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# Dominican Scholar: Our First Year: Annual Report to the Vice President of Academic Affairs Academic Year 2014 − 2015

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# Dominican Scholar: Our First Year

# Annual Report to the Vice President of Academic Affairs

# Academic Year 2014 – 2015

October 16, 2015

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# History

The idea for Dominican Scholar came from yearly faculty retreats where three common issues were frequently voiced: 1) not all academic programs get equal marketing 2) we should show off student work and 3) we're too "siloed," we would like to collaborate more, but we have no way of knowing what other departments on campus are doing.

The Library saw that an open access institutional repository could help alleviate each of these problems.  By making student and faculty work more visible and accessible in a single location: 1) departments could market themselves on equal footing via their scholarship, 2) the University could show off student work, and 3) everyone could easily see the scholarship of participating departments, allowing for the possibility of more collaboration.

With this in mind, the Library's director lobbied for a budget increase to allow for a subscription to the Digital Commons software platform. In 2012, the Library changed its policies regarding master's theses by discontinuing the collection of print theses and moving to the collection of electronic theses (eTheses).

In the July 2014, the Library received a budget increase to begin a subscription to Digital Commons, and in September of 2014 Dominican Scholar went live.

# Where we are now

During our first year of operation Dominican Scholar has:

36,618 downloads

19,996 visits from 144 countries

667 total items including:

- 37 full-text undergraduate theses

- 191 full-text master's theses

- 89 faculty books

- 74 full-text faculty papers

- 35 faculty publications pages

- 13 papers co-authored by Occupational Therapy students and faculty

- 2 faculty art galleries

- 8 student research posters

- The schedule for the Dominican Scholarly and Creative Works Conference

**Figure 1 Countries from which Dominican Scholar Receives Visitors**
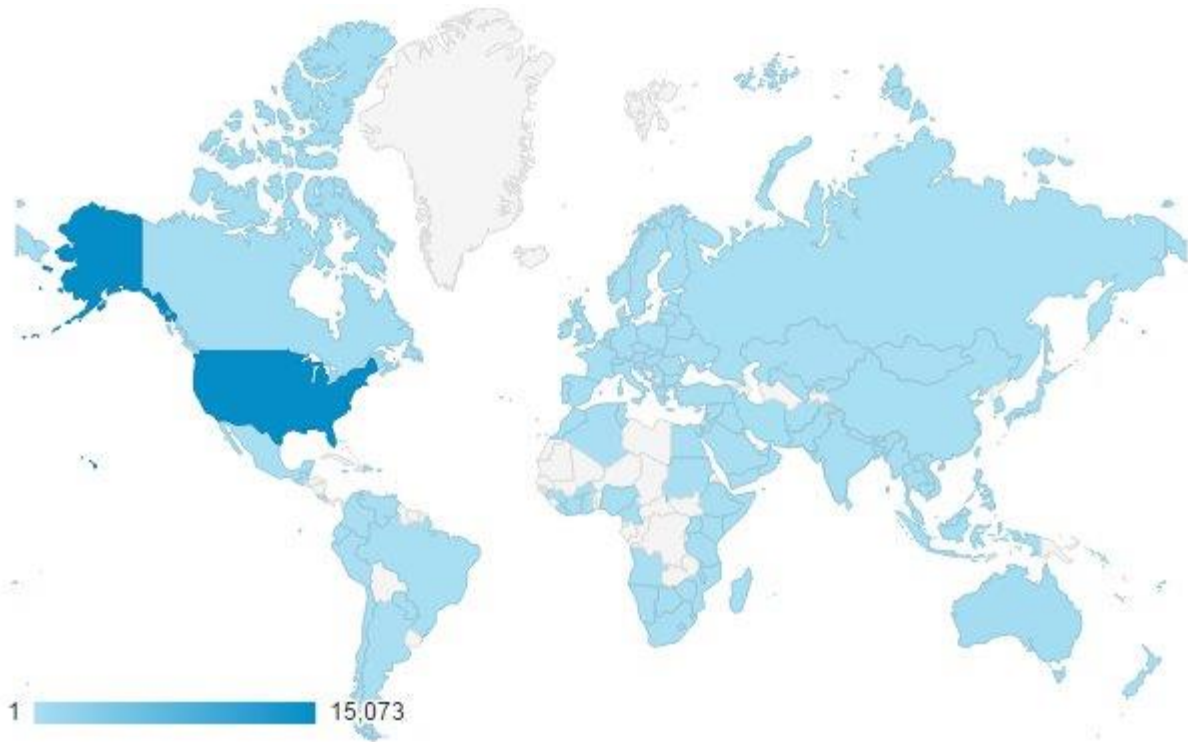


**Figure 2 The Top 10 Countries from which Dominican Scholar Receives Visitors**

| | Country | Sessions | % Sessions |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | 🇺🇸 United States | 15,073 | 75.87% |
| 2. | 🇬🇧 United Kingdom | 582 | 2.93% |
| 3. | 🇦🇺 Australia | 528 | 2.66% |
| 4. | 🇨🇦 Canada | 452 | 2.28% |
| 5. | 🇵🇭 Philippines | 279 | 1.40% |
| 6. | 🇮🇳 India | 225 | 1.13% |
| 7. | 🇲🇾 Malaysia | 153 | 0.77% |
| 8. | 🇩🇪 Germany | 119 | 0.60% |
| 9. | 🇿🇦 South Africa | 117 | 0.59% |
| 10. | 🇳🇱 Netherlands | 103 | 0.52% |

**Figure 3 Total Submissions and Downloads Sept. 2014 - Aug 2015**
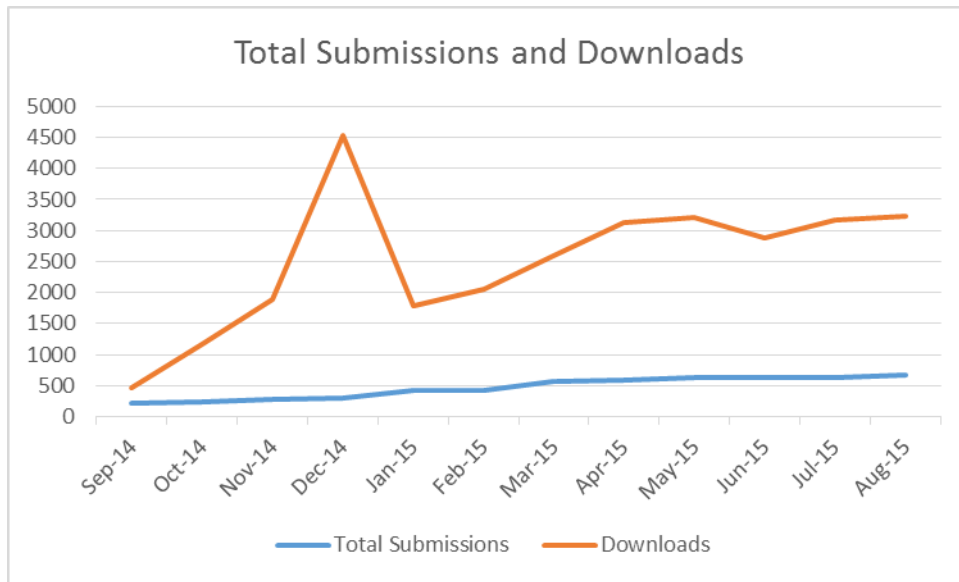


## Measures of Success

Aside from measuring the number of downloads and site visitors we can also measure success anecdotally.

- In the spring of 2014, Occupational Therapy students from Manilla, Philippines found the master's thesis titled Interprofessional Collaboration Between Occupational Therapists and Nurses in an Acute Care Setting: An Exploratory Study by Bethany Loy, Holly Micheff, Kelly Nguyen and Vincent O'Brien. The Manilla students, working on a similar study contacted the authors from Dominican University of California and asked for permission to model their study and to use the research instruments created by the Dominican students with the promise to properly cite them in their thesis.

- The Barowsky School of Business has in the past declined to post their master's theses in Dominican Scholar due to intellectual property and confidentiality issues. In the spring of 2015, the Library was approached by an MBA student, Dean Lehr, who was looking for a way to publish his master's thesis, An Analysis of the Changing Competitive Landscape in the Hotel Industry Regarding Airbnb. After receiving permission from his thesis advisor, Mr. Lehr opted to post his thesis in Dominican Scholar. Within a month he was contacted by a local hotel group that had found his thesis online stating "This is one of the few white papers I have seen in the industry regarding Airbnb" and then continued to follow up with questions. Mr. Lehr met with the group and has made a good industry contact. Mr. Lehr's thesis leads the master's theses with the average number of daily downloads (currently at 899 total downloads at the time of this writing).

- Education faculty have stated that they have had contacts from local organizations that have found their publications pages.

# Challenges

## *Culture change*

Posting faculty, staff, and student work online is a relatively new concept to the University and it requires a change in culture. Culture change is slow, and for institutions the size of Dominican University of California, it can take 5 – 10 years. As more faculty participate, there will be a point where participation will be the norm. With the repository being only one year old, we still have a long way to go.

## *Recruiting faculty work*

This is a common issue at every university with an institutional repository and this is part of the culture change process. Dominican Scholar is a new tool and faculty are still learning how it can be used to its full potential.

Some faculty have stated that they don't want their work sitting next to student work, others don't understand the Library's role in obtaining copyright permissions, while most faculty don't retain their final manuscripts that could be included in the repository. This will change over time, as the Library reaches out to and educates faculty. Some universities help alleviate this problem by creating an Open Access Policy, but Dominican is not yet ready for that step.

## *Reluctance of faculty to include senior theses and other undergraduate work*

Many senior thesis advisors support the idea of posting senior theses in Dominican Scholar although they feel that the work their students are creating is not of a high enough quality to showcase. On the other hand, some departments are embracing Dominican Scholar and are encouraging all students to participate; they are having students take responsibility for the quality of their work.

This issue requires educating the faculty about the policies and options for how student work is displayed (i.e. both the student and the faculty advisor must agree to have the work publicly available, otherwise it's only available to the Dominican Community via ID and Password).

# Next Steps

## *Expand collection of undergraduate capstones and theses*

We would like more departments to include their undergraduate theses. Encouraging students to post their work online helps give the students more exposure when looking for a job and making professional contacts. Anecdotal evidence tends to show that students will also put more effort into their work if they believe it will be seen beyond their thesis advisor.

The Library is first approaching those departments that seem most willing to participate. As more departments take the leap, more will hopefully take part.

## *Market to administrative departments*

We believe that Dominican Scholar would be a helpful tool for non-academic departments such as Advancement and Admissions. Dominican Scholar could not only provide a visual component when showing donors what they could support, but demonstrate the result of what their donations accomplished as well.

Dominican Scholar could also be used by Admissions to show potential students and their parents the type of work they can expect to do when they attend our university.

### Include more staff materials

Many University staff members contribute to their professional education and give conference presentations. We would like to include these materials.

### Recruit materials from faculty and staff led trips

The University sponsors many trips, domestic and abroad, for the honors students, for service learning projects, and to provide assistance to professors with their research. We would like to include photo galleries of these experiences, possibly with student contributions (e.g. a student could contribute a favorite photo and a reflection essay on their experience and the subject of the photo).

### Promote Locally

Dominican Scholar is a rich and unique source of scholarship in Marin County. I would like to work with the University Press Office to promote Dominican Scholar to the local community using resources such as the Marin Independent Journal. We would also like to see the Press Office, when possible, link to student and faculty work in the repository when creating press releases that highlight campus research and projects.

## Conclusion

Dominican Scholar is continually moving forward and interest is growing. As the campus community learns more about the project more people are interested in participating. With a total 36,618 downloads in the first year alone, Dominican Scholar clearly indicates that the scholarly output of the University is of interest.

Master's theses are getting used far more than if they were sitting on the shelves of the Library and as a result students feel that they are making a contribution. Faculty papers are more accessible and reaching a larger audience beyond the scope of costly journals. Through its online scholarship the University is making a global impact.

The Dominican Scholar administrator will continue to access campus needs and to find solutions to campus information needs. We will continue to promote the campus, faculty, and students and enhance the Dominican Experience.

**Table 1 Master's Theses – To 10 total Full-text downloads 9/2014 – 10/2015**

| Title | Date first posted | Number of downloads |
|---|---|---|
| **Impact of Reading Ability on Academic Performance at the Primary Level** | 9/22/2014 | 2031 |
| **Class Size Matters: Impact of Class Size on Differentiating Instruction In High School Physical Education** | 9/4/2014 | 946 |
| **An Analysis of the Changing Competitive Landscape in the Hotel Industry Regarding Airbnb** | 6/1/2015 | 921 |
| **The Effects of iPad Apps on Student Achievement in Literacy for Children in 2nd and 3rd Grade** | 12/8/2014 | 878 |
| **Clinical Reasoning in the Use of Slings for Stroke Patients with Shoulder Subluxation: A Practice Phenomenon in California** | 9/8/2014 | 850 |
| **Factors that Influence Career Choice in South African Township High School Students** | 9/4/2014 | 695 |
| **The Effect of the Love and Logic Program on Student Motivation** | 9/4/2014 | 462 |
| **An Inventory of Evidence-Based Health and Wellness Assessments for Community-Dwelling Older Adults** | 9/4/2014 | 443 |
| **Interprofessional Collaboration Between Occupational Therapists and Nurses in an Acute Care Setting: An Exploratory Study** | 12/12/2014 | 434 |
| **iGeneration: The Social Cognitive Effects of Digital Technology on Teenagers** | 9/9/2014 | 430 |

**Table 2 Senior Theses – Top 10 total Full-text downloads 9/2014 – 10/2015**

| Title | Date first posted | Number of downloads |
|---|---|---|
| **Chinese Calligraphy: An American Chinese's Perspective** | 9/4/2014 | 2855* |
| **Personality Differences in Social Networking and Online Self-Presentation** | 9/8/2014 | 597 |
| **Student Centered Curriculum: Elementary School** | 9/4/2014 | 403 |
| **Enhancing Social Behavior of Children with Autism in an Inclusive Classroom** | 9/3/2014 | 323 |
| **Human Trafficking and Sexual Slavery: A Local Epidemic** | 9/4/2014 | 317 |
| **Building Academic Confidence in English Language Learners in Elementary School** | 9/3/2014 | 272 |
| **Women Ordination in the Roman Catholic Church** | 9/4/2014 | 213 |
| **Preventing Students who are At Risk from Dropping out of School** | 9/4/2014 | 208 |
| **The Relationship of Control and Sensation-Seeking Behaviors to Travel Motivations** | 9/8/2014 | 182 |
| **Unseen Consequences: The Plight of the Mexican Migrant Farm Worker** | 9/4/2014 | 167 |

*The document titled *Chinese Calligraphy: An American Chinese's Perspective* did have an abnormal number of downloads to a single location during a one week period in December 2014.

**Table 3 Collected Faculty Scholarship – Top 10 total Full-text downloads 9/2014 – 10/2015**

| Title | Date first posted | Number of downloads |
|---|---|---|
| **George W. Bush and the Rhetoric of Chief Legislator: The First Term** | 9/5/2014 | 938 |
| **Economic Analysis of Lean Wastes: Case Studies of Textile and Garment Industries in Ethiopia** | 9/25/2014 | 349 |
| **The Art of the Kaizen Approach for Sugar Production in Ethiopia: Lessons from the Methara Sugar Factory** | 9/26/2014 | 282 |
| **A Once Promising but Now Wounded Nation: A Review of Dr. Bereket Habte Selassie's Book on Eritrea** | 9/26/2014 | 179 |
| **Vote for Me: Appeals to Voters in Presidential Nomination Acceptance Speeches** | 9/5/2014 | 150 |
| **A Safety Mnemonic for Pediatric Oncology Patients: Knowledge, Confidence and Skills Accuracy During Simulation** | 9/25/2014 | 137 |
| **Sovereignty and Democracy in Ethiopia: A Reflection on Gebru Asrat's Book** | 2/9/2015 | 128 |
| **The Pedagogical Value of Polling: A Coordinated 2012 Exit Poll Project Across Diverse Classrooms** | 9/10/2014 | 111 |
| **Integrating Instructional Technology into a Teacher Education Program: A Three-Tiered Approach** | 1/23/2015 | 101 |
| **Communicating as Chief Legislator: Four Case Studies from the State of the Union** | 9/5/2014 | 99 |

**Table 4 Scolarly and Creative Works Conference – Top 10 total Full-text downloads 9/2014 – 10/2015**

| Title | Date first posted | Number of downloads |
|---|---|---|
| "I Love Lucy" Gender Analysis and its Influence on Popularity and Longevity | 3/11/2015 | 136 |
| Analysis of the Diets of the Northern Spotted Owl and Barred Owl | 3/10/2015 | 127 |
| Literature Review of Nosocomial Infections Passed Through Nurses' Personal Items | 3/10/2015 | 104 |
| The Rise of ADHD and Effects of Alternative Treatment in Adolescents | 3/11/2015 | 76 |
| The Effects of Yoga Practice and Classroom Management in an Elementary School Setting | 3/11/2015 | 71 |
| Interprofessional Collaboration Between Occupational Therapists and Registered Nurses in Acute Care Settings: An Exploratory Study | 3/10/2015 | 61 |
| Coral Growth under Thermal Stress and Different Levels of Light Intensity in Acropora aspera. | 3/10/2015 | 55 |
| Re-injury Anxiety & Return-to-Sport Outcomes in College Students | 3/10/2015 | 53 |
| Model of Cost-Effectiveness of MRI for Women of Average Lifetime Risk of Breast Cancer | 3/11/2015 | 43 |
| The Portrayal of LGBT in the Media | 3/11/2015 | 40 |