



# SMU Digital Repository

## Repository News / December 2011

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### Overview

The SMU Digital Repository is a searchable online collection of scholarly research and creative work, allowing the faculty, staff, and students of Southern Methodist University to showcase their research and scholarly achievements. It provides access to research, online journals, articles, conference agendas and papers, theses, image collections, and other scholarly works.



The repository is supported by Central University Libraries (CUL), the Office of Research and Graduate Studies, and the Office of Information Technology (OIT). It uses the [Digital Commons](#) software platform from Berkeley Electronic Press, the "leading hosted institutional repository (IR) platform," and is administered by CUL staff.

The SMU Digital Repository is online at <http://digitalrepository.smu.edu>. It currently hosts 164 papers and other works, and repository materials have been downloaded 260 times. 180 authors have posted their work in the SMU Digital Repository.

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### News

The new dynamic structure for the university "communities" page was implemented on December 14th. This updated format allows users to browse through repository communities and series on the communities landing page, expanding and collapsing list elements as desired. The communities landing page is located at <http://digitalrepository.smu.edu/communities.html>.

As noted in the previous repository newsletter, the Digital Commons web platform was upgraded to release 7.0 on the evening of Friday, December 2nd. The upgrade has gone relatively smoothly and offers several new features in addition to the communities structure mentioned above. The search engine is now powered by SOLR and is noticeably faster than the previous version. The new search tool also reflects a loss of granularity, as several subject-related fields are now bundled together in searches (which could be a good thing or a bad thing depending on one's perspective). There are also several improvements to the administrative interface that make editing and uploading repository materials more efficient.

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### Repository Coordination

15 items were posted to the SMU Digital Repository in December: 12 volumes of the *SMU Research* magazine, the repository Content Release Form, and previous repository email newsletters. In addition to these items, video files were added to existing metadata records for seven items from the Global Summit on Ending Corporal Punishment and Promoting Positive Discipline Conference.

The digital repository coordinator has begun developing an external framework to add cross-series, repository-wide batch creation and batch editing capabilities to the Digital Commons system (scripting with .NET). Under the current model, all administration must be done individually for each series. Scripts have been completed which update all (or any number of) series and communities and which perform a hard check for new submissions across the repository.

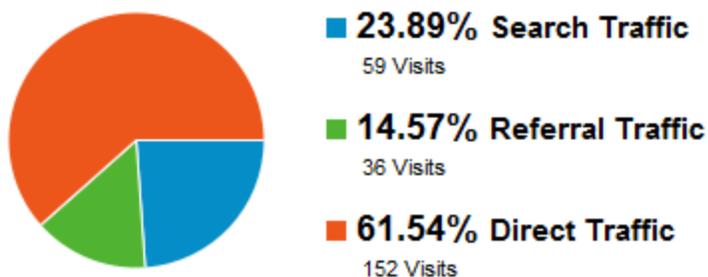
Batch processes have also been developed to automatically extract administrative metadata from repository files (for example, archival file checksums and MS Word or PDF file page counts).

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## Usage Summary

Repository records were accessed 247 times in December and full text documents were downloaded 151 times. 50 unique items were accessed in this timeframe.

The site received 146 unique visitors in December (almost exactly half of these were new visitors). The majority of traffic this month continued to be direct traffic, reflecting the site's relative newness, although search and referrals are increasingly relevant. Popular search traffic keywords were "office of the president", "digital repository", and "joshua lupkin". Most traffic was from the U.S., though there were also a number of visitors from Canada, France, and India.



Top referring sites are the Digital Commons site (<http://digitalcommons.bepress.com>), the Open Access Map site (<http://www.openaccessmap.org>), and the SMU Website (*Annotations* and the Office of the Provost's Big iDeas pages).

The following table depicts December usage as reported by Google Analytics:

247 Visits
146 Unique Visitors
1,419 Pageviews
5.74 Pages/Visit
00:05:47 Avg. Time on Site

28.34% Bounce Rate

50.20% % New Visits

The following table lists the top ten downloads at the end of December:

<a href="#">"Boxed In": Big iDeas Project: A Project Proposal</a>
<a href="#">SMU Digital Repository Policy</a>
<a href="#">Content Release Form for SMU Digital Repository</a>
<a href="#">SMU Research, Volume 15</a>
<a href="#">The Purposes and Ideals of a University</a>
<a href="#">SMU Digital Repository November 2011 Newsletter</a>
<a href="#">SMU Research, Volume 13</a>
<a href="#">Power of a Nation</a>
<a href="#">SMU Research, Volume 16</a>
<a href="#">SMU Research, Volume 3</a>

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## Recent Research and News: Institutional Repositories

Oguz, F., & Davis, D. (2011). Developing an institutional repository at a medium-sized university: Getting started and going forward. *Georgia Library Quarterly*, 48(4), 13-16.

**Abstract:** "Valdosta State University (VSU) has worked for two years to implement an institutional repository (IR), Vtext, to centralize, present, and preserve the intellectual output of our scholars and students in ways not currently supported by traditional library and publication models. To investigate VSU faculty members' scholarly communication behavior and attitudes toward institutional repositories, a survey questionnaire was distributed. It showed a rich vein of unpublished scholarly materials that needs to be preserved and disseminated via the IR and revealed faculty members' willingness to participate in the initiative."

Samuels, R. G., & Griffy, H. (2012). Evaluating Open Source Software for use in library initiatives: A case study involving electronic publishing. *portal: Libraries and the Academy*, 12(1), 41-62.

**Abstract:** "This article discusses best practices for evaluating open source software for use in library projects, based on the authors' experience evaluating electronic publishing solutions. First, it presents a brief review of the literature, emphasizing the need to evaluate open source solutions carefully in order to minimize Total Cost of Ownership. Next, it describes the process used to conduct a comparative evaluation between two open source electronic publishing systems, highlighting aspects of the methodology not described elsewhere. Finally, it concludes with a discussion of reporting the results of an evaluation to decision-makers."

Wacha, M., & Wisner, M. (2011). Measuring value in Open Access repositories. *Serials Librarian*, 61(3/4), 377-388. doi:10.1080/0361526X.2011.580423

**Abstract:** "Open access institutional repositories were created to promote access to information, encourage scholarly communication, and demonstrate institutional prestige. While these repositories have been widely adopted, the quality of their contents often fails to represent their institution's scholarly output. Moreover, current research uses measurements of quantity, not quality, to assess their value. In response, this article opens new areas of scholarly inquiry by

assessing the quality of contents. This is accomplished through a cross-sectional study of repositories at American colleges and universities across the academic spectrum, using citation indexing to identify an institution's articles and authors of highest impact."

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## Contact

Questions about the SMU Digital Repository? Please contact the digital repository implementation team at [digitalrepository@list.smu.edu](mailto:digitalrepository@list.smu.edu).

Wish to unsubscribe from this monthly email newsletter? Please contact Jacob Brown at [jhbrown@mail.smu.edu](mailto:jhbrown@mail.smu.edu).

Email newsletter written by Jacob Brown, Digital Repository Coordinator.

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