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Creating a digital commons decentralized workflow

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Creating a digital commons decentralized workflow

Presenter 1 Title
Project Librarian for Intellectual Engagement Initiatives

Session Type
45-minute concurrent session

Abstract
The Digital Commons @ St. Norbert College was created in a cross-campus initiative built on a vision of open sharing and celebration of the campus’s unique intellectual traditions. In light of its shared creation, the commons has developed a decentralized model for workflow that has allowed other parts of campus to take ownership in the institutional repository. This session will cover the benefits and challenges of a decentralized model and will outline the key ideas that shaped the initiative so as to inspire others to take up their own decentralized model.

Location
KIPJ Theatre

Keywords
digital commons, buy-in, decentralized model, campus ambassadors, champions, St. Norbert College

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Digital Commons @ St. Norbert College

Capturing the intellectual heart of St. Norbert College for an engaging future

Sarah Titus
May 2, 2017
Who am I?

- Joined SNC team as a librarian in Fall 2015
- Project manager for the Digital Commons as well as other “intellectual engagement initiatives”
- Launched Commons in April 2016
- Inherited the physical archives in Nov. 2016

Sarah Titus
Project Librarian for Intellectual Engagement Initiatives
Building a dream repository

• What does this repository look like?
• What kind of content would it have?
• How does it connect to the institution’s dreams?
• How would it be run?
• What kind of workflow would it have?
• And how can that be connected to a broader vision of campus?
Tips and tricks for creating your dream repository

1. Recruit a core group
2. Seed content!
3. Sense of ownership
4. Find your champions
5. Keeping the dream alive!
Recruit a core group from across campus to serve as advisors

Things we kept in mind:

- A repository isn’t just for the library – it’s for all of campus (and the world!)
- Who should be helping in the creation process?
- What roles would these ideal advisors have across campus?

Norby, our mascot, pictured with students and Stormtroopers...ideal candidates for advisors, no?
Beginning with an array of seed content

Questions we asked ourselves:
• How do we represent the broad amount of scholarship on campus?
• How do we accurately represent the college campus and its culture through the repository?
• How do we balance campus items (archival, administrative documents) with scholarly output?
Creating a sense of ownership for submitters/administrators

• What is the best way to decide which projects need their own administrator and which projects just need to be submitted?

• How do we create the space for admins to have creative control over their digital space?

• How do the benefits of this ideal compare with the challenges?
Evolve into a “champion” system of recruitment

How we evolved to include campus champions:

- Harnessing energy from those who’ve already submitted or administered to help spread the word of the Commons
- Peer to peer discussions about the benefits and challenges can pave the way
- Capturing momentum while not ignoring the challenges faced by those who invest the time
Be mindful of your (dream) individual repository goals as you branch out

• How could we grow our current repository into your dream repository?

• How can the repository work to be a force of good on campus?

• How would you want your campus to use your repository?
Final thoughts

Things we’re proud of from the past year:
• Kept our collaborations from across campus alive through multiple projects!
• 894 items added in the first year (jumpstarting the decentralized model!)
• Integrated new voices in the advisory group and utilizing their diverse areas to address potential opportunities (and challenges)

Things we look forward to next:
• Educate campus on intellectual property (and be exciting!)
• Actively recruit more student work
• Experiment with new places to house non peer-reviewed materials
• Find new ways to innovate and keep pushing boundaries
Final, final thought

Ultimately, one institution’s dream repository is completely different than another’s dream repository.