Not Another Cross-Search Tool: The Digital Commons Network

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President and CEO
bepress Digital Commons
What is the Digital Commons Network?

It is the aggregation of distributed repositories in a way that is interesting, meaningful and useful to scholars: a place to browse open access scholarship by discipline and be sure to find a full text at the end of your search.
IRs: the island problem

Original Drawing by Oliver Bankier, Age 5
Even the largest IRs see the need for a network

“For repositories to survive and become more than just holding places for local, institutional research, systems need to be developed that will help link or network individual repositories.”

Joan Giesecke, Dean of Libraries
University of Nebraska, Lincoln
“Institutional Repositories: Keys to Success,” 2011
http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libraryscience/255/
The island problem is barrier to faculty

“All faculty, with the exception of two, perceived an institutional repository as a single island completely isolated from other institutional repositories...The microbiologist had a similar response, in that any institutional repository would be biased because it doesn't aggregate material around a topic. In this sense, many faculty still perceived repositories as isolated and unique resources.”

IRs need to be connected; they need bridges

Original Drawing by Oliver Bankier, Age 5
Benefits of making bridges across islands

“Cross-discovery could enrich small collections and provide additional, local incentives to OA for scholars...Shouldn't we seek to leverage the work (and success) of others and, at the same time, provide better access to OA scholarship to the broader community?”

Robert Hilliker, Ph.D., MLIS, Digital Repository Manager
Center for Digital Research and Scholarship, Columbia University,
1/4/2013 email to Lib_license
Goals of the Digital Commons Network

1. Leverage the work of IRs
2. Provide better access to scholarship
3. Create incentives for faculty to participate
The Digital Commons Network would be built around a discipline taxonomy.

Disciplines

Please indicate the academic discipline(s) that best describes your submission. Click here to view the complete list of disciplines.

Available:
- Architecture
- Arts and Humanities
- Business
- Education
- Engineering
- Aerospace Engineering
  - Aerodynamics and Fluid Mechanics
  - Aeronautical Vehicles
  - Astrodynamics
  - Multi-Vehicle Systems and Air

Selected:
- Aerodynamics and Fluid Mechanics
- Aerospace Engineering
- Engineering
The Digital Commons Network: cross discovery by discipline

- Architecture
- Arts and Humanities
- Business
- Education
- Engineering
- Law
- Life Sciences
- Medicine & Health Sciences
- Physical Science & Mathematics
- Social & Behavioral Sciences

Explore 650,272 works from 275 institutions
## Philosophy behind the Digital Commons Network

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>User</th>
<th>Serve their needs by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty authors and potential authors (explorers who want to know more about the Network)</td>
<td>Showing them which institutions and authors are participating and what article are available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community of institutional repositories</td>
<td>Providing exposure by making their brand prominent and their work more accessible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readers</td>
<td>Creating an interesting browse experience with no dead ends</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reactions from Twitter

Just discovered the Digital Commons Network. A brilliant site for Unlatching Knowledge!

Rad new database of open access scholarship from Bepress! Plus it looks cool!

If you love knowledge and information, this is an awesome link.
Reactions from Twitter

Fascinating access to all Digital Commons repositories -- I feel like the world was just given to me on a platter.

Cashman Law Firm

what an incredibly beautiful way to display the universe of knowledge

Seth Flaxman
@SethFlaxman
Co-founder & Executive Director, Democracy Works (@TurboVote)
Brooklyn, NY
The IR Community’s work becoming a valuable resource to other libraries
A stand-alone resources for GALILEO members

Digital Commons Network

A new database of open access scholarship (600,000+ articles) that is curated by university librarians and their supporting institutions, and represents thousands of disciplines and subject areas from Architecture to Zoology. This resource for researchers includes scholarship from hundreds of universities and colleges, including peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, dissertations, working papers, conference proceedings, and other original scholarly work.

Express Link (bookmark): http://www.galileo.usg.edu/express?link=digc-gso1

© 2011. An initiative of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.
A resource worthy of a video tutorial for library patrons

An Introduction to the Digital Commons Network

A short introduction to navigating and searching for resources using the Digital Commons Network, located at network.bepress.com. This free resource is great for browsing and finding scholarly articles in a variety of subjects.
A collection of research in a discipline worthy of sharing
A collection of research in a discipline worthy of making a resource
Does the Network create real additional incentives for faculty?

- Leverage the work of IRs
- Provide better access to scholarship
- Create incentives for faculty to participate
From the island, the bridge is invisible
An Advanced Numerical Model of Gear Tooth Loading from Backlash and Profile Errors

Andrew Sommer, California Polytechnic State University - San Luis Obispo
Jim Meagher, California Polytechnic State University - San Luis Obispo
Xi Wu, California Polytechnic State University - San Luis Obispo

Article comments
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Abstract
This study demonstrates the early transient dynamic behavior of a helical gear tooth pair with a non-uniform load distribution due to the combined effect of tooth profile error and backlash. The numerical model is developed based on the finite element method and is validated through experimental results. The model is also used to investigate the influence of design parameters on the dynamic response of the gear pair.
The Network is a two-way bridge

24% of Network traffic comes from IRs

For January – February 2013

Net island population grows with more visitors coming from inbound links than leaving with outbound links.

Original Drawing by Oliver Bankier, Age 5
Creates incentives for faculty to participate by:

- Placing individual pieces of scholarship in the larger context of its discipline
- Demonstrating that a contribution to the IR is also a meaningful contribution to the discipline
- Rewarding author participation by connecting them to their discipline
Networked users are engaged users

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of visitor to the Network</th>
<th>Google</th>
<th>IRs in the Network</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pages per Visit</strong></td>
<td>1.74</td>
<td>3.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Visit Duration</strong></td>
<td>1:16</td>
<td>2:50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source of visitor to the Network table includes networked users.*
The Network matters to Dr. Wilson from UOW

From October 2012 to January 2013 her journal articles were downloaded around the world at a greater rate than other academics in an international database. The Digital Commons Network is an open access database for academic publications. "The fact that my articles are being accessed so much shows that people...are still not accessing the services they need," Dr. Wilson said.

“UOW examines how to help men reach out”
Lisa Wachsmuth, Illawarra Mercury, Feb. 8, 2013
The Network matters to the dean of the graduate college at Marshall

“Marshall Digital Scholar shows potential students that there’s not only a place for their research, but a network which will spread their research to the world.”

--Donna Spindel, Dean of the Graduate College, Marshall University

Quoted in Chris Hodge, *The Parthenon*, Wednesday, March 6, 2013
The Network matters to the dean at the college of engineering at UNLV
The Network matters to the dept. of Agricultural Engineering at Iowa State University.

No. of Ag. Eng. Publications by institution
March 2013
Why we are not just another cross-repository search tool

1. Browse
2. Discipline
3. Open Access full-text only
4. Integrated with distributed IRs at multiple levels
5. Designed to give credit to the institution for its hard work
What should we measure the Network against?

delivers

much more visitors to IRs in the Network than the sum of traffic from OpenDoar, Roar, Worldcat and discovery platforms like Primo and Summon.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By January</th>
<th>Goal</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1 million articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>As important to scholars as Google Scholar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>A destination for researchers in at least 3 disciplines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Will any of the Commons reach critical mass to be a destination?
The Network could serve locally maintained, open source IR too

What needs to be done to participate?

1. Tag your content with our discipline taxonomy
2. Provide bepress access to readership logs and author email addresses
3. Reciprocal links