showcasing student work in Digital Commons shows prospective students around the globe what kind of education they can expect to receive at your institution. From honors theses and capstones to student-edited publications, fieldwork, and creative arts, students do their best work when they know it will be shared with potential employers, graduate schools, parents, and their peers. Make sure your students write with a worldwide audience in mind.

HONORS THESES
AND CAPSTONES

Give students a permanent and visible record of their achievements

What do students have to show for the scholarship they produce as undergraduates? When their work is published on Digital Commons, you give students a visible and lasting home for their accomplishments—and you give a whole new meaning to the phrase “this is going on your permanent record.”

For Mary C. Ferguson, the honors thesis she wrote at Pitzer College is something she’ll use for the rest of her career: a permanent, professional, university-branded record of her academic achievement to share with prospective employers, graduate programs, and her future self. Mary says, “My thesis has been doing surprisingly well, at last count it had about 270 downloads and I was listed as one of the most popular authors in both the Forest Management Commons and the Natural Resources Economics Commons.”

Since completing her Pitzer degree in 2012, Mary was invited to join the board of a Los Angeles environmental education non-profit. She was also asked to participate in a sediment-management roundtable facilitated by the Arroyo Seco Foundation, after her thesis was found in an online search.
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Support Student Research Initiatives on Campus

As institutions across the country meet the call for undergraduate research, the repository is proving to be an essential part of campus infrastructure. Digital Commons is a comprehensive solution, with tools that facilitate the research and review cycle, and professional, customizable presentation capabilities to display the final product.

As part of Colby College’s Environmental Studies program, students take an intensive, four-year research course, gathering data about water ecology in nearby lakes. When that research appears on Digital Commons @ Colby, students gain a permanent record of their hard work—and Colby College demonstrates its program’s rigor.

Montana Tech uses Digital Commons to highlight experiential learning and student internships: at their annual research day, students present posters showcasing projects they did to benefit the local community. *

STUDENT EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

Show prospective students what they can achieve

The John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference is a favorite among Illinois Wesleyan University recruitment officers to show at student fairs. The conference presentations are available on IWU’s Digital Commons site from its first year, in 1990—that’s 24 years of the best student research papers, posters, musical performances, and art produced by IWU undergraduates. *

How does undergraduate research support recruitment goals? At California Polytechnic University, the university president “got excited when he understood that he could point prospects and their parents to... examples of what their students can accomplish at Cal Poly.” *

STUDENT RESEARCH JOURNALS

“The Epitome of Active Learning”

Student-edited scholarly journals improve student learning outcomes and prepare scholars for research careers. In fact, Illinois Wesleyan University professor and faculty advisor to the Undergraduate Economic Review Michael C. Seiberg calls student-led publishing “the epitome of active learning.”

At Purdue University, the Journal of Purdue Undergraduate Research is the cornerstone of a campus-wide initiative to promote undergraduate research. Funded by the Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs, the journal publishes the best research papers across Purdue departments, written by undergraduates who’ve collaborated with faculty mentors. *

GLOBAL READERSHIP

Connect your students to a worldwide audience

Digital Commons gives student authors visibility and exposure—and evidence that their work is having an impact around the world. Take Daniel Steven Roberts, for example, a political science major from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Daniel’s honors thesis is the top Google search result for the search term “low voter turnout in U.S. presidential elections.”

Or Karima Merchant’s senior thesis at Claremont McKenna College; the second result for “gender differences in workplace communication,” it’s been cited nine times on Google Scholar. *

*Quoted from a speech by Michael Miller, Dean of Library Services, Cal Poly, Closing Remarks, Putting Knowledge to Work: Building an Institutional Repository for Your Campus, October 10th, 2008.

16,433,354 downloads of student work as of 2014

162 student journals as of 2014

80% of Digital Commons college and university sites feature undergraduate work

“Publishing with JPUR makes you a more attractive candidate for a career with research and writing. It’s a huge advantage if you want to get a higher degree because you already know how the publishing process works.”

- Madison Heslop, student author

According to a survey of JPUR’s student authors, “around 20% of the article authors... decided to pursue a career in research in her/his field of study as a result of writing an article for JPUR.”
SIGNATURE PROGRAMS AND STUDENT EXPERIENCES

Highlight the uniqueness of your institution’s undergraduate education

What sets your institution’s undergraduate experience apart? Maybe it’s an interdisciplinary research lab, or an annual prize that honors innovative undergraduate work. Digital Commons is designed to make sure students know what’s special about the education they’re embarking on.

At the University of Tennessee Knoxville, the College Scholars program allows outstanding students to pursue interdisciplinary fields of study and produce theses at the end of their undergraduate careers. The program has its own branded publication within the school’s Digital Commons site, showing off undergraduate students’ research as well as the unique program that helped to foster it.

Students from Gettysburg College spent three weeks in Bali, exploring language, culture, immigration, and music. After pairing up with local villagers to collect stories and photographs from their daily lives, they produced written essays, audio essays, and photographs, all permanently stored on Gettyburg’s Digital Commons site.

The University of Tennessee at Knoxville uses Digital Commons to highlight their signature College Scholars Program, which offers interdisciplinary research opportunities to exemplary students.

Gettysburg students plan to publish the essays and photos from their time in Bali in a book that, once sold, will fund a scholarship for the village’s college-bound students.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH COMMONS

Join the largest collection of undergraduate research online

The Undergraduate Research Commons brings together exemplary undergraduate work from hundreds of colleges and universities: student journals and conferences, faculty-mentored research, honors and capstones, and signature collections of unique undergraduate publications. Visitors can identify exciting undergraduate research programs and find peer-reviewed student journals and conferences where they can submit their own work.

Make sure your undergraduates’ best work appears alongside the research of their peers, and that prospective students can find your programs.

digitalcommons.bepress.com
undergraduatecommons.com

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.

To learn more, visit digitalcommons.bepress.com or contact us at bepressir@bepress.com