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2009-2010 Annual Report: Office of Scholarly Communications

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2009-2010 Annual Report: Office of Scholarly Communications

Summary

The Office of Scholarly Communications (OSC) had a very busy and productive year. Important developments included expansion of the UNL DigitalCommons repository by over 7,000 items, a major increase in downloads furnished from the repository, passage of a UNL Faculty Senate resolution endorsing use of the repository, creation of an e-book imprint, registration as a publisher with Portico for permanent storage of journal content, recognition in a feature article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, multiple campus, national, and international presentations by Paul Royster and Sue Ann Gardner, ranking of 17th among institutional and 33rd among world repositories by the Cybermetrics Lab in July 2010, enrollment of several UNL publishing centers, and more widespread acceptance of the repositories role and function on the UNL campus.

Projects

The **UNL DigitalCommons** added 7,493 open-access articles and 300 ETDs (via ProQuest) during the year. This was slightly fewer than the previous year's 8,393 articles, but still made us among the fastest-growing institutional repositories in the world. During the year, 2,024,734 downloads were furnished, an increase of 47% over the previous year's total. Downloads went to more 180 countries worldwide, carrying the UNL branding to all continents.

Zea E-Books was formed to be an electronic imprint for original works published by the UNL Libraries through the OSC. The imprint name was approved by all relevant university administrators. Its aim is to serve the UNL community by offering an enhanced digital outlet for the timely, professional, and widely disseminated publication of research, scholarship, and creative activity. Works offered will be high-quality scholarship from the UNL community or from outside experts making significant contributions to areas of research interest at this institution. Books will be published in e-book (PDF) format and as on-demand hard-copy through Lulu.com. We hope to publish the first works in calendar year 2010.

Portico is a digital preservation service provided by ITHAKA. We paid the minimum fee (\$250) to join as a publisher (we were already a subscriber), allowing us to archive content from journals that we host in a permanent preservation archive.

Presentations

Paul Royster:

American Library Association Annual Convention, Chicago, Illinois, July 12, 2009, "Institutional Repositories," at "Collecting for Digital Repositories: New Ways to Disseminate and Share Information," co-sponsored by ACRL EBSS E-Resources in Communication Studies Committee and ACRL Scholarly Communications Committee

UNL Library Liasons & Staff Development, "Digital Commons Forum," August 5, 2009; repeated January 26, 2010. With Sue Ann Gardner.

UNL College of Journalism and Mass Communications, August 17, 2009, "UNL Digital Commons"

UN College of Law, September 15, 2009, "UNL Digital Commons"

GWLA Webinar, October 13, 2009, "Institutional Repositories" (repeat of ALA presentation)

UNL Open-Access Day, October 22, 2009, "Repositories and Open Access"

University of Michigan Libraries, Ann Arbor, MI, November 6, 2009, "What Is Broken about Scholarly Publishing, and How to Fix It," invited presentation

UNL Faculty Senate, March 2, 2010, "UNL Digital Commons: Your Institutional Repository"

Berkeley Electronic Press Webinar, April 1, 2010, "Google Analytics: A Worm's-Eye View and Digital Commons Usage Reports"

Southeast Nebraska Public Libraries, May 21, 2010, "Copyright: The Crash Course"

Sue Ann Gardner:

UNL Library Liasons & Staff Development, "Digital Commons Forum," August 5, 2009; repeated January 26, 2010. With Paul Royster.

IAMSLIC Annual/EURASLIC Biennial Conference, "The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Digital Commons," Brugge, Belgium, September 29, 2010.

IAMSLIC Annual/EURASLIC Biennial Conference, "Hot Potato: Who Will End Up Paying for Open Access?" Brugge, Belgium, September 30, 2010.

Papers

Sue Ann Gardner:

"Hot Potato: Who Will End Up Paying for Open Access?" *IAMSLIC/EURASLIC Conference Proceedings* (2010): 127-134.

"The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Digital Commons," *IAMSLIC/EURASLIC Conference Proceedings* (2010): 168.

"Archiving and Records Management Perspectives on Electronic-Only Publications for Nomenclature," *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, vol. 66, no. 4 (December 2009): 308-310.

Grants

Sue Ann Gardner: American Libraries Association, Carnegie-Whitney grant, 2010. \$1,000 to prepare the biennial *Library Resources and Technical Services* cataloging and classification literature review for 2009-2010 (refereed).

Staffing

Sue Ann Gardner went from .50 to .75 FTE as of June 1, 2010. As of spring 2010, Gardner is a UNL Faculty of Life Sciences member.

The OSC operated with four work-study students during most of the year; none were carry-overs from previous years. During May and June 2010, Jessica Chandler returned as a regular wage employee to help with file uploading.

Recognition

The OSC was prominently profiled in a feature article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, June 18, 2010, pp. A12-A13: "Digital Repositories Foment a Quiet Revolution in Scholarship," by Jennifer Howard.

The UNL **Faculty Senate** passed a resolution April 6, 2010, endorsing the use of the UNL DigitalCommons. The press release accompanying this event is attached.

The UNL DigitalCommons, specifically its efforts in re-publishing the out-of-print works of **Paul Johnsgard**, was also featured in Berkeley Electronic Press promotional materials, <http://go.unl.edu/068>, <http://go.unl.edu/gaq>

The **Cybermetrics Lab**, a research group of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) in Spain, issues an annual ranking of world repositories <<http://repositories.webometrics.info/index.html>>. In this year's list, the UNL DigitalCommons placed 17th among world institutional repositories and 33rd among all world repositories.

Notable additions and acquisitions to the UNL DigitalCommons

UNL master's theses — Now required by the Graduate Office to be deposited in UNL DigitalCommons

National Collegiate Honors Council publications — including *Journal of the NCHC*, *Honors in Practice* and their monograph series

Michigan Bovine Tuberculosis Bibliography and Database (USDA)

University of Nebraska Press — sample books and chapters

Center for Science, Mathematics & Computer Education

Leadership Institute (CBA)

Nebraska Law Review

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

Human Trafficking Conference

Great Plains Quarterly

Affiliates of the Manter Parasitology Lab

Report prepared by Paul Royster and Sue Ann Gardner, August 2010

Attachment: Press release on Faculty Senate resolution

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Faculty Senate Endorses Open Access

On April 6, 2010, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Faculty Senate approved a "**Resolution on Digital Commons Institutional Repository**," formally endorsing the open-access online archive for faculty scholarship and research managed by the UNL Libraries' Office of Scholarly Communications.

Nebraska's **UNL Digital Commons** (<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu>) was established in 2005 and has grown to become the second largest institutional repository for faculty research in the United States (trailing only Michigan's Deep Blue). It currently hosts more than 40,000 documents, including 11,000 dissertations and 29,000 faculty articles, monographs, reviews, white papers, technical reports, conference presentations, musical scores, and creative works. The repository currently furnishes around 7,000 downloads daily, with the largest sources of traffic being Google (55%) and Wikipedia (10%).

More than 500 active and emeritus faculty currently have contents in the repository, and they receive monthly reports by email of how often their works have been downloaded. The faculty author with the most articles (currently 436) is **Terry Klopfenstein** of the Animal Science Department; the author who gets the most downloads is **Robert Katz** (emeritus, Department of Physics & Astronomy), whose 203 articles were downloaded 17,945 times in 2009. What all faculty seem to appreciate most is the feedback they get through the monthly download reports: to see that 10, or 50, or 150 people have downloaded your article in the past 30 days is a tremendous incentive to write more articles and get them into the repository.

Paul Royster, UNL Libraries Coordinator of Scholarly Communications and manager of the UNL Digital Commons, attributes the repository's growth to two factors: 1) the productive research output of the UNL faculty, and 2) the repository's determination to make participation as easy as possible. To this end, they have adopted a "Send us your vita and we'll do the rest" policy, providing services that he describes as: "permissioning, hunting and gathering, scanning, typesetting, metadata-ing, uploading & posting, usage reporting, promoting, and print-on-demand publication."

While many universities have resorted to "mandates" that require faculty to put works into their repositories, the UNL Digital Commons has successfully developed on a strictly voluntary approach. The ease of participation, the expanded dissemination offered by open access, and the added gratification of getting reports on readership have helped build faculty participation to unprecedented levels. Comments Royster, "Word of mouth has become our best recruitment tool—faculty telling other faculty this is something they ought to do." To this end, the Faculty Senate resolution marks an important step: it is an endorsement and an encouragement, but not a mandated requirement. Royster, who gave an invited presentation to the Senate when the resolution was officially introduced on March 2, reports

that over the next 24 hours, twelve new faculty participants contacted him with publication lists to be included—a “tsunami” of new enrollments for the repository’s staff of 1.5 FTE and 4 work-study students.

"Since UNL's Digital Commons has been developed on a voluntary basis and by word of mouth, the Research Council thought that a resolution approved by the Faculty Senate would encourage more UNL faculty not currently participating to submit their vitas and papers," stated Tala Awada, Associate Professor, School of Natural Resources. Awada is the Chair of UNL’s Research Council and assisted in bringing the resolution up for the vote.

The UNL Libraries are also moving ahead with plans to establish an open-access electronic imprint for developing and publishing original monographic works as well. The repository already hosts a number of such works that represented first-rate scholarship but failed to match the packaging requirements of the conventional “dead-tree” publishers. Having a separate and recognizable imprint for original scholarly works will give the repository another outlet for providing needed services to the faculty and perhaps help set further trends in the evolving world of scholarly communications.

[Text of the UNL Faculty Senate resolution]

Resolution on Digital Commons Institutional Repository

The Research Council to the Faculty Senate:

Whereas — Many members of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty from every college have taken advantage of services offered by the Libraries to create and populate a very successful institutional repository, the UNL Digital Commons, now containing more than 27,000 open-access items of faculty and student research, including articles, original monographs, and journals, as well as more than 11,000 dissertations, and

whereas — this repository is one of the largest academic institutional repositories in the United States, is accessed from more than 150 countries, and is indexed by Google and other major search engines, and

whereas — online open-access electronic dissemination of scholarship is an extremely effective way to enhance the visibility, recognition, and reach of faculty research,

be it resolved — that the participating faculty are to be congratulated for their support and use of the institutional repository and that all faculty are to be encouraged to take advantage of these services.

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