

DIGITAL COMMONS AND OPEN ACCESS



In 2006 Connecticut College subscribed to Bepress's Digital Commons to host our institutional repository. The Digital Commons at Connecticut College now holds more than 3,200 papers, which have been downloaded more than 225,000 times. Digital Commons serves as a repository for the following significant collections: CISLA internship experiences, student honors papers, college reports and publications, faculty research, and Special Collections and Archives materials.

Beginning in 2011, the faculty mandated that student honors papers be submitted to Archives electronically rather than in paper. Prior to that, some students had voluntarily submitted their work in both formats. For the past year Information Services staff have been working with faculty to identify research they have published that can be made available through Digital Commons. Special Collections and Archives has been scanning and uploading text-rich materials. Collections currently include the student newspaper and pre-1923 American musical scores.

In the spring of 2013, the faculty passed an Open Access Policy granting the College permission to make faculty research available through Digital Commons. The policy requires that faculty forward their final manuscript for peer-reviewed journals to the scholarly communications officer (SCO) upon acceptance for publication. The SCO will then determine whether it can be placed in Digital Commons.

THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT DIGITAL COMMONS AND OPEN ACCESS:

- There are 226 student honors papers in Digital Commons. Since 2011, students have had the option of restricting access to the paper to on-campus users only. About 40 percent have done so. Forty-two papers have been downloaded more than 1,000 times. The most popular paper has been downloaded 17,000 times.
- Over the past year, IS staff members have identified 200 articles authored by our faculty that could be placed in Digital Commons. Those articles have been downloaded nearly 8,000 times this year alone. IS staff are continuing to work to identify research that can be designated as open access.
- Connecticut College became the ninth Oberlin Group institution to pass an open access policy and the first college in Connecticut with an open access policy.

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