A SHOWCASE FOR FACULTY WORK

Digital Commons is the leading hosted institutional repository and publishing platform for universities, colleges, law schools, and research centers. A Digital Commons repository showcases the breadth of scholarship produced at an institution—everything from faculty papers, student scholarship, and annual reports to open access journals, conference proceedings, and monographs.

PUBLISHED RESEARCH & RESEARCH MATERIALS

Expand reach and visibility for the full spectrum of faculty work

Faculty members and their institutions both benefit when their research gets noticed. At Utah State University, Physics Professor Dr. J.R. Dennison saw the value of sharing his center’s research online when he got an unexpected call from the president of a small business with a NASA/U.S. Air Force contract. The president, who needed urgent help with testing, found the Materials Physics Group on USU’s Digital Commons site in a panicked Google search and called Dr. Dennison for help. The business partnership is an ongoing success.

“My long-ago published bibliography of a forgotten British poet has received over 400 downloads since I uploaded it to my Selected Works page about 18 months ago. I suspect that number of downloads is more (by a factor of at least 10) than it was even so much as glanced at over its entire life as a physical book...”

– Dr. Steven Escar Smith, Dean of the University of Tennessee Libraries

The Materials Physics Group’s increased visibility brought an unexpected commercial partnership to Utah State.

Beyond the contract funds, this contract is exciting to me because it opened up a door for me into a new branch of work—commercial and practical application of my craft.”

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Faculty members are researchers, teachers, and leaders in their field—and they navigate a world where scholarship is increasingly digital. Through Digital Commons, universities offer authors a way to manage, share, and increase impact for their full range of scholarship, from research datasets and primary materials to teaching tools and working papers.
NEW SCHOLARLY JOURNALS

Enable faculty to launch journals in emerging fields

Many faculty members want to spearhead journals within their discipline—but commercial publishers are reluctant to launch journals in new or highly specialized fields. When they wanted to start an innovative journal in exercise science, Professor T. Scott Lyons of Western Kentucky University and James Navalta of University of Nevada-Las Vegas had a better option: they turned to WKU’s Digital Commons site to launch the International Journal of Exercise Science (Professor and Assistant Dean of Padnos College of Engineering and Computing) had been working for years on a textbook that he used in his courses. Through Digital Commons, Dr. Standridge had ready access to a professional publishing platform, and was able to make the textbook freely available to students.

As an open access journal, with no publishing costs, in addition to the commercial-grade peer-review tools available through Digital Commons, the journal’s editors have enjoyed the benefits of optimized visibility online: readership has grown by a factor of over 100 since the journal’s 2008 launch.

RESEARCH DATA & GRANTS

Meet funder mandates, increase transparency, and manage grants online

Whether your researchers are under pressure to fulfill funder requirements or need ways to manage grants and preserve digital research data, Digital Commons provides a long-term solution.

At University of Massachusetts Medical School, the library uses Digital Commons to help researchers fulfill data mandates from funders and publishers. With the library’s help, UMass Medical faculty can easily meet these requirements and ensure that their data is as persistent and available as the published article.

TEACHING & LEARNING MATERIALS

Open educational resources, student-led journals, and class research projects

Teaching materials are an important, and sometimes overlooked, component of professors’ academic legacy. With Digital Commons, that legacy is preserved in an attractive, discoverable place.

At Grand Valley State University, Charles Standridge (Professor and Assistant Dean of Padnos College of Engineering and Computing) had been working for years on a textbook that he used in his courses. Through Digital Commons, Dr. Standridge had ready access to a professional publishing platform, and was able to make the textbook available for free to students and professors the world over.

“His students are very happy having an electronic text that they can access any time... And... because of the discoverability, it’s helping GVSU and the engineering program become more visible.”
- Sarah Beaubien, Head of Collections and Scholarly Communication at GVSU

DIGITAL HUMANITIES & CREATIVE WORKS

Support faculty’s innovative work across multimedia formats, digital projects, and public history

Your faculty’s most interesting work may be the most challenging to share because of hybrid formats and multimedia requirements. With support for audio, video, images, and curated digital collections, Digital Commons lets authors bring their most creative projects to life.

At Kenyon College, Professor of Sociology & Legal Studies Dr. Ric Sheffield partnered with the library to digitize and curate a multimedia history project 20 years in the making: The Community Within: Knox County Black History Archives. The collection includes rare photographs, documents, and oral interviews from the lives of Knox County’s Black community. Partially funded by a grant for digital humanities, the project “is a form of storytelling about the local community. It makes visible the largely unseen history of the Black experience in rural Ohio,” as well as Prof. Sheffield’s remarkable achievement as a social historian.