R U Ready for the IR?

by Anne Coleman and Robert Wolf

The Mary Livermore Library is embarking upon an initiative to preserve and showcase the scholarly output of UNCP’s faculty and a select group of students. The Library is participating in a consortial Institutional Repository (IR) with four other UNC System schools: Appalachian State University, East Carolina University, UNC Greensboro, and UNC Wilmington. This effort seeks not only to bring UNCP’s scholarship together in one place; it will make it available worldwide via the Internet. Web-based institutional repositories offer the opportunity for faculty scholarship to reach a much broader audience than is available through the typical scholarly publication venue.

The establishment of an IR is not a new idea in academic communities. Many larger, research-oriented universities have had IRs for some time. Changing technology has made it easier for groups to create and disseminate various forms of information electronically. In 2002 the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) launched an open-source institutional repository entitled DSpace, and from DSpace emerged a new strategy for universities to capture their creativity and research. MIT’s DSpace was replicated and many other institutions began to set up online, digitized institutional repositories of their faculties’ research and scholarship.

Within the UNC system, larger institutions, such as UNC-Chapel Hill and NC State, developed individual IRs in 2005-06. Creating and maintaining individual IRs can be expensive, however, and smaller institutions, like UNCP, did not have the resources for this endeavor. The emphasis on shared resources and collaboration among the UNC System schools, which is such an integral part of President Erskine Bowles’s PACE initiative, presented an opportunity for several institutions to share in the creation of an institutional repository at a greatly reduced cost. This shared repository is hosted at UNCG and costs each institution only a fraction of what it would cost to use DSpace. Consequently, the five institutions banded together to create a shared repository, the North Carolina Digital Online Collection of Knowledge and Scholarship (NC Docks). Each of the institutions also has an individual IR page. UNCP’s individual repository is Brave-Docks.

NC Docks debuted in early November 2008 and each institution is currently soliciting faculty participation in order to populate the IR with representative faculty publications. The IR will also contain a very select group of student...
Then and Now
by Michael Alewine

The black and white photograph, from the 1946 Pembroke State College yearbook Indianhead, shows the Library, which at that time was housed in Old Main. It later moved to Sampson Hall and then to its present location as the Mary Livermore Library.

The caption from the photo read “Pembroke State College Library consists of 11,275 volumes. The College Library subscribes to over 100 weekly or monthly magazines and six daily or weekly newspapers. The Library has grown so much in the past year that an extension had to be added to its stack rooms.” In 1946, the Library was staffed by one librarian, Marjorie Kanable, and three student assistants.

As in 1946, the Library still has to deal with space issues and is actually bursting at the seams. Mary Livermore Library recently contracted with a specialized storage facility in Aberdeen, North Carolina. According to Robert Wolf, Serials/Digital Operations Coordinator, “We had to move more than 12,000 bound periodicals and print indexes to Aberdeen, which gave us an additional 450 shelves for the Reference and General collections, both of which were close to running out of space.”

The Reference Collection, which consists of almost 8,000 print items, did not have enough shelves for any additional items. In the color photo, Robert Arndt, Reference/Instructional Services Librarian, is pictured in the reference stacks, where items fill shelves beyond capacity. “It was getting so bad that all of the new items added to Reference were being shelved on carts in the middle of the main aisles so that students would still have access,” said Robert.

Dr. Elinor Foster, Dean of Library Services, oversees a collection that now includes more than 345,000 volumes and 1,050 print serial titles. The Library now has a staff of 33 full-time personnel. According to Dr. Foster, “The off-campus storage buys us a few years, but pretty soon, we are going to have to make some hard choices about our valuable resources. Some items are going to have to be permanently removed.”

The Library’s BraveDocks Web Page

About BraveDOCKS
Welcome to BraveDOCKS, the University of North Carolina at Pembroke’s open-access institutional repository. BraveDOCKS, in partnership with NC DOCKS, is a part of a UNC system-wide initiative to collect and archive the scholarly output of North Carolina’s universities.

Why You Should Get Involved
- Provides a permanent archive of your work
- Provides easier access for your colleagues and students
- Generates a worldwide audience for your work
- Increases the visibility of your research
- Showcases UNCP faculty scholarship

To access BraveDOCKS or NC DOCKS click the links below:

BraveDOCKS
NC DOCKS

The Library’s BraveDocks Web Page