University of San Diego

## Digital USD

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Digital Initiatives Symposium

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May 2nd, 3:25 PM - 4:10 PM

# 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*



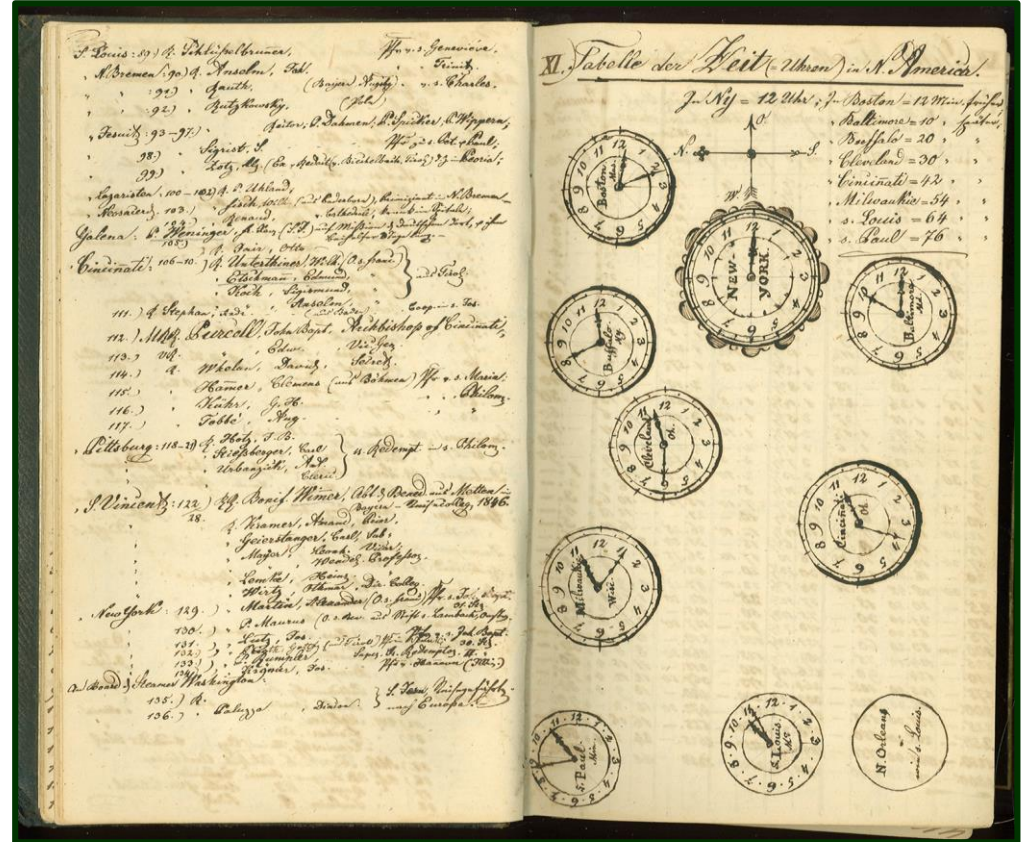*Norby, our mascot, pictured with students and Stormtroopers…ideal candidates for advisors, no?*

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?

# *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?
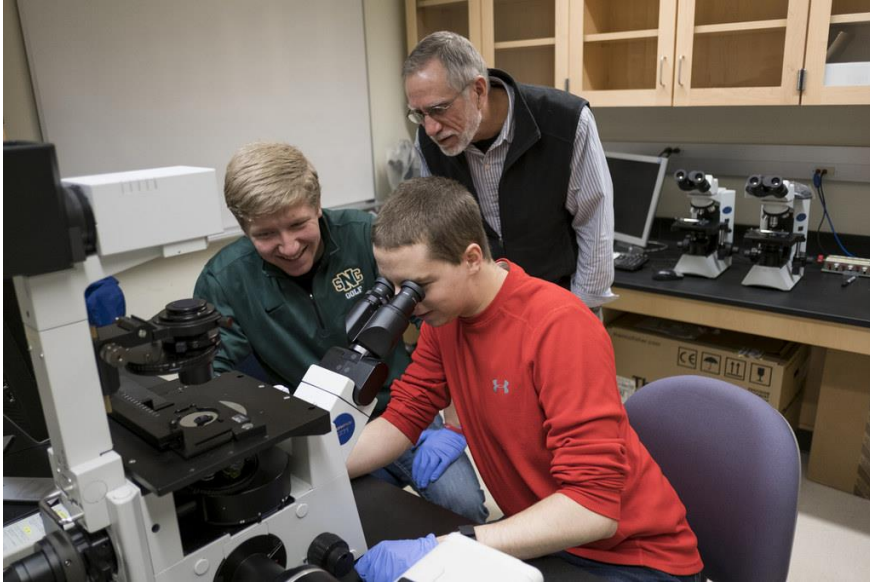
# *Creating a sense of ownership for submitters/administrators*

- 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?

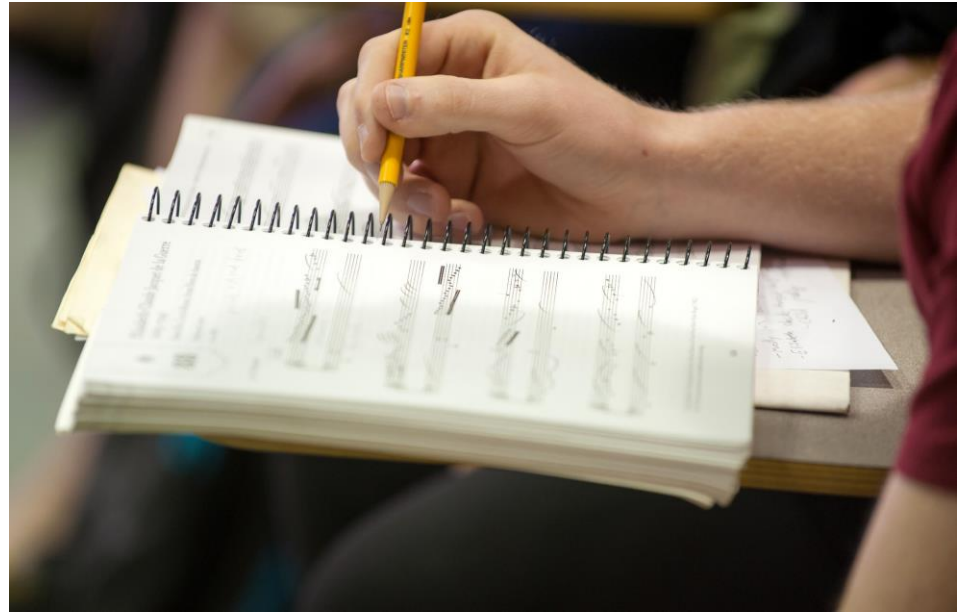# *Evolve into a "champion" system of recruitment*



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.