http://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu

Institutional Repository
Annual Report to the Provost
AY 2008-09

October 1, 2009

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CAL POLY LIBRARY SERVICES
ROBERT E. KENNEDY LIBRARY

Year-In-Review

In fall of 2008, the Robert E. Kennedy Library rolled out the DigitalCommons@CalPoly, the university's institutional repository for Cal Poly faculty and student scholarship and important campus administrative documents. The site can be viewed online at http://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/ .

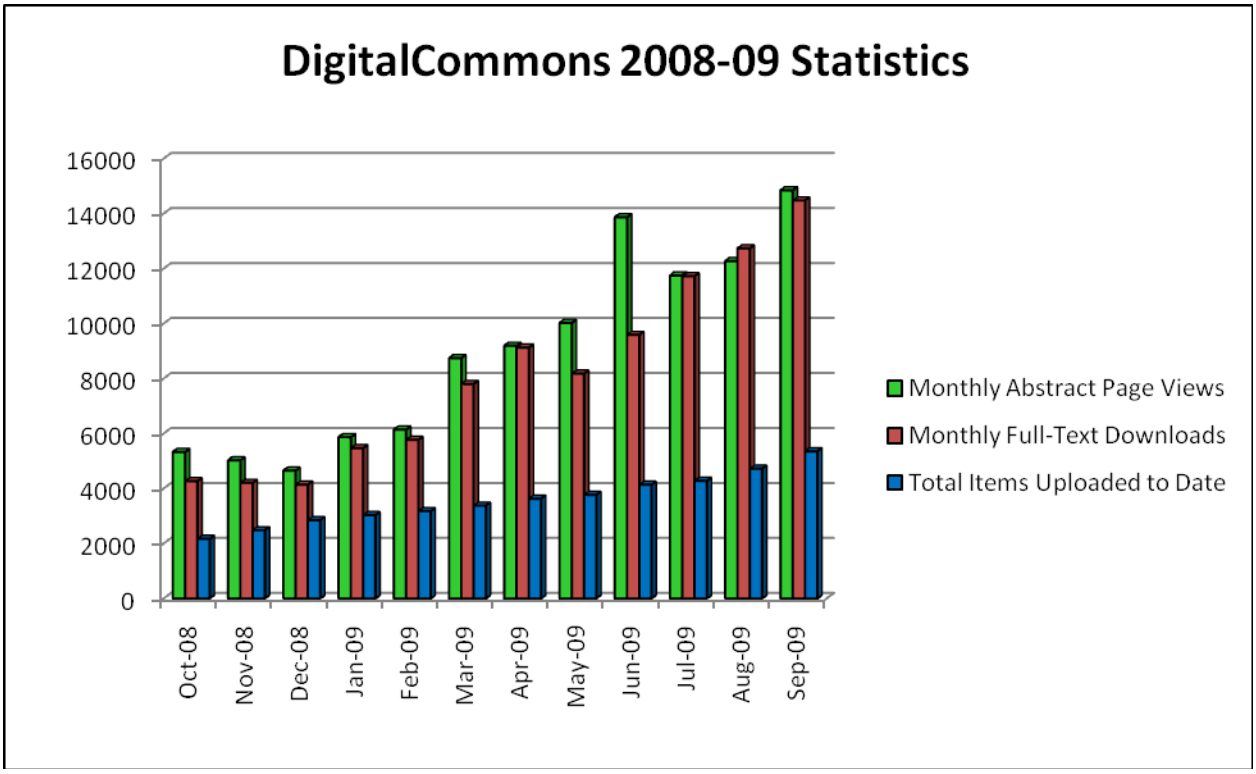
The DigitalCommons@CalPoly delivers value to campus constituents by promoting discovery, research, cross-disciplinary collaboration and instruction by collecting, preserving and providing access to scholarly work created at Cal Poly.

In its second year, Marisa Ramirez, Digital Repository Librarian, and Vanessa Woods, Repository Assistant, rolled out services to faculty, graduate students, undergraduate students and campus entities, thus growing the digital collections while solving chronic campus issues of management and access to content.

Through close collaboration with the Research and Graduate Programs Office, the DigitalCommons implemented electronic submission (e-submission) of theses in September 2008 - a year ahead of schedule - making Cal Poly one of the few CSU campuses to employ digital archiving for theses.

E-submission of senior projects was implemented shortly thereafter, increasing the availability and visibility of undergraduate work and showcasing student research outputs in support of accreditation, faculty and student recruitment, advancement and other activities. The subsequent campus efficiencies and workflow transparency did not go unnoticed. The AY 2008-2009 Academic Senate Resolution on Archiving Senior Projects lauded DigitalCommons@CalPoly for delivering value to campus.

DigitalCommons celebrated the 100,000 download milestone in September 2009 (less than 12 months after launch), demonstrating the great interest and demand for the research and creative outputs by Cal Poly. A breakout of monthly contribution and use rates for the second year are illustrated below.



The site has received visits from over 129 countries and territories including China, India, Japan, Brazil and Mexico. The map below displays the areas with the highest use rates of the DigitalCommons@CalPoly.

Measures of Success
Our innovative marketing and outreach methods, the focus of an hour-long national webinar hosted by the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services, played a significant role in capturing the attention of campus and rapidly growing our holdings.

In the second year of operation:

5,353 total items available in the repository

- **1st** among Digital Commons repositories opened in the past two years
- **11th out of 95** Digital Commons repositories in total items
- **35th out of 253** U.S. institutional repositories

Over 106,000 full-text downloads to users worldwide

- **1st** among Digital Commons repositories opened in the past two years
- Present use is over **3,619** downloads per week, **an increase of 340%** over a year ago

Over 150 faculty profile pages

- **2nd out of 95** Digital Commons repositories in total number of faculty profile pages
- Provides added-value information including a full CV, contact information and expertise

Student Work

- **Over 170** electronic theses available with new theses added regularly
- **3rd CSU campus** to implement e-submission of theses, following Humboldt State University and Cal Poly - Pomona

Institutional Repository Colloquia, hosted by Kennedy Library

- Featured speakers from University of Pennsylvania, Ohio State University and CSU campuses, including Cal Poly
- **Nearly 60 attendees** from 14 CSU campuses as well as representatives from CSU Office of the Chancellor

- Event used as a model by other campuses across the nation

The DigitalCommons@ Cal Poly features the broadest assortment of academic and institutional content among all DigitalCommons repositories. Content includes:

Abstracts	Master's theses
Alumni publications	Peer-reviewed journal articles
Annual reports	Posters
Architectural plans	PowerPoint presentations
Campus periodicals	Press releases
Campus photographs	Research from campus institutes and centers
Conference proceedings	Senior projects
eBooks	Speeches
Finding aids	Staff publications
Images of campus	Undergraduate essays
Master plans	WASC reports

Challenges

- Ensuring a stable source of funding will allow DigitalCommons@CalPoly to continue services to campus

- By deliberately lowering time and expertise barriers for participants, the service has become enormously popular. Scaling services while maintaining high degree of responsiveness to faculty, staff and students is a near-term concern with current staffing levels.

- While online access to scholarly papers is increasingly important to research, faculty sign away their copyright, ceding control to publishers

- Bottlenecks frequently occur with securing copyright permissions, creating delays in posting work on the DigitalCommons because publishers often hold copyright to published faculty work and have little incentive to provide timely responses to our requests

Looking Forward

- New applications of DigitalCommons@CalPoly, such as a platform for digital publishing and possible integration with existing academic software tools such as Digital Measures, creates opportunities for seamless campus workflows and realization of efficiencies

- Berkeley Electronic Press features Cal Poly in sales demonstrations, marketing collateral and training demos to existing and potential software clients in the higher-education sector. Berkeley Electronic Press states "*Cal Poly has set an impressive foundation for a strong repository program. By positioning itself as a service for students and faculty, the library has integrated its repository-related services into campus operations to a degree seen only in a handful of cases. Despite the brief history of the DigitalCommons@CalPoly, it remains a compelling model for new repositories to emulate.*"

Conclusion

DigitalCommons@CalPoly is solving chronic information management issues for students, faculty members and key academic units on campus by reducing the need for paper workflows and digital asset management at the unit level across campus. As we begin the coming year, DigitalCommons staff will continue to assess faculty and campus needs, customize and deliver repository functionalities, further promote the services to campus including the stewardship of e-submission of Senior Projects and Master's Theses, and find new ways to support the information needs of the campus.