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# Office of Scholarly Communications Annual Report FY 2009

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# Office of Scholarly Communications Annual Report

FY 2009 (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009)

## UNL Digital Commons institutional repository

FY 2009 was the 4th year of operations for the UNL Digital Commons, which again established new records for recruitment, participation, and usage.

- During the year, the repository grew from being the 4th largest in the United States to the 2nd largest, overtaking MIT's DSpace and Ohio State's KnowledgeBank repositories. Nebraska now trails only Michigan's Deep Blue in number of documents in a traditionally configured institutional repository.
- 8,393 new open access articles were deposited, an increase of 1,275 (18%) over the previous year. At June 30, 2009, the repository held 23,885 open-access documents, plus 10,965 ETDs in the ProQuest database, for a total of 34,850.
- 1,379,604 downloads were furnished, an increase of 550,379 (66%) over the previous year.

Some highlights:

**CIT participation** — After much discussion, IANR's Communications and Information Technology (CIT) team began depositing archival versions of historical NebGuides and NebFacts that had once been available in digital form, but had been taken offline (and links to our library catalogue broken) when their policy changed in early 2007. So far, over 1200 documents have been added and deposits continue on a daily basis.

**Great Plains Research backfile completed** — The Center for Great Plains Studies had originally allowed us to post one issue of *Great Plains Research* as a test. They were so pleased with the online response that they decided to put the whole backfile (up to a 3-year moving wall) into the Digital Commons. The Office of Scholarly Communications did the scanning and uploading, and completed the work in May 2009. Plans are now in place to do the same for the Center's other journal, *Great Plains Quarterly*.

**Hopi Nation book** — John Wunder's edited collection of essays and artwork from the Hopi Tricentennial Symposium was published online in October and in print-on-demand format in November. The book has been nominated for the Joan Paterson Kerr Book Award, given by the Western History Association for the best illustrated book published during the year 2008. It has also won over Dr. Wunder, who has since begun developing plans to publish online an annual series of papers emanating from the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society conference.

**Johnsgard's Winter Bird Counts book** — *Four Decades of Christmas Bird Counts in the Great Plains: Ornithological Evidence of a Changing Climate* by Paul Johnsgard and Thomas Shane was published in February. The work covers 226 species and includes maps for each one. Ideally (i.e., time permitting), I would like to re-design and re-set this book into a more user-friendly reference format, but meanwhile it is published, and Paul is happy with it.

## Staffing

**Sue Ann Gardner** joined the OSC team in September 2008. She has been an extremely valuable addition. She picked up the necessary computer skills very quickly, and she already had many usable strengths in terms of locating articles, establishing metadata, and building faculty contacts.

This was the 3rd (and, alas, final) year that the OSC benefited from the work of **Jessica Chandler**, our work-study student from Anselmo, who specializes in uploading new content. Jessi deserves special praise and credit for her attitude and application. I am sure she personally deposited more than 6,000 documents during the fiscal year. She goes on to graduate school at UNO in the fall.

## Presentations

**ETDs and open access symposium** — The Department of English, the Graduate School, and the Libraries' OSC collaborated with ProQuest to present a day-long symposium on the issues of publishing creative writing dissertations online. "Dissertations, Open Access, and Commercial Publishing: Myths, Legalities, Realities," was held at the Lied Center in Lincoln, Nebraska, Friday, November 7, 2008. Panelists included Nomi Victor of W. W. Norton & Company, Jim Cihlar of Milkweed Editions, and Marlene Coles of ProQuest Inc. Discussions led to the formation of a Graduate School policy for creative dissertations that has become a model for institutions elsewhere.

**ALA Annual Convention Anaheim, CA, July 2008** — Paul Royster gave 2 presentations at panels sponsored by the Berkeley Electronic Press: "How to Fill Your Institutional Repository: Or, Practical Lessons I Learned by Doing," and "Research Showcase: UNL's Institutional Repository."

**SPARC Digital Repositories Meeting, Baltimore, November 2008** — Joan Giesecke and Paul Royster gave a well-received presentation on "Value Added Services: Publishing Continuum at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln." Their panel was voted one of the top 3 events of the meeting.

**American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies Convention, Richmond, VA, March 30, 2009** — Paul Royster gave a presentation on "Digitally (Re)Publishing Franklin's 1734 Edition of James Anderson's Constitutions of the Free-Masons: Typographical Challenges and Unexpected Rewards."

**SPARC Webinar, April 15, 2009** — Joan Giesecke and Paul Royster reprised their presentation on "Value Added Services: Publishing Continuum at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln" from the SPARC meeting to an online live audience, with extended question and answer session.

**Author Rights Workshop** — "Disseminating (and Taking Control of) Your Scholarly Research" was presented to the New Faculty Workshop, October 29, 2008.

Content-recruitment presentations were made to the Department of Sociology (Sept. 26, 2008) and to the Animal Science Department (Jan. 14, 2009).

Paul Royster, Coordinator of Scholarly Communications  
July 29, 2009