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The Journey from 1,000 to 1,000,000: Digital Commons@Brockport 2012-2015

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The College at Brockport
Drake Memorial Library

Digital Commons
@Brockport
The journey from 1,000 to 1,000,000
Prepared by: Kim Myers, Digital Repository Specialist

2012 - 2015
Digital Commons – The journey to 1 million

Table of Contents

Table of Contents .............................................................................................................................................. 2
Executive Summary ........................................................................................................................................... 2
Message from Library Director ......................................................................................................................... 4
Message from Assistant Provost for Research and Scholarship ................................................................. 4
Measuring the Impact for Faculty: ................................................................................................................... 5
Supporting Student Scholarship ....................................................................................................................... 7
Student Journals ............................................................................................................................................... 9
Community Outreach ....................................................................................................................................... 9
Digital Commons and SUNY ............................................................................................................................ 10
Assessment ..................................................................................................................................................... 11
Outreach and Presentations ........................................................................................................................... 12
Contact Information ....................................................................................................................................... 13

Executive Summary

Digital Commons @Brockport is the online collection of scholarly and creative works produced by the faculty, staff, and students of The College at Brockport. It has been a service of Drake Memorial Library since its inception. In July 2012, we celebrated our first big milestone of 1,000 downloads. Now, three busy years later we are on the cusp of our one millionth download! This report will showcase some of the highlights of the last three years through statistics and stories told by our stakeholders. We will conclude with our plans for the future and an invitation to join us as we spread Brockport’s name the world over.
Readership map from June 1, 2015 showing number and locations of downloads during the last 24 hours.
http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/readership_map.html#content
Message from Library Director

DigitalCommons@Brockport has enabled the library to strengthen its relationship with our faculty, staff and students, enrich our community of scholars and increase visibility for the College at Brockport. More specifically, during the past three years, Digital Commons has built a tremendous track record with current and prospective students, faculty, staff, emeriti and others. This evidence-based success story has allowed the library to initiate deeper conversation about open access, scholarly communication and curation of digital materials. The transformative experience of building Brockport’s online repository continues to energize the campus in new and creative ways. We are looking forward to more good things!

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

Message from Assistant Provost for Research and Scholarship

Digital Commons has been of great value as a digital repository for student work associated with these events and for scholarship done by Brockport students, faculty and staff. That latter value is evident in the data on web-browser viewing of our master’s theses, which have many thousands of viewings by global audiences.

Going forward, I hope we might further use Digital Commons starting next year for online journals for student scholarship. I hope to get at least a couple of departments interested in collaborating on undergraduate scholarship journals- accepting submissions from Brockport and non-Brockport undergrads, with editorial boards of Brockport graduate students.

James Spiller
Assistant Provost for Research and Scholarship
Dean of the Graduate School
Measuring the Impact for Faculty:

**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 368 book metadata pages, including 23 full text versions, it helps expose Brockport authorship to the world. Our full text books include two faculty dissertations, several emeriti publications, full books and book chapters, and the legacy work of Dr. Kenneth Herrmann, a Social Work faculty member who passed away in 2014. Two of his books, one in Vietnamese and the other, the culmination of his life’s work are exclusively available to the public through Digital Commons. In total, items from the Brockport Bookshelf have been downloaded 17,000 times.

Our most recent addition, seen above, is the Celebration of Brockport Faculty & Staff Scholarship 2010-2014 edition, available at: [http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/bookshelf/368/](http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/bookshelf/368/).

**Faculty Publications:**

Digital Commons houses 27 collections of faculty publications or presentations from 25 departments. Participation varies widely from school to school, with the School of Health and Human Performance having the most extensive representation and 57,000 items downloaded, followed by School of Science and Mathematics – 24,000 downloads; School of the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences – 6,400 downloads; School of Business Administration and Economics – 4,400 downloads; Library, Information and Technology Services – 2,400 downloads; and School of Education and Human Services with 1,700 downloads.

Here’s what a faculty says about having their work in Digital Commons:

“It has been a very good experience because I’ve noticed a dramatic increase in readership, and that’s been very beneficial.”

Dr. Cesar Torres, speaking in the RF webinar on [Open Access Publishing for Faculty](http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/bookshelf/368/), on 6/2/2015.
Faculty Journals:

Digital Commons supports two faculty journals, the Journal of Literary Onomastics, published by the English Department, and the Philosophic Exchange, published by the Center for Philosophic Exchange. These both came to Digital Commons about two years ago. Prior to this, they were being published on a Brockport web page and charged a subscription fee but neither was making enough to cover the costs of production. The library approached the two faculty editors, Dr. Stefan Jurasinski and Dr. Gordon Barnes, and offered to help them transition to an open access model through Digital Commons. The library helped with the graphic design, scanned back files, uploaded the content, added metadata, and obtained new ISSNs for the digital editions.

While both journals are enjoying greater readership than before, the Philosophic Exchange has experienced phenomenal growth, with 17,000 article downloads since 2013. Dr. Barnes attributes to social media, saying: “This is exciting. It appears that there is a discussion happening online at Reddit, and someone has linked to Peter van Inwagen’s article “Can Science Disprove the Existence of God?” I believe that is why we have gotten the 855 downloads in the last 24 hours. This is exactly the kind of thing that we were hoping for! Some people in the general public are actually downloading and reading papers from Philosophic Exchange!”
Supporting Student Scholarship

Graduate Students

For a graduate student, there is no piece of scholarship more important than their master thesis or capstone project. Digital Commons currently has twelve collections of theses. They represent only 22% of the items in the repository, yet account for 60% of the downloads, including readers from around the world in countries such as: Philippines, United Kingdom, India, Canada, Australia, Nigeria, Malaysia, Pakistan, Indonesia, and South Africa.

A recent graduate writes:

I would appreciate that very much if you added my master’s thesis to Digital Commons. That work contains something of family history and my personal reasons for returning to college after a previous career. I know that my children would be interested in being able to read that and Digital Commons makes that possible. Thank you!

Sincerely, Jon Kerner, BS ’07, MA ’12.

Master’s Level Graduate Research Conference (MaRC)

The College at Brockport began offering a Master’s Level Graduate Research Conference in 2012. In 2013 and 2014, the MaRC moved to Digital Commons for its preconference communications, distributing schedule and conference information, and as a post conference home for abstracts and presentations. In those two years, more than 440 graduate students from colleges all over the Northeast came to Brockport to present, network and learn from each other. Some students chose to upload their presentations, and develop a scholarly presence online. One such student, Shreya Thakar from St. John Fischer, has a paper that has consistently been in the Top Ten Downloads on our site. It is titled: A Current Study and Comparison of Realism and Romanticism in Europe, and to date has been viewed 7,612 times.
Undergraduate Scholarship

High Impact Practices can be found throughout Digital Commons, we provide many examples of student engagement. In 2014, we added the “Brockport Believes...” Essay Project. This project, created in conjunction with our 2014 Freshman Summer Reading Program book selection, This I Believe II: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women, features personal statements of belief from our Campus community— faculty, staff, and incoming students. It captures for these students a snapshot of themselves that they will be able to look back on in four years, and recognize the growth that occurred during their time at Brockport.

The Brockport Biodiesel Project is a student operated company that is planned, developed, and operated with the goal of producing biodiesel for The College at Brockport. This student learning project won the New York State Pollution Prevention Institute’s 2014-2015 Student Earth Day Competition for NY State undergraduate institutions! Digital Commons houses their business and marketing documents, grant application and presentations.

Our Senior Honors Thesis collection represents the capstone project of each student in the Honors College, which includes both a paper and a public presentation of it. This collection numbers currently under 100 documents, but has had over 25,000 downloads to date.

In preparing this report, I heard from some alumni with papers in the Senior Honors Thesis collection. One such student had this to say:

I haven't personally shown anyone my paper, but I included it in my Linked In profile with the attached documentation linking to Digital Commons and I continue to receive multiple job inquiries that I believe relate to my well-rounded profile. My thesis sets me apart from other candidates in the business world. In the future, I aspire to teach adjunct at a local university and hope to use my experience writing this thesis to help with teaching.

Amy Dorman, BS ‘12
Digital Commons – The journey to 1 million

**Student Journals**

Digital Commons publishes two student journals, *The Spectrum: A Scholars Day Journal*, and *Dissenting Voices* from the Women’s Voices program’s Senior Seminar. These publications feature art and work and papers by Brockport students and are juried by faculty editors: Dr. Barbara Le Savoy and librarian Pat Maxwell for Pamela O'Sullivan as the librarian editor of The three volumes totally 75 articles and downloads of Brockport students’ work being world.

**Community Outreach**

**Sokol High School Literary Awards**

The [Sokol High School Literary Awards](http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/archives) are an annual creative writing contest for high school students in grades nine through twelve sponsored by the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library. In 2015, Digital Commons@Brockport participated, awarding certificates to the winners and displaying their work in the repository. Not only does this provide recognition for these young scholars, it creates a Brockport connection with them.

**CMST Institute**

The [CMST Institute](http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/spec_coll) 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 346 Lesson Plans and supplemental files have been downloaded 68,412 times – almost 200 times each!

**Alumni and local community**

The Rose Archives and Special Collections has successfully adopted Digital Commons to expand their outreach to alumni and the public with collections that include historic photographs of the college, a special section on the old campus school, and local history materials like the sesquicentennial history of the town of Sweden. In the upcoming year, an Oral History Project is in the works. These collections are at: [http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/archives](http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/archives) and [http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/spec_coll](http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/spec_coll).
Digital Commons and SUNY

As Digital Commons has grown, it has sought to serve a wider audience. Here are three ways it serves the SUNY community, as a whole.

SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference

In 2015, The College at Brockport hosted the first annual SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference. Digital Commons provided conference support for the schedule, submissions, images and proceedings. The 409 abstracts and (some) full text presentations are still available and provide these students a long-term online home for their research as they build their scholarly portfolio.

Open SUNY Information Literacy Portal

Funded by a 2014-2015 Innovative Instruction Technology Grant (IITG), this new collection serves as a portal for librarians supporting Open SUNY information literacy instruction will have access to a central location for the sharing of best practices in information literacy content development as well as raw files for information literacy instructional material. Current content in the Open SUNY Information Literacy Portal includes videos created by librarians from SUNY Maritime, SUNY Oswego, Farmingdale State, and Stony Brook University.

An upcoming innovation will be the SUNY Research Portal, an open access entry point to the Digital Commons repositories that exist in SUNY today. These include: Buffalo State College, The College at Brockport, SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry, SUNY Plattsburgh, and University of Albany.

Curated by SUNY university librarians and their supporting institutions and hosted by bepress, the Commons of SUNY includes a growing collection of peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, dissertations, working papers, conference proceedings, and other original scholarly work. By aggregating these collections into one open access portal, Digital Commons of SUNY makes it possible to explore the breadth of SUNY’s scholarship.
Assessment

For the first time this year, bepress provided benchmarking to its IR clients. Below are the numbers for 2013 and 2014.

The College at Brockport

2014 Benchmarking numbers
Growth: 1097 50th-80th percentile
Breadth: 52 80th-90th percentile
Demand: 108 80th-90th percentile

2013 Benchmarking numbers
Growth: 856 50th-79th percentile
Breadth: 59 80th-89th percentile
Demand: 92 50th-79th percentile

Growth:
Calculates the number of full-text objects added during the calendar year in order to measure how much growth the IR is experiencing.

Highest: Literary Onomastic Studies (280); Education and Human Development MA Theses (208); Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure Documentation (91); English MA Theses (87)

Breadth:
Calculates the number of series/publications that have had 1 or more objects added to them over the course of the calendar year in order to measure the reach and engagement of the IR.

Lots of faculty publications and theses collections here, but also moves out beyond that into journals, books, yearbooks, administrative documents, technical reports, and conferences.

Demand:
Calculates the average number of downloads per object for the calendar year in order to measure the demand and interest in the content.

Theses and Dissertations seem to be getting the most downloads; the books that have full-text available are also doing really well; some of the CMST lesson plans are super high; a large number of the Kinesiology, Sport Studies and Physical Education Faculty Publications are doing very well; for journals, Spectrum and Philosophic Exchange are overall pretty high.
Outreach and Presentations

Conferences promoting Open Access

Since 2012, The College at Brockport has hosted three conferences on various issues in scholarly communication. The first, funded by an IITG, was Getting and Giving Access to Scholarly and Instructional Material. In 2014, we received a SUNY Conversations in the Disciplines (CID) grant and hosted Promoting Scholarly Communication through Open Access Journals, and in 2015 we teamed up with SUNY Geneseo to host Publishing in Libraries, funded by another CID grant. In total, about 230 faculty and librarians attended these three conferences and shared experiences and learned from each other.

Webinars

(2015) Panelist: SUNY Research Foundation webinar on Open Access Publishing for Faculty
(2014) Presenter: Library as Publisher series, "Using the IR to Document and Disseminate Faculty Papers and Scholarship," NY 3Rs Association – I2NY Work Group on Library as Publisher, Webinar.

Conference and Miscellaneous

(2015) CUNY IR Kickoff Event, "Here's to a Successful First Year," City University of New York, NYC.

Awards and Certifications

(2014) bepress IR All Star award
(2014) NYLA Excellence in Library Innovation Award
(2013) NYLS ASLS/NY3Rs Special Project Grant
(2013) Scholarly Publishing Certification course
Where do we go from here?

Major goals for 2015-2016 include:

- **Theses**: Review policies regarding mandatory submission and possible embargo; continue to work with departments to develop student submission workflows.
- **Conferences**: Add Scholars Day to the Digital Commons portfolio
- **Journals**: Work with the Graduate School to add digital journals
- **Awareness**: Continue to raise awareness of Digital Commons, Open Acess and Scholarly Communication issues locally and to wider audiences.
- **Collections**: Develop a greater focus on creative works, and the departments that primarily produce them. Work with Archives to develop Oral History collection, Philosophy to start the Center for Philosophic Exchange collection, and English to add the Writers Forum collection.
- **Metrics**: By 2016, have 5000 objects in the repository, and 1,000,000 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!