Student Research + DigitalCommons@USU = A partnership with unlimited potential

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Betty Rozum, Associate Dean for Technical Services, & Physics Librarian
Becky Thoms, Head of Digital Initiatives
How We Got Started

- One Subject Librarian (Betty)

- One Department (Physics)
  - Good liaison relationship – this above all else leads to success!
  - Listen to your faculty.
  - Be flexible, say yes whenever you can.
Adding Physics Research

- **Atmospheric Lidar Observatory** – the first research group

- Wanted to bring together faculty and student work in all formats (papers, presentations, posters, ETD’s)

- Photo by Thomas Amely
Materials Physics Group

Very active research group

Faculty, graduate, and undergraduate research

Faculty member has now hired a work study student to assist in entering scholarship into Digital Commons for us
Reader from: Fairport, New York, United States
Title: Electron Energy Dependent Charging Effects of Multilayered Dielectric Material

Real-time Readership
3 Downloads since 11:05:48 AM

410 Total Papers
12,956 Total Downloads
7,358 Downloads in the past year
Physics Department as a Whole

- Committed to showcasing student research – Links from their homepage:
  - Student Research:
    - Research presented at conferences, colloquia, etc.
    - Undergraduate capstone projects
  - Theses and Dissertations
- Coming soon! Candidacy Exam Reports
Physics Web Site

Physics Department

USU Observatory Welcomes Public Friday Evening, March 20
All are invited to view spring’s night sky as the Utah State University Observatory opens its doors to the public Friday, March 20, from 6-10 p.m. Admission is free.

Happenings
Apr 10, 2015
Society of Physics Students presents: MYTHBUSTERS
Utah NASA Space Grant Consortium

- Provides educational experiences that enhance students’ ability to further their career goals in STEM;
- Annual Symposium - students from across the state present research
- USU has now captured the back files to 1996 and is capturing all student produced research going forward
Going Beyond Physics

- Strong partnership with Undergraduate Research Program Director
- Working with Research & Graduate Studies
  - Student Showcase (fairly common at other institutions)
  - Research on Capitol Hill
  - Utah Council on Undergraduate Research,
  - NCUR, other off campus venues
New Approach in 2015

- Real time collection of research at Research Week events
- All Research Week events held in the Library
- Ten librarians participating in judging student scholarship
- Piloting program to promote depositing research in DC via marketing at printing centers
- Discussions with Center for Women & Gender to require deposit of funded work in DC
Questions & Concerns

- Is the physics model scalable to other departments?
  - Yes! We think so.

- Subject Librarians
  - Engagement
  - Addressing concerns—time, training, etc.

- Faculty
  - What are their concerns? Stay tuned for survey results.
  - Do they see the value? Stay tuned for survey results.
Feedback We’ve Received

- These group pages make it much easier to evaluate whether a group would be a good fit for a potential student or employees. (survey respondent)

- I’ve received several comments at conferences about our group’s site. (faculty member)

- I was contacted for an interview because my research was visible in DigitalCommons. (undergrad researcher)
Next Steps

- Research to learn more about stakeholder views of student research
- Further engagement of subject librarians
- More outreach to departments on campus
- Developing best practices
Thank you!

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