Digital Commons @Brockport 2012 Annual Report

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Digital Commons @ Brockport:
2012 by the numbers

1,657 individual items

Full-text 109,423 downloads

2.135 gigabytes of data

937 Unique Brockport authors

33 Academic departments represented

395 Masters and Honors Theses

259 Faculty Publications

An average of 66x downloads per item

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Help us make 2013 even more successful!

Digital Commons @Brockport

courtesy of Kenneth Wierzbowski, Systems and Assessment Librarian
Executive Summary
This report highlights the major accomplishments of Digital Commons @Brockport during its first year in operation. With tremendous support campus wide, we added 1657 items and had 109,577 downloads, surpassing the bepress benchmarks for first year repositories of 731 items and 21,700 downloads by 226% and 522%. Using Digital Commons’ reports and anecdotal evidence we will show how Digital Commons has impacted both the Brockport community, and the world at large. We will also recognize the contributions of Drake Memorial Library staff, and share our plans for the upcoming year.

Message from Library Director
The online digital repository has made ‘open access’ more than a buzzword at Brockport. It allows us to collect and share examples of faculty and student scholarship more widely and efficiently. After only one year, the data on number of items in the Digital Commons and downloads concretely demonstrates its success. The Brockport Digital Commons has advanced our efforts significantly in capturing a variety of materials including graduate theses and capstone projects, two refereed student journals, faculty research reports, archive materials, conference proceedings and more. Thank you to faculty, staff and student authors as well as Frank Wojcik, Associate Provost, LITS and Anne Huot, Provost, Academic Affairs for their support. We look forward even greater use in the future.

Mary Jo Orzech, MLS, Ph.D.
Director, Drake Memorial Library
Library Information and Technology Services

Committed to the Mission
From the beginning, Digital Commons @Brockport has focused its efforts on supporting the mission of the college. Here are a few examples:

In Support of mission to become “Nationally Recognized, Comprehensive Master’s Institution focused on Student Success” and strategic goal to add graduate theses to digital archive:

- 4 departments (Communication, Counselor Education, Education and Human Development, Environmental Science and Biology) currently have thesis collections
- Counselor Education theses were never published in print, so the 132 in this collection are being seen for the first time. It is the most popular collection in Digital Commons, averaging 325 downloads each.
- Total thesis collections contain 351 Master’s theses with 52,843 downloads to date (1/8/13)
- Alumni authors receive monthly download reports from Digital Commons, and the ongoing communication, coupled with the initial contact by the repository manager serves to strengthen their connection to The College at Brockport
- Began a pilot program with the Department of Education and Human Development for students to digitally upload theses.
Digital Commons – Year One

**Develop the Library as a vibrant center for scholarly communication and research:**

Digital Commons @Brockport provides publishing services for:

- Two student journals, *The Spectrum: A Scholars Day Journal*, and *Dissenting Voices*, from the Women’s and Gender Studies program

Full text of faculty monographs (selected examples)

- *A Content Analysis of Middle School Fiction: Seeking Characters Who Write* – dissertation: Carole Pelttari
- *Down to Earth* – John Mosher, emeritus
- *I Hope My Daddy Dies, Mister* – Kenneth Herrmann, Social Work
- *I’m Nobody’s Child* – Kenneth Herrmann, Social Work

**Support for the SUNY Big Idea - The Seamless Education Pipeline:**

We host the CMST Institute Lesson Plans (NSF grant funded)

- Provides area teachers with enhanced training in STM subjects
- 482 Lesson Plans and supplemental files covering 6 years
- 24,499 downloads – each downloaded an average of 75 times

**Support for one of Dr. Halstead’s “Six Major Initiatives for Ensuring the College’s Success” Lake Ontario Research:**

Studies on Water Resources of New York State and the Great Lakes

- Contains 180 Technical Reports, related images, articles & newsletters, and Government documents
- Much of this is grey literature, not available elsewhere
- 3383 downloads, readers in 52 countries
- Collection has received national interest from bepress, featured in their blog and will also be subject of upcoming webinar in April.

**Overall Impact of Digital Commons:**

- Representation from 33 departments within the Division of Academic Affairs
- 1657 objects, 109577 downloads, readers from 143 countries
Origins of Digital Commons @Brockport

In February 2011, the Library was approached about the possibility of publishing an online journal of student papers culled from the output of Scholars Day presentations. Library staff began researching online publishing applications and continued this activity throughout the Spring semester. During this same time period, LITS was finalizing a strategic plan for the 2011-2014. One of the key goals of the plan: Develop the Library as a vibrant center for scholarly communication and research, which resulted in the following objectives: Focus on stewardship of locally created information and Develop a local, digital teaching, learning, and scholarship repository.

As it turns out, there was a platform (Digital Commons from bepress) in the marketplace that helped us address all these objectives and more. With Digital Commons, universities can collect, preserve, and make visible all of their intellectual output, including pre-prints, working papers, journal articles, dissertations, master's theses, conference proceedings, presentations, creative works, and a wide variety of other content types. (http://digitalcommons.bepress.com/about/)

During the summer of 2011, bepress representative Dave Stout presented on Digital Commons capabilities to faculty and staff at the College. In addition to the robust repository, Digital Commons comes uniquely equipped a professional-grade peer-review/editorial management system. Because this platform supported the initial requirement for online journal publishing and the fore-mentioned Strategic Plan objectives, the College became a bepress customer Fall of 2011.

The Brockport model for a successful first year

Digital Commons @ Brockport had a very successful first year. In June, Digital Repository Specialist, Kim Myers presented at SUNYLA 2012 on the five key factors that contributed to that success. A synopsis of the presentation is shared here.

1. **Begin with the support of upper administration.** While some repositories struggle for funding, staffing and acceptance in their early years support from the Provost and CIO provided us with the Kick Start program, a full time administrator, and campus wide awareness and interest.
2. **Invest in Kick Start.** Kick Start is an add-on program from bepress, which provides assessment, discovery and population of initial collections, through an environmental scan, rights checking and upload service, prior to handing the repository over to the library. We chose to begin Digital Commons with the Programs of Distinction identified in the 2011-2016 Strategic Plan – namely Business, Dance, Math and Sciences and KSSPE. The environmental scan of these programs yielded over 1000 potential citations, and nearly 100 were uploaded by bepress during Kick Start.
3. **Start with faculty publications.** Faculty publications add credibility and are the backbone of a good repository. We have grown from our initial 89 that were in the repository when we started a year ago, to 244 today. Faculty publications account for 14% of the current content in Digital Commons, and 20% of the downloads.

4. **Develop a signature collection, and several unique collections.** Our Studies of Water Resources of New York State and the Great Lakes is a signature collection which has gained some national recognition. This collection and a few others will be described below in more detail.

5. The final contributing factor is a **full time repository manager.** Digital Commons is something that is added to every day. In the next section, I would like to recognize some of the many contributions by the Drake Library staff to Digital Commons.

**Contributions by Drake Memorial Library Staff**

I would like to recognize here, alphabetically, the following staff contributions:

- Debra Ames – Brockport Bookshelf <http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/bookshelf/>
- Becky Cousins and Laura Emerson – thesis scanning
- Charlie Cowling- College Archives <http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/archives> and Special Collections <http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/spec_coll>
- Bob Cushman – Digital Commons Project Team and campus wide liaison
- Diane Hoy – thesis uploads
- Jennifer Kegler – article contributions
- Pat Maxwell – Editor of Dissenting Voices, Digital Commons Project Team
- Kim Myers – Digital Commons manager, presentation contributions
- Mary Jo Orzech – Promotional support, and newsletters contributions
- Pamela O’Sullivan – Editor of The Spectrum: A Scholars Day Journal, presentation contributions
- Wendy Prince – Library Exhibits and presentation contributions
- Logan Rath – article contribution
- Gregory Toth – journal support
- Kenneth Wierzbowski – Digital Commons Project Team, graphic and systems assistance

Drake Library hosted the Saint John Fisher team, who are just getting started with Digital Commons, in December. One of the things that they were most impressed with was the library wide level of participation in this project.

**Signature Collection – Studies on Water Resources**

The Studies on Water Resources of New York State and the Great Lakes collection serves both the college community, and the greater scientific community of Great Lakes researchers. Its goal is to serve as a central repository for research data, to aid researchers in analyzing data and help to prevent redundancy in the research process. Digital Commons @Brockport will be a featured presenter in an April 2013 bepress webinar titled: *Institutional Repositories Supporting Community Engagement,* where we will discuss this collection.
In addition to the Water Resources collection, Digital Commons @Brockport houses several other unique, signature collections which I will briefly discuss.

Archives and Special Collections:

The Special Collections unit of the library is excited to be a part of the new Digital Commons. Our previous opportunity to post digitized materials online was at the NY Heritage site, a worthy effort, but involving a much less user friendly software. The Digital Commons software is easy to use, and Kim Myers is such a helpful and available manager of the site. To date the collections created include historic photographs of the college, student and other papers on the history of the school, a special section on the old campus school, and local history materials as well. The book scanner purchased this past year is making possible some excellent, and otherwise hard to do projects, like beginning the digitization of the college yearbooks. The scanner has been used quite a bit since its installation this past summer, including both support of class reunions like that of the Class of ‘62 this past fall, and local community history work, like scanning the sesquicentennial history of the town of Sweden, as they prepare for the bicentennial of the town.

These collections can be viewed at: http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/archives and http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/spec_coll

Charles Cowling, College Archivist

CMST Institute:

The CMST Institute collection contains material produced by students of the CMST Summer Institute since 2000. The Institute is granted supported and providing access to such material is required by the grantor. The materials are primarily teacher lesson plans with supplemental data sets, developed by Institute participants. These lesson plans cover such technology tools as Geometer Sketchpad, ArcGIS, and Agent Sheets, to name a few. This collection does more than meet grant requirements, though, as its 482 Lesson Plans and supplemental files have been downloaded 24,499 times – or an average of 50 times each, in 2012!

Other new collections in 2012

Brockport Bookshelf:

Many repositories have a bookshelf, with a few faculty authored or edited books in it, but Brockport’s Bookshelf is the largest in the Digital Commons community. With 280 book metadata pages, including 13 full text versions, it helps expose Brockport authorship to the world. Our 13 full text books include one faculty dissertation, several emeriti publications, several book chapters, and 3 full books authored by current faculty member, Dr. Kenneth Herrmann. These books have been downloaded 429 times, since they were posted this summer and fall. Our metadata pages have been visited 5522 times, and they include links to the books in our catalog and elsewhere, adding additional exposure for our authors. You can visit it here: http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/bookshelf/.
Digital Commons – Year One

The College at Brockport’s 12th Annual Diversity Conference:

Digital Commons hosted the registration, program, schedules, and contributed presentations for the 2012 Diversity Conference, resulting in our largest single day yet – 780 visitors on September 20, 2012!

Faculty Publications:

Publishing faculty publications in Digital Commons increases readership and faculty exposure worldwide, due to the open access nature of the repository, and evidenced by the almost 20K downloads. The process involves discovering potential citations, requesting faculty permission to post them, and then checking which version (preprint, post print or publisher pdf) we are allowed to use. In our first year, we focused almost exclusively on those publisher pdf publications, since they were the most authoritative and easiest to obtain. Unfortunately, they represent a minority of the potential publications, as many publishers still do not recognize open access as an author’s right, and many authors fail to keep copies of their working papers. One of the roles of the repository is to advocate for open access on many levels, and it is a continuing goal for us.

Journals

Dissenting Voices:

Dissenting Voices advances an array of topics important to the Women and Gender Studies discipline as examined by diverse student voices and as presented in shifting palates from art to poetry to traditional essay. It is a student engineered ejournal collaboratively designed, authored, and published by undergraduate Women and Gender Studies majors in connection with their Women and Gender Studies
Senior Seminar at the College at Brockport. The faculty editors are Dr. Barbara Le Savoy, and librarian Pat Maxwell. Its 15 articles have been read 860 times, since it was published in August 2012. It is expected to be an ongoing publication.

**The Spectrum: A Scholars Day Journal:**

*The Spectrum: A Scholars Day Journal* is a faculty juried, cross-disciplinary, electronic journal. Its goal is the publication of outstanding, student produced scholarship presented at the College at Brockport annual Scholars Day. Scholar’s Day, which was instituted in 1984, is an annual celebration of scholarly pursuits by the campus community. Volume One features work from the 2011 Scholars Day celebration, including 11 articles, which have been read an average of 235 each. Volume Two will be published this spring. Pamela O'Sullivan serves as the librarian editor of this journal.

**Newsletters:**

Newsletters are a form of gray literature that tends to get lost after time, but still draws continuing interest in a historical sense. We have 3 collections of newsletters in Digital Commons at this time. The first and largest, is a collection of LITS newsletters dating from Fall 1985-Spring 2009. We also have much smaller collections for the Women’s Center and The Water Resources project. Together, the 46 newsletters in these collections have been read almost 600 times, and offer the reader a historical perspective that might be difficult to obtain elsewhere.

We would welcome newsletters from departments and units across campus in 2013.

**Marketing and Outreach for Digital Commons**

**Web Presence**

In October 2011, the Digital Commons team met with Marketing and Communication to work on site design, and ensure a proper The College at Brockport style and brand to the site. Mr. Richard Black, Director, Design and Production, contributed the photo seen below which acts as our banner.
The Library, KSSPE, Counselor Education, Business Administration and Economics, Environmental Science and Biology, and the CMST Institute’s homepages all have links to Digital Commons @Brockport; and from within Digital Commons to each school, department or center.

**Local Presentations and Celebrations**

January – bepress presents to invited stakeholders prior to handing repository over
March – Digital Commons team present at CELT
April – Library celebration of Digital Commons contributors
July – Library celebration of 1000th item uploaded
October – Dr. Wojcik presents to President’s Advisory Council and TAHSS Deans and Chairs

**Outreach and Presentations**

April – Presentation by Kim Myers at Regional Digital Commons Users Group in MA
April – Presentation by Kim Myers at ENY ACRL Spring Conference in Utica
June – Presentation by Kim Myers at SUNYLA 2012 in NYC
July – bepress features Brockport’s Water Resources collection in the DC Telegraph
Various – Presentations by Kim Myers to Faculty meetings
December – Drake Library hosts St. John Fisher’s Digital Commons team

**Bepress Reports**

Bepress provides the capacity to generate reports on Download Counts, Hits, and Referrals on-demand to repository managers. In the Appendix, Exhibit 1 shows how many documents we have added to the repository in our first year. Exhibit 2 shows how many downloads each typed of document has received. Bepress also sends monthly email updates to both repository managers and published authors. See Exhibit 3 for a sample author report from April 2012, shared by Dr. Joseph Makarewicz. Authors may also go directly to the Dashboard at any time, to see this information.

In Fall 2012, bepress added a Discipline Wheel to each repository, linking them together in a Digital Commons – wide network. At that point, they began to share where each repository ranked among all repositories, in specific disciplines. Exhibit 4 shares a sample report.
Where do we go from here?

Major goals for 2013 include:

- **Theses**: add 3 new collections; continue digital submission pilot program with Education and Human Development including evaluation and assessment; and encourage additional departments to submit theses digitally; reach 600 Master’s and Senior Honors theses uploaded.
- **Conferences**: Host 2 conferences, including presentations or proceedings.
- **Journals**: Add two new journals, ideally faculty edited ones
- **Awareness**: Present at two local venues (CELT and one other) to raise awareness of Digital Commons campus wide.
- **Collections**: Develop a greater focus on creative works, and the departments that primarily produce them.
- **Metrics**: By 2014, have 2500 objects in the repository, and 300,000 total downloads.

Contact Information
If you would like more information about how Digital Commons @Brockport can serve your department, please contact:

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Here are a few ideas to get you started
Student work:
Poster Presentations from conferences
Theses
Award winning papers
Journals

Faculty work:
Conference papers or posters
Books or chapters you retain copyright to
Journals

Other:
Department newsletters
Image collections
You tell me!
Appendix

Exhibit 1: Number of Documents by Type in Digital Commons as of 1/4/2013
Exhibit 2: Download Counts by Document Type in Digital Commons as of 1/4/2013
Exhibit 3: Author Report from bepress (courtesy of Dr. Joseph Makarewicz)

Dear author,

Your Author Dashboard shows you had 128 new downloads in the past month of your 37 papers in Digital Commons @Brockport. This brings your total readership to 220.

Readership Report highlight for this past month:

Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative Action Agenda

8 full-text downloads
1 full-text download from Penfield Library-SUNY Oswego
1 full-text download from the search term "coastal wetlands along lake ontario and the st. lawrence river in jefferson county, new york"

To learn more about your readers and how they found your work, use the link below.

http://works.bepress.com/cgi/author_dashboard.cgi?.authP=authdash%2Cu%2C.authTX&u=1646720&a
uthor_emails_2012-04-09&authdash=z1&authTX=1349392940&authT=xUZ%2BO3m10BCsz5qEcsZMw8%2BS%2Bwej74

These monthly reports are provided to you by bepress on behalf of Digital Commons @Brockport. For questions or comments, contact your repository administrator at support@dc.bepress.com. For technical assistance, contact support@dc.bepress.com.

To opt out of this monthly report please log on to http://works.bepress.com/myaccount.cgi, click on "Research Alerts" and then uncheck the option that says "Please send me monthly hit reports for my articles”.

Exhibit 4: Discipline report from December 2012 for Life Sciences:

Congratulations,
The College at Brockport: State University of New York was among the most popular institutions in the Life Sciences Commons.

Works from Digital Commons @Brockport ranked highly in 2 out of 112 disciplines this month. Below are links to the specific disciplines where you shine in case you want to share the good news on campus.

Life Sciences
Kinesiology
Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience