Bohemian Rhapository: Developing a music program archive in the IR

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Background

The Caine College of the Arts (CCA) Music Program Archives preserves artifacts of student, faculty, and guest artist musical contributions to scholarly and creative activity at Utah State University. This collection recognizes the value of campus musical history and community through collaboration between the Music Department, its liaison librarian, and the digital scholarship librarian.

Founded in 2008, DigitalCommons@USU is the University’s institutional repository (IR). It is currently the University’s institutional repository (IR). It is the largest Digital Commons instance (platforms, structure, description, material types, etc.).

CCA and the Music Department are extremely underrepresented in the IR. This project – started March 2017 – is a first step in addressing this gap.

Liaison perspective

We regularly request faculty publications and presentations for deposit in DigitalCommons. Programs came up as materials that would better represent music department achievements, including the contributions of students, staff, and faculty.

Liaison strategies

- Sharing work in progress at faculty meetings
- Accepting programs via multiple means (Box upload, email, department assistant, physical materials)
- Submitting programs as recital requirement
- Asking for materials after performances
- Soliciting specific collections from owners (band director, CCA graphic designer, ASGAP liaison, M+M curator)
- Tying into library programming ("Listen in the Library” series and sharing with student performers)

Additional benefits

- “Year of the Arts” at USU (2017-2018)
- Accreditation documentation

IR perspective

DigitalCommons is an IR platform that offers:

- Stability for long-term preservation
- Discoverability via Google indexing (though not included in our catalog)
- Flexibility in structure and metadata fields

Structure

The community is the highest level, with series (e.g., Large Ensemble, Small Ensemble, Solo Recitals, and Series) where the items (individual programs) are stored. Programs are classified by performer(s), which then sort out into the appropriate series.

Metadata fields

- Title of performance
- Pieces
- Date of performance
- Keywords
- Recommended citation

Significance

A publicly-available record of achievement in the performing arts recognizes musical practices as knowledge practices, valuing the work of students, staff, and faculty alongside that of their peers in other disciplines.

Students credited as authors of their own recitals and performances connects to USU’s commitment to undergraduate research (nation’s second-oldest program) and celebrates students’ successes in contributing to the life of the University.

Stable links to programs can be used on resumes or in portfolios. Growth in the collection will also allow analyses of performance patterns over time.

Next steps

- Re-sorting items into Iteration 3 structure and auditing metadata
- Adding specific collections (physical and digital)
- Developing a sustainable acquisitions process
- Assessing trends in digital preservation of performing arts-related materials in IRs (platforms, structure, description, material types, etc.)