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ScholarWorks at WMU

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The Academic Leadership Academy Project

My project for the Academic Leadership Academy was to implement the scholarly repository – ScholarWorks at WMU. This project was assigned to me by the University Libraries administration during the course of the Academy, and came at the opportune time when I needed to come up with a project proposal. The project is potentially massive in scope, and the ALA helped me think about many aspects that may not have occurred to me otherwise.

What is ScholarWorks?

ScholarWorks at WMU is an online open access repository for Western Michigan University’s research, scholarly and creative output. ScholarWorks serves as a permanent digital archive for these materials and is administered by University Libraries.

Goals of ScholarWorks:
- Increase the visibility and access to WMU’s intellectual output worldwide
- Collect WMU’s research, educational and creative scholarship in one place
- Provide a way for WMU scholars to disseminate work while retaining copyright
- Preserve and provide long term access with a static WMU URL

Though the Archives have been responsible for collecting the WMU institutional documents since 1956, and have discussed ways of archiving those documents born digital, it was the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan of 2010 that finally set this scholarly repository in motion.

What is SelectedWorks?

SelectedWorks is an additional platform that works with ScholarWorks and creates professional pages for individuals. These are online CV’s of faculty, staff and possibly grad students. They can be linked to full text if available, or just provide a citation. We expect that these pages will be usually created by and maintained by the faculty themselves or their graduate students.

Who makes the decisions for ScholarWorks?

The ScholarWorks Implementation Team, composed of library administration, Digitization Center, Archives, and a metadata expert, has created a set of policies on what to include in ScholarWorks, and will continue to help the ScholarWorks Librarian administer the repository as long as needed. Advisors from the rest of the university may need to be involved.

Who is or will be involved?

Everyone at WMU:
- WMU administration - involved from the very beginning
- Faculty - great opportunity to showcase work
- Students – dissertations, theses, capstone projects, research posters and other major academic work
- Journal publishers – current, past and future
- Newsletter publishers
- Departments & colleges
- Institutes and Centers
- Office of the Vice President for Research
- Digitization Center at the Library
- University Libraries - will administer and check rights

Who will do the work?

- University Libraries
  - Administer, coordinate, populate
  - One part time faculty member
  - Grad assistant – in process
  - Check rights for materials uploaded in system
  - Liaisons work with faculty & departments
  - Digitize as needed and schedule allows
  - Student employees
- Departments and units – add materials
- Current active contributors:
  - Prism
  - Medieval Institute
  - Comparative Religion
  - Graduate students
  - Can create SelectedWorks pages for faculty from CV’s

What has been done?

ScholarWorks sections have been set up for:
- 8 colleges
- 18 departments
- 4 institutes or centers
- 3 journals
- 7 newsletters
- Office of the Provost
- Office of the Vice President for Research
- University Libraries

We have uploaded:
- Over 1400 documents have seen over 14,000 downloads
- Over 600 honors theses and a few other student projects
- Faculty publications from English and University Libraries
- Medieval Congress programs going back to 1962

Journals

Reading Horizons
- Journal of literary and language arts
- Published by the education college
- Compiled full text of issues since 1960
- Digitized back issues
- Customized the journal site
- Entering citations for articles
- Uploaded five years worth of issues
- Developing online submission process

The Hilltop Review
- A Journal of Western Michigan University Graduate Student Research
- Published by the Graduate Student Advisory Committee
- Customized the journal site
- 5 issues since 2005 online

Two new journals getting ready to call for submissions.

Newsletters and events

Prism (Office of the Provost)
- Inquiry (OVPR)
- College of Arts & Sciences Newsletter
- College of Engineering and Applied Sciences Newsletter
- Comparative Religion Newsletter
- Somos y Estamos (Spanish)
- Gatherings (University Libraries)

International Congress on Medieval Studies
- Accepted proposals for 2012 congress online

Timeline

Fall 2010 – decided on and purchased Digital Commons from Berkeley Electronic Press as platform for scholarly repository
Spring 2011 – trained on system and started pilot projects
Summer 2011 – worked with Reading Horizons, Medieval Institute, English Department, The Hilltop Review, the Humanities Center to practice getting materials into repository
Fall 2011 – rolled out ScholarWorks and SelectedWorks to campus
Spring 2012 – will hire graduate assistant, create a regular workflow, meet with departments and individuals, train all interested, start being more systematic in collecting materials

Who have and will we market ScholarWorks?

Presentations to groups:
- Faculty Senate
- Academic Forum
- New Faculty Seminars
- Departments
- Articles in:
  - Western News
  - Prism
  - Western Herald
- Other methods:
  - Brochures
  - Banner ads
  - One on one conversations

How the Academic Leadership Academy helped

Learned about leadership:
- That I AM a leader
- What I need to do to be a good leader
- How to work with leaders across campus and make things happen even when not in a leadership role

Discussed the university as an organization
- Understood the role of the university
- Made connections across campus
- Will enable me to bring ScholarWorks to the campus
- Received practical information
- How to run good meetings
- How to deal with conflict and negativity
- How to communicate more effectively

Contact information

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