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# Office of Scholarly Communications Annual Report, FY 2012

Paul Royster

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

Sue Ann Gardner

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln*, [sgardner2@unl.edu](mailto:sgardner2@unl.edu)

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# Office of Scholarly Communications Annual Report

Submitted by Paul Royster & Sue Ann Gardner

## Introduction

The UNL Libraries' Office of Scholarly Communications continues to be among the most active and innovative in the USA. Its DigitalCommons repository is the nation's second-largest, but perhaps its most impressive feature is the degree of faculty acceptance and participation. Other libraries are challenged to get faculty to contribute to their repositories; we are challenged to keep up with the incoming volume and ongoing demand for services. Our library publishing efforts are also a model for others, and we are a leader in the development of electronic publishing of open-access academic materials.

## Accomplishments

- From July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, the UNL DigitalCommons institutional repository added 6,372 open-access articles, ebooks, theses, and other documents, plus 1,008 dissertations deposited at ProQuest and thesis scanned from microfilm. Total of new items for the year was 7,380. Downloads for the year exceeded 4.3 million, and users in 192 foreign countries found and downloaded materials from our site.
- Support and participation among UNL faculty continued to grow. In addition to new depositors (recruited primarily via word-of-mouth by other faculty), returning depositors brought additional new materials in a gratifying display of continuing engagement. Within the library, Kiyomi Deards, Leslie Delserone, and Kent LaCombe were energetic and successful recruiters of content.
- Zea E-Books—the Library's digital book-publishing imprint—published 3 new works by Paul Johnsgard (*Rocky Mountain Birds*, *Wetland Birds of the Central Plains*, and *A Prairie's Not Scary*), a 3-volume work translated and edited by Quentin Faulkner (*Jacob Adlung's Musica mechanica organoedi*), and a exhibition catalog edited by Alison Stewart and Greg Nosan (*Media Revolution*). Revenues for the year were \$811.74.
- New organizations that committed to archiving publications included: Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education, Textile Society of America, Nebraska Educational Office Professionals Association, Nebraska Library Association, Nebraska Academy of Sciences, and Sheldon Art Museum.
- Invited/selected presentations and publications by OSC staff included:
  - “The Art of Scanning,” ALCTS online webinar, August 24, 2011 (PR)

- "Institutional Repositories" Nebraska Library Association Annual Conference, Lincoln, NE, October 6, 2011 (PR)
- "So You Have to Write a Paper? Consider Writing a Literature Review," Nebraska Library Association annual conference, Lincoln, NE, October 7, 2011 (SG)
- "LibraryThing Cataloging for the University of Nebraska State Museum," UNL Libraries, October 12, 2012 (SG)
- "Zea E-Books: Digital Imprint of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries" [poster], Life & Literature conference (international), Field Museum, Chicago, November 14-15, 2011 (SG & PR)
- "Cresting toward the Sea Change: Literature Review of Cataloging and Classification, 2009-2010, List of Sources," available on the ALCTS Web site, December 2011 (SG)
- "The Cataloger's Future in the 21st-Century Research Library: What Will We Do and How Will We Do It?," University of Utah Marriott Library, January 10, 2012 (SG)
- "Setting up a Library-Led Publishing Program" at a symposium on "The University Library as Digital Press: Supporting academic publishing alternatives through the IR" at Mills Memorial Library Sherman Centre, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, March 26, 2012 (PR)
- "Cresting toward the Sea Change: Literature Review of Cataloging and Classification, 2009-2010," *Library Resources & Technical Services* (April 2012), 56(2): 64-79; commissioned, peer-reviewed literature review (ALCTS) / journal article (SG)
- "Building the UNL Digital Repository," Nebraska Library Association Technical Services Roundtable, Bellevue University, April 13, 2012 (PR)
- "The Trouble with MARC, and Metadata Alternatives," Nebraska Library Association Technical Services Roundtable, Bellevue University, April 13, 2012 (SG)
- "Scholarly Publishing in the U.S., Then and Now: A Brief History and Implications for the Future" at the Nebraska Library Association College & University Section/Special & Institutional Section spring meeting, Grace University, Omaha, Nebraska, May 18, 2012 (SG)
- The OSC hosted representatives from UN-Omaha and provided guidance and advice on setting up their new repository, January 18, 2012. Other consulting and advice was provided to library representatives from University of Cincinnati, Penn State University, and Eastern Illinois University.
  - On campus, PR facilitated an "Open Access Roundtable" in the Library, October 26, 2011., and led an Ethics Center lunch discussion on "Intellectual Property", March 15, 2012.
  - We managed the deposit of more than 500 open-access masters theses and doctoral dissertations, providing important and popular content for the repository. The down-side is the 2 weeks leading to each of the 3 degree deadlines, when managing panicky or distraught degree candidates becomes somewhat hectic and time-consuming.
  - Sue Ann Gardner increased from 0.75 FTE to 1.00 FTE in March. She continues to be responsible for map and dissertation cataloging, and metadata consulting, which takes time away from repository work.

- PR & SG attended the SPARC Repositories national meeting in Kansas City, March 11–13. What was most remarkable was how little progress has been made nationally in the 1-1/2 years since the last meeting. SPARC leadership has committed its support to 1) “Gold OA” funding, 2) Creative Commons licensing, and 3) campus mandates—all positions that UNL has chosen to eschew.

## **Trends**

Locally, our trends are very positive. Awareness and acceptance of our work among campus faculty continues to increase. More and more publishing organizations are using us as a means to host, publish, archive, and disseminate their content. We have an active digitization system, staffed by low-cost student workers. We have earned a reputation for being knowledgeable, flexible, helpful, and supportive. We have made service for the faculty our top priority, and it has paid off with commitment and loyalty from their side.

Nationally, the trends are more troubling. Other institutions have not had the levels of success we have enjoyed here, and there have been increasing movements to either compel or purchase faculty cooperation. Support for so-called “gold” (i.e., paid) open access, apparently growing out of despair over faculty apathy, has grown, and it has led some institutions to earmark funds for “ransoming” back access rights from publishers. “Gold OA” is, of course, the method preferred by established publishers, who see opportunity to be paid twice for the same content, as well as by a growing set of open-access entrepreneurs, who see opportunities to monetize scholarship on a new business model. None of these approaches puts the academy back in control of its own content, and (perhaps fortunately) there seems to be more smoke than fire, as the blogging, discussing, contending, posting, postulating, and posturing far outweigh the actual output. Still, it is distressing to see many institutions pursuing methods that strike us as misguided or ill-advised.

Meanwhile, however, none are enjoying the kind of success we have demonstrated, and an ever-increasing number have been following our example and model. Berkeley Electronic Press has enjoyed three years of unprecedented growth, more than doubling their installed customer base for DigitalCommons. As their largest and most visible repository, we have been their academic standard-bearer and exemplar. They have been good to work with, so we do not object.

## **Challenges**

Our major challenge is how to serve an expanding faculty base with a finite set of resources. This is a good challenge, and we are keen to meet it.

## **Goals for next fiscal year**

As more faculty backlists are deposited, we can focus on working closer to the present, and using automated alerts and database updates to find and include new articles as they appear, rather than waiting for faculty to update their vita or lists on an irregular basis. This has 2 benefits: 1) the faculty are

impressed and appreciative of our proactive efforts, and 2) the recent articles are more popular and more often downloaded.

More finite goals include deposit of 6,000 to 8,000 new items in the repository, publication of 3 to 5 new Zea Books, and expansion of faculty participation by 50 to 75 new recruits.