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The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Digital Commons

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Green Flash Presentation, September 29, 2009
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Title: The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Digital Commons
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Address: 302S Love Library, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68588-4100 USA
Abstract: Provides an overview of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries' institutional repository.
Keywords (LCSH-based): University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries, Institutional repositories, Workflow, Berkeley Electronic Press.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Digital Commons, the university libraries' institutional repository (available online at http://digitalcommons.unl.edu), was founded in 2005, administered by former head of production and design at Yale University Press, Paul Royster, PhD. After having been a cataloger for over ten years at UNL, I was brought on board in September 2008, increasing the faculty full-time equivalence in the unit to 1.5 (I currently have a half-time appointment). With Paul Royster coming from a strong publishing background, and my experience as a librarian and, more specifically, as a cataloger/metadata specialist, we make for an appropriately skilled team in our efforts. The unit also employs a few students to do uploading and scanning.

The UNL Digital Commons is on the Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress) platform, a turn-key, non-open source system. The libraries pay for this set up, but it requires no in-house programming or system maintenance. A popular feature, bepress supplies monthly download statistics to authors.

We have over 37,000 documents uploaded including articles, books, and theses and dissertations from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln going back to 1955. We partnered with ProQuest to upload the archives of the theses and dissertations. The first several pages of each thesis and dissertation are available free of charge and then readers can opt to purchase the full document from ProQuest if desired. As per our agreement with ProQuest, if the author approves, we also provide access free of charge to the full text of many of the theses and dissertations. There have so far been over 3 million full text downloads of items in the UNL Digital Commons, nearly 1.5 million of those in the last year alone, from all corners of the globe.

Some about our workflow: Within copyright restrictions, and depending on what the publishers allow, we sometimes scan and then OCR articles, or we take directly the digital versions (if they're available and if it's allowed to do so), then upload the documents to the Commons. When the publishers have restrictions against uploading post-published versions, we obtain digital copies

of the author's version of a paper and then do our own copy editing and typesetting, making sure to include accurate content, so as to not misrepresent the author and perpetuate misinformation. Because citing of works is so essential to scholarly communication, additionally, we attempt to approximate the published versions' pagination. We use one of a few serif fonts to give the papers a formal/scholarly appearance. In this way, our authors' versions are more than just uploaded manuscripts. This is a very labor-intensive process though we believe this adds real value to the papers we post. However, it is absolutely preferable when the publisher allows (or sometimes even *requires*) the final published version to be posted as-is.

Using the forms that bepress provides during the uploading process, we then add metadata to assist users in finding the items. The metadata inlcudes a list of authors and a citation to the published version of the work, as well as an abstract.

We do not have a mandate at UNL for faculty to submit work for uploading. Paul and I solicit participation at workshops and we have great success this way. Professors and students are allowed to submit work themselves, but we offer to do the work for them to ensure adherence to copyright requirements as well as to present the papers consistently.

Though the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is land-locked, I believe that we have documents covering many areas pertinent to members of IAMSLIC and EURASLIC such aquatic sciences, fish information, parasitology, an early compilation of *The Effects of Offshore Oil and Gas Development Bibliography*, the *Online Dictionary of Invertebrate Biology*, etc.

Here is a text-only screen shot from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Digital Commons site (taken October 23, 2009):

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The repository is a collaborative service of the University of Nebraska - Lincoln libraries. Faculty, researchers, and students associated with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are invited to deposit digital materials for long-term preservation and world-wide electronic accessibility. For assistance in depositing documents or for more information regarding the Digital Commons, contact Paul Royster, 306 Love Library, tel. 402 472-3628, email proyster@unl.eduproyster@unl.edu.

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More specific guides and detailed information regarding the Digital Commons may be seen at Digital Commons--Information and Tools in the Libraries community portion of this site.

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