Overview

ScholarWorks@UNO, the institutional repository of the University of New Orleans, provides an innovative open access publishing platform for students and faculty, disseminating the University’s scholarship to a worldwide audience of readers and researchers. At the end of its third year, it has surpassed 500,000 downloads and includes a wide range of faculty and student work. As we move forward, in step with the evolving nature of the University itself, we hope to expand the scope of the collection and capture even more of the institution’s research, scholarship and art.

This report covers the period from March 1, 2013 through February 28, 2014.

How ScholarWorks Supports the UNO Strategic Plan

Many of the major goals of the University’s most recent strategic plan (UNO 2020) are supported through ScholarWorks. By collecting and showcasing the research output of the University, ScholarWorks promotes student success, faculty recruitment and retention, research excellence, and community engagement. A closer look reveals the specific ways that ScholarWorks aligns with campus strategies and initiatives:

- **Recruit, enroll, and retain high-achieving, diverse, and motivated students.** The Undergraduate Showcase and the Thesis and Dissertation collections demonstrate to prospective students the high caliber of student work as well as the range of opportunities available to them at the University.

- **Recruit high-quality, diverse faculty and staff.** The faculty publications disseminated through the repository attest to the scholarly and creative achievements of our faculty, and demonstrate the University’s commitment to sharing faculty work with a broad audience.

- **Improve research infrastructure.** ScholarWorks supports compliance with federal public access mandates by serving as a repository for data, data management plans, and metadata. When data is stored elsewhere the metadata record in ScholarWorks can describe and link to it, enhancing discoverability and integrating with the research built upon it.

- **Identify and support areas of research excellence and promise.** ScholarWorks provides worldwide access to an organized collection of faculty and student research and creative activity.

- **Promote UNO as a community asset.**
ScholarWorks and SelectedWorks document faculty expertise and promote UNO as a resource for the local community. Many of the reports and studies distributed openly through ScholarWorks are focused on local issues and concerns, including the Metropolitan Report published by the Division of Business and Economic Research (DBER), the UNO Poll, and studies from the UNO Transportation Institute (UNOTI), Planning and Urban Studies (PLUS), and the Center for Hazards Assessment, Response and Technology (CHART). Statistics indicate that a significant percentage of the visits to ScholarWorks are from the greater New Orleans area.

**Current Content**

At the end of February 2014 the number of items in the repository rose to 3,466 items, representing a 26% increase over the previous year. This is apparently above average, as indicated by statistics on Digital Commons repositories supplied by Bepress, which suggest that the average number of items in a repository after 3 years is 1,809.

![Documents Added per Year](chart)

Several new series were created this year, including the 2013 Disaster Resistant University workshop (CHART), the English Department’s newsletter (Word), a series for Public Administration master’s theses, and two sites that are still in production but should be completed in the coming year: the English Department’s student-edited journal, Ellipsis, and the Writing After Katrina Archive Project (WAKAP), a collection of student writing and pedagogical prompts. In addition, two new conferences were added: the inaugural InnovateUNO student research conference, and the second
annual UL System statewide undergraduate conference, Academic Summit 2013. There are now a total of 10 conferences and workshops archived in ScholarWorks, with new iterations of InnovateUNO, Academic Summit, and Ocean Waves Workshop planned for 2014-15.

Content contributed by departments and units includes formally published articles, as well as more ephemeral outputs such as reports, surveys, and presentations. Master’s theses and doctoral dissertations constitute a major source of material in the repository, accounting for 48% of the content and almost 63% of the past year’s downloads. Undergraduate content is represented in the Undergraduate Showcase, which houses senior honors theses, InnovateUNO presentations, and award-winning undergraduate work.

Who Contributes to ScholarWorks?

There are now 29 units represented in ScholarWorks, including 20 departments and several institutes and centers.

- Advanced Materials Research Institute (AMRI)
- Arts Administration
- Center for Hazards Assessment, Response and Technology (CHART)
- Department of Anthropology
- Department of Biological Sciences
- Department of Chemistry
- Department of Curriculum and Instruction
- Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences
- Department of Economics & Finance
- Department of Educational Leadership and Foundations
- Department of Electrical Engineering
- Department of English
- Department of Foreign Languages
- Department of History
- Department of Management
- Department of Mathematics
- Department of Physics
- Department of Planning and Urban Studies
- Department of Political Science
- Department of Sociology
- Division of Business and Economic Research
- Graduate School
- Honors Program
- Library
- Office of Research and Sponsored Programs
- Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences
- Survey Research Center (UNO Poll)
- UNO Transportation Institute
(Shaded Units are represented in ScholarWorks, with number of items. Older Working Paper Series, which had ceased before ScholarWorks was launched, are excluded.)

What’s Popular?

The electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) continue to be the most heavily downloaded individual items in the collection. This is not surprising given that ETDs typically address, in some depth, topics of current interest within the various disciplines. English master’s theses have proven particularly popular, comprising half of the most-downloaded titles in the repository.
Most downloaded items for 2013-14:

1. “Internship Report” - Krasnodar Regional Center of Fine Arts in Russia (Arts Administration Master’s Reports)

2. “The Young Lady's Consent” (Creative Writing Master’s Thesis)


4. “Geoffrey Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales: Rhetoric and Gender in Marriage” (English Master’s Thesis)

5. “Forensic Analysis of WhatsApp on Android Smartphones” (Computer Science Master’s Thesis)

6. “Hell On Earth: A Modern Day Inferno in Cormac McCarthy's The Road” (English Master’s Thesis)

7. “The Cultural Adaptation of Internet Dating: Attitudes towards Online Relationship Formation” (Sociology Master’s Thesis)

8. “Depiction of Violence in Flannery O'Connor's "Revelation”” (English Master’s Thesis)

9. “Horizontal Violence in the Nursing Work Environment: Beyond Oppressed Group Behavior” (Curriculum & Instruction Dissertation)

10. “Application of Web Mashup Technology to Oyster Information Services” (Computer Science Master’s Thesis)

Most downloaded series for 2013-14:

(measured by average number of downloads per title):

1. Senior Honors Theses
3. CHART Publications
4. Arts Administration Master’s Reports
5. UNO Theses & Dissertations
7. Department of Planning and Urban Studies Reports and Presentations
8. English Faculty Publications
9. Foreign Languages Faculty Publications
10. Earth & Environmental Sciences Faculty Publications

The high download counts for older working paper series suggests that there may be a real demand for work that is released outside of traditional publishing venues. One of the real values of an open access repository is to deliver these hidden resources to interested readers.

Measures of Impact

Downloads

The past year 287,301 downloads were made from ScholarWorks, an 18% increase over the number of downloads recorded for 2012-13. The repository content has been downloaded a total of 564,417 times in the first three years.

![Downloads per year graph](image)

While the increase in downloads has not been as dramatic as it was between the first and second years, it has been steady, and far exceeds the average number of downloads for Digital Commons repositories in their third year (166,302).

Visitor Profile

Statistics on visits to the site offer helpful information about the local and worldwide audiences for ScholarWorks.
This Google Analytics world map shows that visits to ScholarWorks come from nearly every country in the world. By far the largest number of users (almost 63%), come from within the United States. The United Kingdom and India, are second and third on the list of visitors.

The top 10 sources of visits, with percentage of total visits:

1. United States (62.83%)
2. United Kingdom (4.08%)
3. India (3.69%)
4. China (2.79%)
5. Canada (2.36%)
6. Australia (1.47%)
7. Germany (1.40%)
8. Malaysia (0.92%)
9. Iran (0.89%)
10. Philippines (0.86%)
Within the United States, all 50 states have had visitors to ScholarWorks, with visits from Louisiana accounting for 39% of the United States visits and 24.5% of the total visits to the site.

Drilling down a little further, into the visits from Louisiana, we see that while downloads were scattered across all regions of that state, there is a clear concentration in the New Orleans area. A total of 6,458 visits were made from within New Orleans, accounting for 16.54% of the total visits to the site, and 67.42% of the visits from within Louisiana. Also notable is that only 7.92% of all visits came from the UNO campus network. The local relevance of the repository is attested to by the fact that Metairie downloads were higher than those for Baton Rouge, despite the latter’s much larger population.
Of the 39,044 visits to the ScholarWorks site, almost 79% were new visitors.
SelectedWorks: A Personal Research Showcase for Faculty

SelectedWorks pages are an important companion resource to ScholarWorks, allowing faculty to create a showcase of their work that remains under the control of the faculty member but is interoperable with ScholarWorks. A SelectedWorks page functions like an online vita, providing links to the actual publications whenever possible. A wide range of types of work can be presented on the site, with options for organizing and describing the work. In addition, the faculty member receives valuable feedback via a monthly email report that includes download statistics, geographic location of visits, and popular search terms used to discover the work.

Currently there are thirty-four SelectedWorks pages, four of which were created in the past year. Several departmental websites include links to SelectedWorks pages.

Challenges

In taking stock of the growth of ScholarWorks after four years, some areas of concern should be noted:

- Several disciplines remain underrepresented in terms of faculty outputs, particularly in the professional schools. While there is some content from Business, Education and Engineering, these contributions are minimal and are for the most part limited to handful of faculty members. We have also been unsuccessful in showcasing the contribution of arts disciplines, especially film, theatre, and music.

- Most faculty still don’t understand the benefits of self-archiving, or how this practice strengthens author rights and contributes to larger efforts to promote sustainable access to scholarship and wrest long-term control of the scholarly record from commercial publishing. Clearly we have more work to do in this area and we need to identify new ways engage faculty on scholarly communication issues.

- SelectedWorks as a tool for promoting faculty research and expertise is underutilized. With the frequent changes to the campus website over the past few years and the instability of personnel in these areas, we have had difficulty promoting it as a complement to the standard faculty and departmental websites. With tools for tracking institutional outputs proliferating on campus, and little coordination of them, it will be a challenge to make clear the specific role and benefits of SelectedWorks pages.
Looking Ahead

As ScholarWorks begins its fourth year, we anticipate growth in several areas and expect to focus our effort to support a range of publishing needs on campus.

- The launch of the online version of *Ellipsis*, the first journal to be hosted in ScholarWorks, will demonstrate its viability as journal-publishing platform, hopefully leading to more journal publishing initiatives.

- We hope to see more conference content archived in ScholarWorks. We expect to add second and third iterations of past conferences to ScholarWorks (InnovateUNO, Academic Summit, Ocean Waves Workshop), and will actively promote the platform as a tool for managing conference content for UNO faculty.

- The University of Louisiana System Academic Summit conference content can potentially serve as a context for exploring system-wide support for undergraduate research, perhaps evolving into a peer-reviewed, student-edited undergraduate journal.

- We expect to see requests to store data and manage metadata, in support of researchers seeking to comply with funder mandates for public access to research outputs. We hope to work with the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs to address this need.

- We will make a concerted effort to target underrepresented departments and disciplines in the coming year, to ensure that the repository offers a rich, diverse, and representative collection of the scholarly and creative work of the University.