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Where the Sagebrush Grows: Capturing University History in Institutional Repositories

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In the Spring of 2017, Utah State University’s library went through a reorganization that placed its Digital Initiatives department under an umbrella with Special Collections and Archives. Through this change librarians within Digital Initiatives saw new connections between their work and the work of archivists.

**DigitalCommons@USU**

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.

**Types of Materials**

This project began with content typically found in IRs (historical publications) but has branched out to traditional archival materials:

- Historical Newsletters and Newspapers
- Yearbooks and Commencement Programs
- Grant Funded Projects
- Presidential Papers

**How Materials are Identified**

- **From Special Collections**
  - Usage and Popularity of Materials Assessed
  - Archivist Identifies Popular Materials For Digitization
- **From Born Digital**
  - Faculty or Librarian Identifies Contemporary Events
  - Digitized for DigitalCommons@USU
- **Users**
  - Continue identifying popular material from Special Collections and Archives for Digitization
  - Keep track of new events, magazines, programs, and projects on campus

**Where the Sagebrush Grows:**

Capturing University History in Institutional Repositories

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**What’s next?**

- Continue identifying popular material from Special Collections and Archives for Digitization
- Keep track of new events, magazines, programs, and projects on campus