Building Collaborations for Student Research Through Open Access

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History

Utah State University is the land-grant institution for the State of Utah founded in 1888. It holds the 2nd oldest Undergraduate Research Program in the country, founded in 1975.

Founded in 2008, DigitalCommons@USU is the University’s institutional repository (IR). It is currently the 4th largest Digital Commons instance in the nation, containing over 63,000 items.

Traditionally, IRs are centered on the research of faculty members and graduate students. Because of USU’s robust undergraduate research program and the Library’s positive relationship with the Research Office, librarians pursued expanded influence for undergraduate work through open access.

Student Research Symposium

- Student Research Symposium (SRS) is an annual event organized by the Research Office
- SRS 2018 included 257 Participants, undergraduates and graduates
- 917 items (from SRS 2015-2018) downloaded more than 1000 times

Research on Capitol Hill

Research on Capitol Hill (ROCH) is an annual state-wide event held in the Rotunda of the State Capitol recognizing undergraduate research.

- It is a partnership between the University of Utah and Utah State University
- 2010 was the start of the IRs collaboration, with two posters
- Increasing each year, in 2018 we captured the work of all 25 student participants

OA and Student Research

A publicly-available record of student achievement that recognizes the value of student work and their collaboration with USU staff and faculty as well as interdisciplinary partnerships.

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

Stable links to content can be used on resumes/CVs or in portfolios. Growth in the collection will also allow programs to demonstrate impact.

What’s next?

- Organizational changes in Library and Research office may create new opportunities
- Working with new Assessment Coordinator to document impact of efforts
- Find more opportunities with departments and organizations to show off student research

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Ryan Wallentine shows his project to Chanapa Tantibanchachai in rotunda of the state Capitol in Salt Lake City, Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2016. Deseret News.

Students showcase their research posters during the Student Research Symposium at the Merrill Cazier Library, 2017.