

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 **BraveDocks**.

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

The screenshot shows the NC Docks website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for ALL, ASU, ECU, UNCG, UNCP (highlighted), and UNCW. The main content area is titled "NC DOCKS" and features a search bar with a dropdown menu set to "UNCP" and a "Search" button. Below the search bar is a "Featured Item" section for the book "Strong Women Who Ruled England" by Elinor Foster, Dean of Library Services at Mary Livermore Library, UNCP. The item description mentions the book reviews several instances of female rule in England. A sidebar on the left contains navigation links for "Browse All" (Titles, Author By Last Name, Keywords, Departments), "Theses & Dissertations" (Titles, Author By Last Name, Advisor By Last Name, Keywords, Type, Degrees By Discipline), and "Help" (Searching and Browsing, Submissions, About Us). The footer indicates the site is maintained by ERIT, University Libraries, UNCG.

BraveDocks Screenshot

scholarship: honors and master's theses, dissertations, as well as some sponsored student research.

The Mary Livermore Library IR Committee is spreading the word about the IR and gathering faculty scholarship for the IR. Faculty can submit scholarly works of all types (articles, chapters, presentations, art works, and performances – any scholarly work completed by faculty while at UNCP). We are attempting to keep the process as simple and painless as possible for faculty. They can simply copy citations from their CVs and paste them into an e-mail addressed to **Anne Coleman** or **Rob Wolf**. Library staff members will then research the copyright status of each work. Once the copyright permission is received, faculty will be asked to submit an abstract, key words, and a pre-print copy of each item. It will also be necessary for the faculty member to create a very brief profile for the IR. Online forms are available for submitting the profile and all of the other materials. These forms can be found at <http://www.uncp.edu/library/ir/index.html>. Library staff will then upload the profile and the documents into the IR. That's all there is to it.

The document will then be available online to students, researchers, and colleagues via a very stable URL. This open access means a much larger group of people will read, use, and cite documents in the IR. Several studies have shown that scholarly materials made available in open access collections are more than twice as likely to be cited by scholars than articles that are only available through subscription journals. It is also much easier for students and colleagues to access. Additionally, the repository can be very good for UNCP. It can become a showcase for the breadth and quality of faculty scholarship at the institution.

Overall, having an institutional repository for UNCP is a win-win-win situation for faculty, students, and the University. Everybody benefits! The Mary Livermore Library staff would like to ask faculty to work with us to create one of the finest IRs in the UNC System. Together we can do it. Faculty should contact Anne Coleman (anne.coleman@uncp.edu) or Rob Wolf (robert.wolf@uncp.edu) to get the process started.



About BraveDOCKS

Welcome to *BraveDOCKS*, the University of North Carolina at Pembroke's open-access institutional repository. *BraveDOCKS*, in partnership with *NC DOCKS*, is 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
- Garners a worldwide audience for your work
- Increases the uses and citations of your work by researchers and scholars
- Showcases UNCP faculty scholarship

To access **BraveDOCKS** or **NC DOCKS** click the links below:

[BraveDOCKS](#)

[NC DOCKS](#)

The Library's BraveDocks Web Page