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

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A partnership with unlimited potential

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
MATERIALS
PHYSICS GROUP

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

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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
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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