Repository News / February 2012

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 282 papers and other works, and repository materials have been downloaded 1,032 times. More than 207 authors have posted their work in the SMU Digital Repository.

News

The SMU Digital Repository Advisory Board (DRAB) held its inaugural meeting on February 8th, 2012. The primary purpose of this meeting was to inform the board about the repository and their anticipated responsibilities, and to define the board's role and repository processes. At the meeting, Dean and Director of Central University Libraries Gillian McCombs described the history and mission of the repository, nCDS Director Robert Walker demonstrated how the repository site works, and Digital Repository Liaison Joshua Lupkin discussed the critical factors for the success of the repository. The board's next meeting will be held later in the semester (date and time to be determined).

The policy for student submissions was modified based on feedback received from the advisory board. Moving forward, student submissions must identify a faculty sponsor, and these documents will no longer require review from the advisory board. This change should help mitigate the review process while ensuring the quality of repository content.

The repository implementation team is working on identifying the best way to clearly delineate faculty work and student work within the Digital Commons framework. The ideal solution will allow users to search for only faculty work or only student work within the repository as a whole, and will

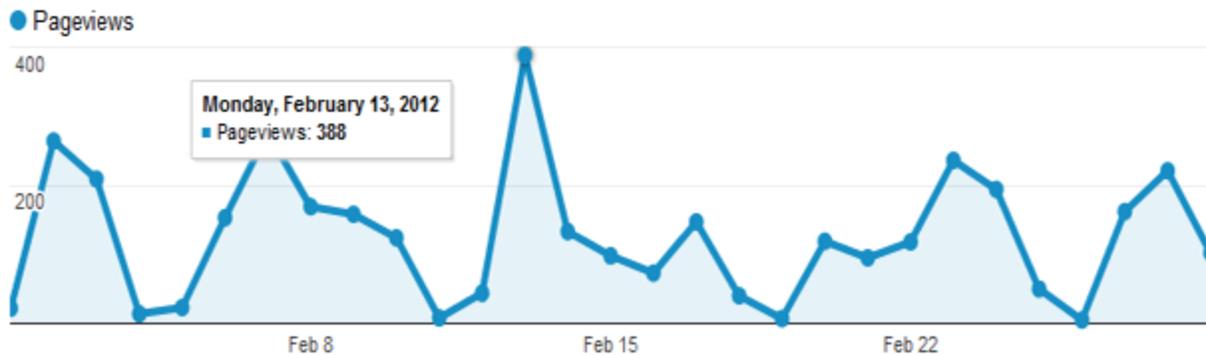clearly identify this attribute at the departmental level as well.

An email announcing that the Digital Repository is ready for faculty submissions was sent out to the SMU faculty listserv. The repository continues to be featured on the Central University Libraries homepage (http://smu.edu/cul/index.html), and a link to the repository is prominently displayed on the Provost's home page (http://smu.edu/provost/).

A number of minor changes have been made to the document submission process thanks to the feedback of one of our faculty contributors. Wording about the submission of previously published documents has been clarified, and a new "Document Information Form" has been created to collect metadata for submissions made via email or in person. The document submissions form was also streamlined, removing fields for administrative metadata from the front-end. If you ever have any comments or suggestions about the setup of the repository, please let us know at digitalrepository@list.smu.edu.
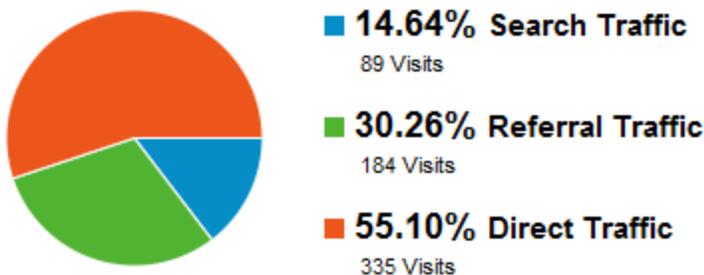
New collections were added for the "Larrie and Bobbi Weil Undergraduate Research Award" documents and for "Graduate Student Research Day: 2012" documents. Ten items were added in February, including some of the repository's first direct faculty submissions. As noted above, the repository broke one thousand full-text downloads this month.

Usage Summary

Repository records were accessed 866 times in February (up from 322 in January) and full text documents were downloaded 445 times (up from 161). 137 unique items were accessed in this timeframe (up from 57).
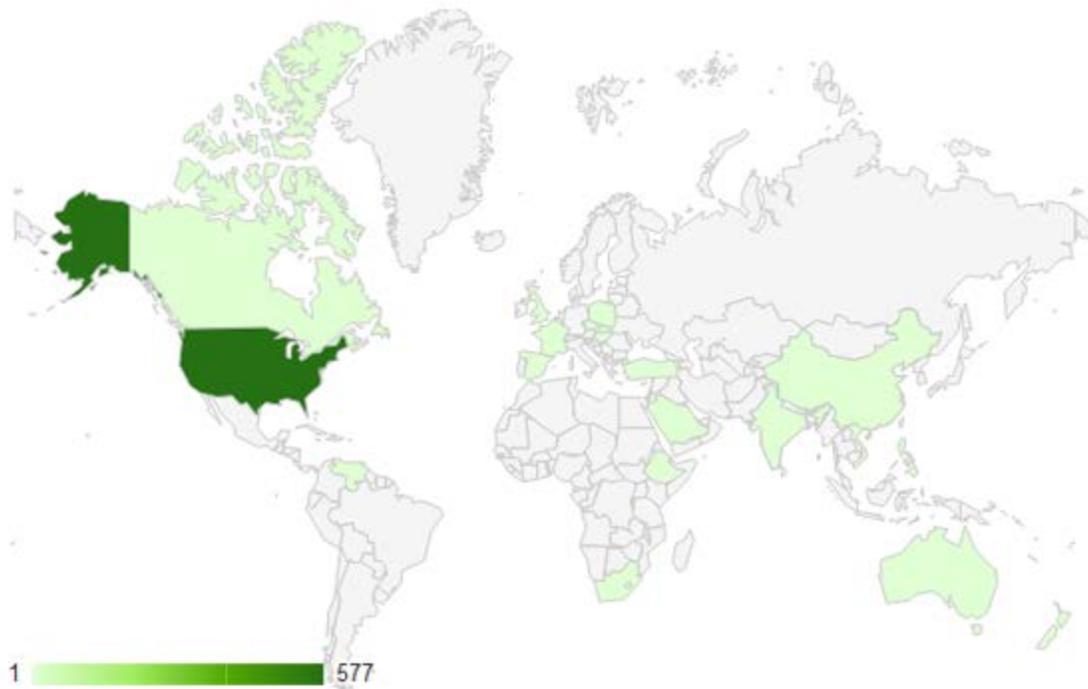

The site received 404 unique visitors in February (61% of these were new visitors). Approximately half of all site visits were conducted from the SMU network (on-campus computers). Popular search traffic keywords were "smu ura journal," "digitalrepository.smu.edu," and "digital repository."

Top referring sites are SMU pages (from the CULNews blog, from the CUL home page, and from the Provost's home page), Digital Commons pages and other Digital Commons repositories, and from the OpenDOAR and ROAR registries.

Although the vast majority of traffic still comes from the US, visitors have started showing up from around the world.

The following table depicts usage for the last two months as reported by Google Analytics:

February 2012	January 2012
608 Visits	344 Visits
404 Unique Visitors	231 Unique Visitors
3,653 Pageviews	1,563 Pageviews
6.01 Pages/Visit	4.54 Pages/Visit
00:04:53 Avg. Time on Site	00:05:01 Avg. Time on Site
39.47% Bounce Rate	46.80% Bounce Rate
61.02% % New Visits	60.17% % New Visits

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

Delay-periodic solutions and their stability using averaging in delay-differential equations, with applications
"Boxed In": Big iDeas Project: A Project Proposal
Office of Research and Graduate Studies Scholarly Digitization Program Funds Application
The Effects of Radiation and Low Temperatures on Optical Fibers
Using Ohm's Law to Calibrate a Picoammeter to 0.4 Pico-ampere Precision
Content Release Form for SMU Digital Repository
Politics, Culture Wars,and the Good Book: Recent Controversies Over the Bible and Public Education
Moral Visions and the New American Politics

Recent Research and News: Institutional Repositories

Cervone, H. (2012). Digital learning object repositories. *OCLC Systems & Services, 28*(1), 14-16. doi:10.1108/10650751211197031

Abstract: "Purpose - This paper aims to provide an overview of the issues related to developing a digital repository for learning objects. Given the unique nature of digital learning objects, compared to other types of digital materials, several factors must be considered when establishing a learning object repository. Design/methodology/approach - The conclusions of the paper are drawn from a review of the current state of the learning object repository market. Findings - The issues related to creating digital learning object repositories are, in some cases, significantly different from those in creating 'traditional' digital repositories. Staffing, metadata, and use considerations must be carefully considered in this unique environment. Originality/value - This paper fills a gap in the current literature by providing a general overview of the current state of software and related practices in the learning object repository area."

Dorner, D. G., & Revell, J. T. (2011). Subject librarians' perceptions of institutional repositories as an information resource. *Online Information Review, 36*(2).

Abstract: "Purpose - This paper reports on a research project aimed at gaining an understanding of subject librarians' perceptions and promotion of institutional repositories as an information resource for their clients.

Design/methodology/approach - The researchers used the five attributes of innovations and the change agent concept, both drawn from Rogers' Diffusion of Innovations theory, as the basis of semi-structured interviews with nine librarians spread equally across the humanities, social sciences, and sciences at three universities.

Findings - The researchers found that subject librarians have varying levels of knowledge about institutional repositories as an information resource and hold both positive and negative perceptions. The librarians perceived institutional repositories to be still underdeveloped, with greatest value for humanities clients and least value for science clients, offering little value to undergraduates, but a good resource for accessing theses..."

Curty, R. G., & Qin, J. (2012). Indicators for analyzing institutional repositories' performance: an explorative study. *Proceedings of the 2012 iConference* (pp. 613-615). New York, NY: ACM. doi:10.1145/2132176.2132310

Abstract: "This paper presents preliminary findings which examines the statistical correlation among and within micro and macro-level variables associated with Institutional Repositories (IRs), in order to explore potential indicators for the study of IRs activity and growth performance."

Contact

Questions about the SMU Digital Repository? Please contact the digital repository implementation team at digitalrepository@list.smu.edu.

Wish to unsubscribe from this monthly email newsletter? Please contact Jacob Brown at jhbrown@mail.smu.edu.

Email newsletter written by Jacob Brown, Digital Repository Coordinator.