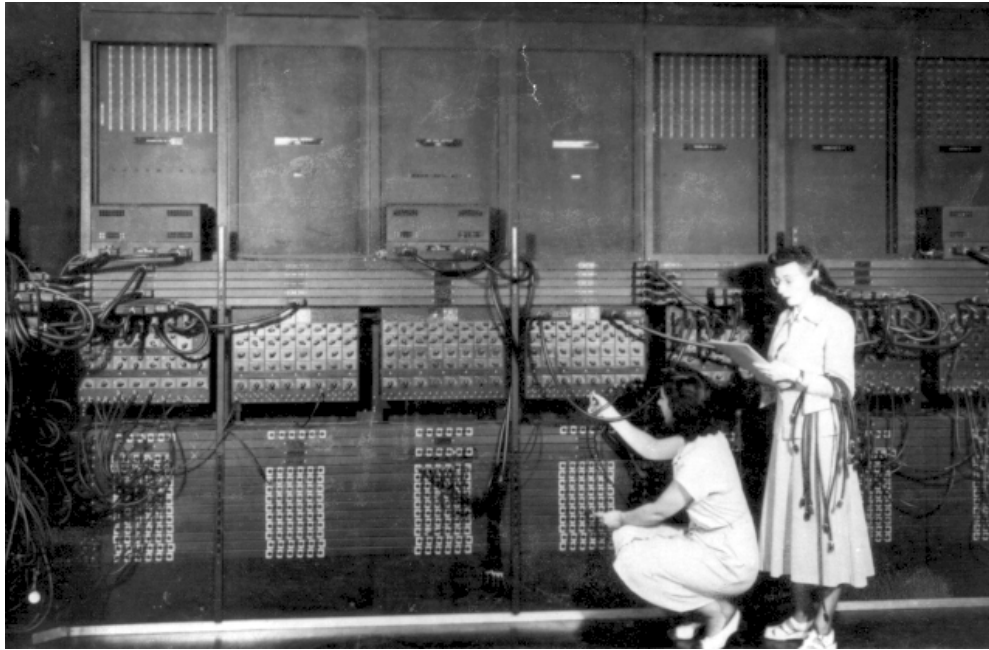
Year 2007

---

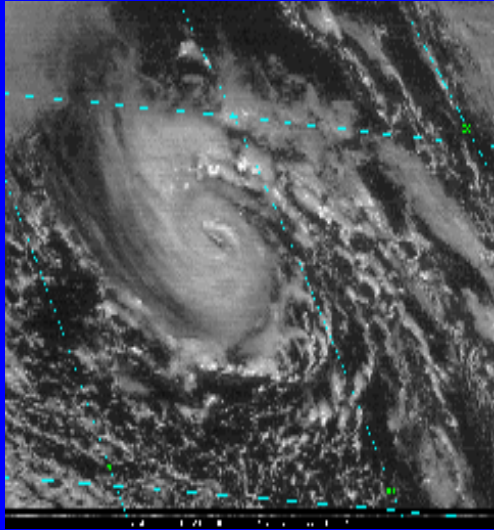
UNL Digital Commons – An  
Introduction

Paul Royster  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, [proyster@unl.edu](mailto:proyster@unl.edu)

# *Digital*Commons @ UNL



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# Scholarly publishers' business model is outdated and outmoded

---

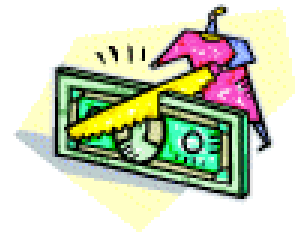
- the more books you publish the more money you lose
- average fixed costs to develop and publish a book is about \$25,000
- average income from a published book is about \$15,000
- You do the math: "We lose money on every item, but we make it up in volume." ???



# 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

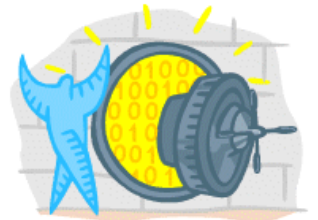




# The challenge of digital preservation

---

- 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

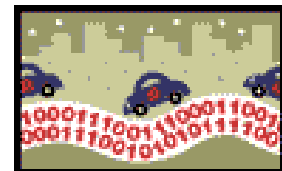


# The open-access movement, digital archives, and “Cyberinfrastructure”

---

## Goals / Values

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

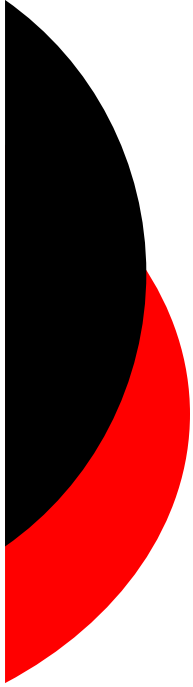




## Digital Commons is:

---

- 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 ? (8/23/07)

---

- 10,505 UNL dissertations
- 8,540 articles, ebooks, & presentations
- 1 electronic journal
- 161 “communities”
- 367 series
- Works from more than 500 UNL faculty & researchers



## An “Open Access” archive

---

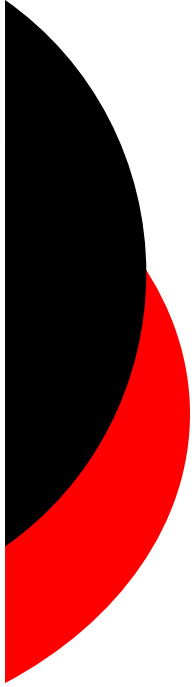
- “Open Access” means anyone can browse, read, and download full-text
- **Not** limited to specific institutions or domains; **not** limited to subscribers
- Dissertations in UNL’s IR are open-access on campus, but not free to outsiders.
- Access to all other materials is free.
- Access to other materials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



## Who goes there ? (or how many ?)

---

- 1,060,000 “hits” in first 2 years
- 580,000 downloads in 2 years
- 36,862 downloads in July 2007
  
- Most downloaded work:
  - “Online Dictionary of Invertebrate Zoology”
    - > 150,000 downloads last year



## 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

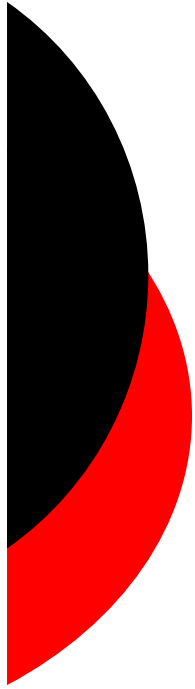
Source: <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/index.html>



## 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](mailto:proyster@unl.edu)
2. (There is no step 2.)

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



## To establish a new “series”

---

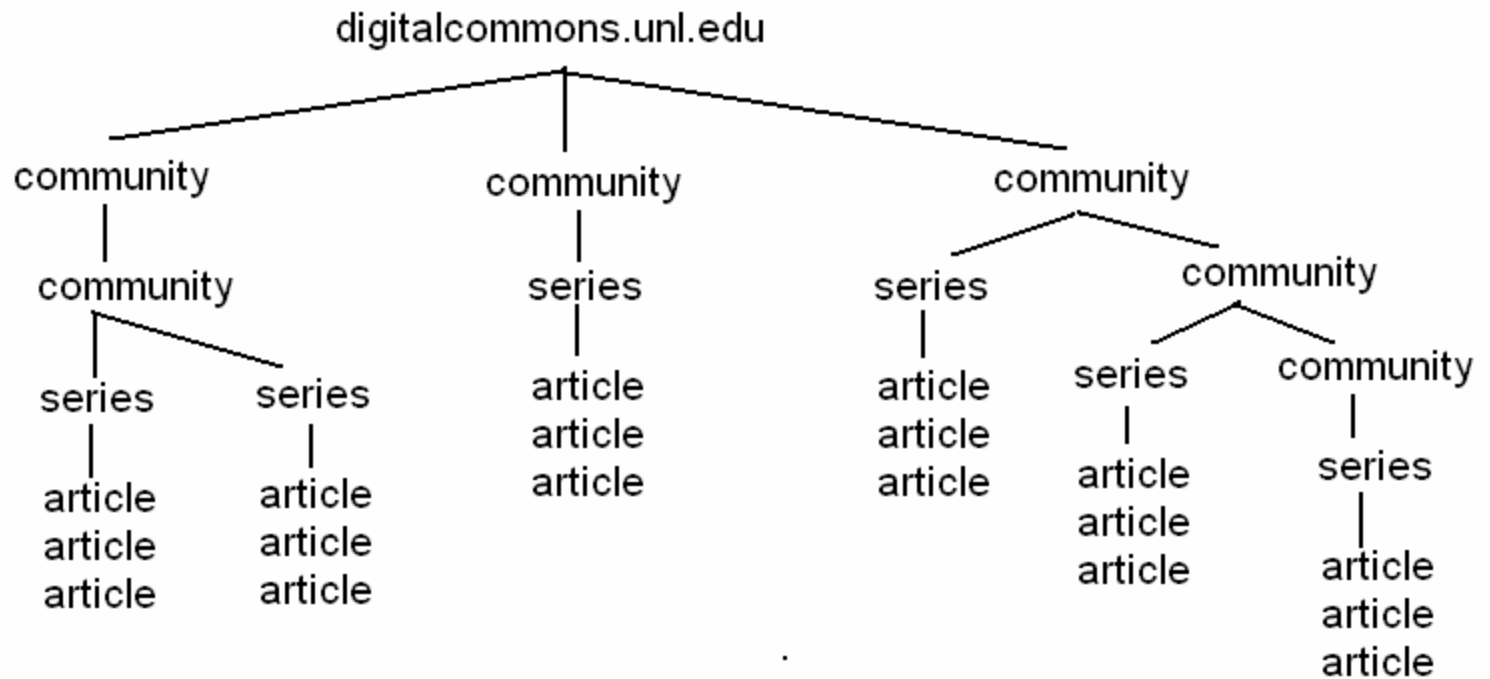
1. Decide its affiliation or sponsoring “community” (department, school, college, etc.)
2. Give it a name
3. Recruit or volunteer the series editor(s)
4. Email the information to [proyster@unl.edu](mailto:proyster@unl.edu)



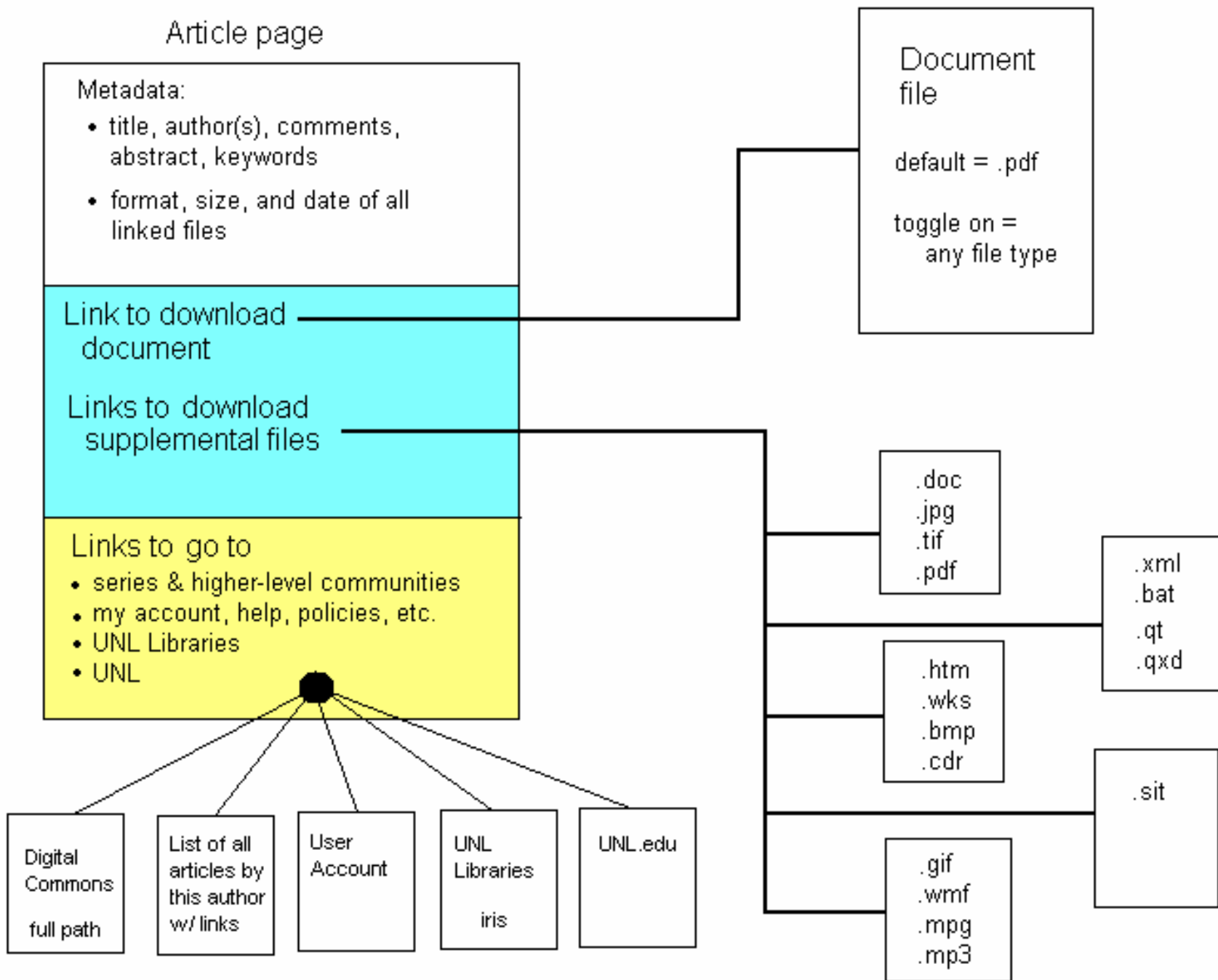
You can publish your own work, plus work from colleagues at this or any other institution.

# Site structure

---



# Article page

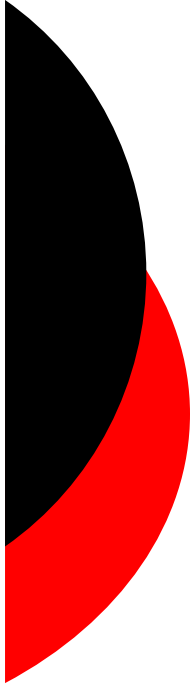




## Costs

---

- 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.

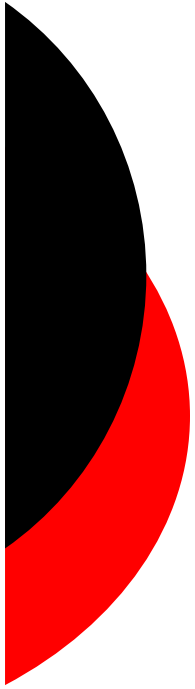


*“But my article is already online . . . .”*

---

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 ?

---

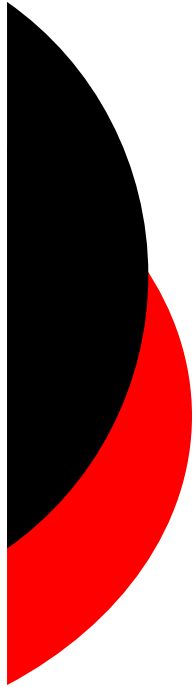
- The depositor or editor can post a **revised** version or change the “metadata” at any time, from any connection.
- Any article can be **withdrawn** by the depositor or editor at any time; it will no longer show up on the site.



## What does the Library get out of it ?

---

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



## Contact

---

Paul Royster

Coordinator of Scholarly Communications

UNL Libraries

306 Love Library

402 472-3628

email: [proyster@unl.edu](mailto:proyster@unl.edu)

site: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/>



## 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.")