Dear Professor [last name],

Research universities throughout the world are committed to increasing access to the scholarly output of their faculty and students. Individual researchers are similarly interested in promoting their work as widely as possible while preserving copyright and intellectual property ownership. In response, web-accesssible collections of published research are emerging in many universities and research institutions. These "Institutional Repositories" (IR) offer open access to a range of research including published peer-reviewed articles, preprints, presentations, data and more.

This spring, the USF Tampa Library is launching ***Scholar Commons*** ([http://scholarcommons.usf.edu](http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/)/), USF's institutional repository, to serve our research community. Following a scan of departments across campus, we have identified three that can serve as the best candidates for a pilot project that we will conduct in the coming months. A high percentage of your department's faculty have published research in journals that support IRs by providing blanket permission to upload the papers into the resource.

**What are the benefits of Scholar Commons?**

* Scholar Commons offers powerful dissemination that compliments traditional publishing and expedites immediate access to your scholarly work.
* Scholar Commons asserts copyright ownership and allows you to freely and legally link to your research output.
* Scholar Commons  satisfy requirements to publicly disseminate the results of grant generated research.
* Scholar Commons’ platform is optimized for visibility through Google and other search engines, resulting in being more  frequently cited, more visible, and receiving greater impact
* Scholar Commons provides the global community barrier- and cost-free access to your important research. In a time when the average annual scholarly journal subscription costs $1,200, open-access is more important than ever before.
* Scholar Commons provides participating faculty a monthly "readership report" with download statistics.
* Scholar Commons is archived and digitally preserved against future vendor service interruptions.

What are we asking you to do in our pilot? **Nothing!** If you are willing to allow the USF Tampa Library to include the works listed in the attached document in the Scholar Commons repository pilot, no action is required. We will do all of the work to make the material accessible to the global audience. If you do not wish to allow us to include your work in the repository, please notify me by April 1, 2011. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to send those to me.

Because you are part of a pilot project, you can expect enhancements as the project expands. Although we will communicate information about enhancements as it is available, additional details about the pilot and the Scholar Commons service are included in the attached document.

Thank you for your consideration,

Todd Chavez

Director, Academic Resources

USF Libraries

[tchavez@usf.edu](mailto:tchavez@usf.edu)