

Feb 10th, 11:05 AM - 11:50 AM

# How Institutional Repositories Provide a Digital Complement to the First Year Experience

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Bagley, Valerie and Passehl, Erin, "How Institutional Repositories Provide a Digital Complement to the First Year Experience" (2012). *Online Northwest*. 7.

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# How Institutional Repositories Provide a Digital Compliment to the First Year Experience

Valerie Bagley and Erin Passehl  
Western Oregon University  
Online Northwest  
February 10, 2012



Established in 1856, Western Oregon University (WOU) is the oldest public university in Oregon

WOU is located in the Willamette Valley, near Salem (16 miles)

National leader in teacher preparation

Featured in PARADE Magazine's  
2010 College A-List:  
Top Small State Schools





# Student Population at WOU

- \* Fall 2010 enrollment: 6,233 [5,318 undergrad, 915 grad]
- \* 85% of undergraduates were from Oregon
- \* Over 50% of undergraduates were first generation to college
- \* 1 out of 2 incoming students receive Pell grants

## *Serving traditionally underrepresented groups*



- \* In fall 2010, 24% of entering freshmen class were comprised of students of color
  - \* 52% of undergraduates were first generation to college
- 
- \* Ranked in the top ten universities in the U.S. in closing the gap in graduation rates between white and Hispanic students (#1 in OUS)

# Academic Libraries, Student Retention and Student Success

## Building

- Information Commons
- Orientations
- Tours
- Tutoring/  
Writing  
Center
- Accessible  
hours
- Group study  
rooms

## Instruction

- Information literacy
- Embedded librarians
- Liaisons to academic departments
- Tools
  - LibGuides
  - Websites

## Information

- Access to information
- In-house materials
- Consortiums
- ILL
- Database and serial subscriptions
- Tools
  - LibGuides
  - Websites

## Non-Academic Factors

- Student jobs
- Confident research skills
- Self-confidence
- Social support
- Institutional commitment
- Supportive academic environment
- Empowering students

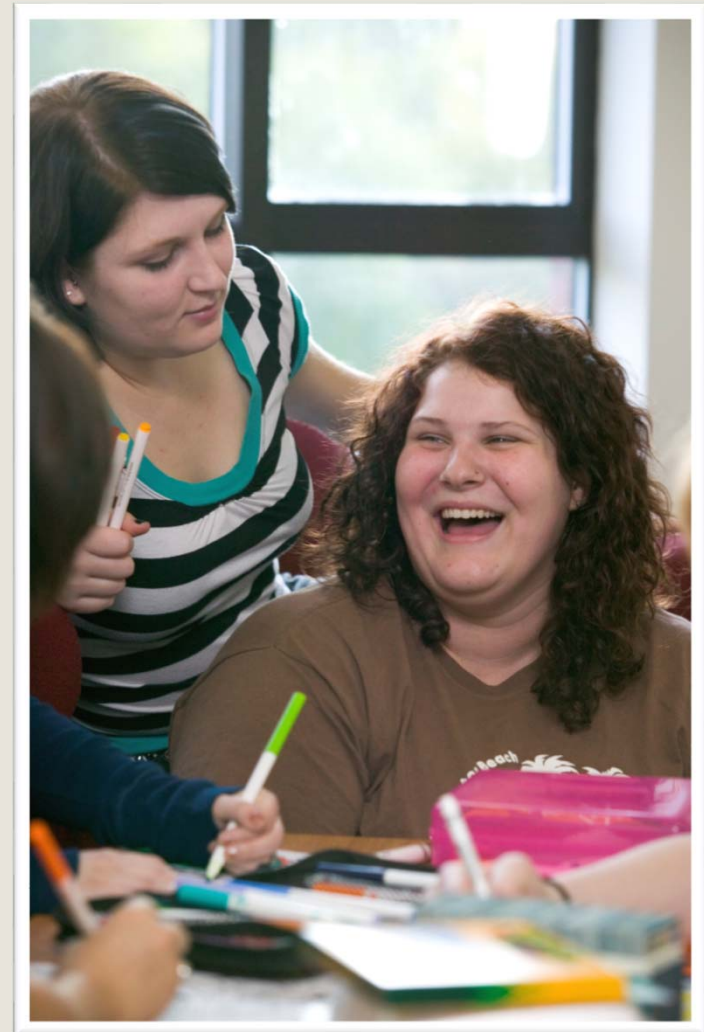
*ACT Policy Report (2004)*

## Future

- Look beyond public services
- Educate on publishing, copyright, IRs

# First Year Experience at WOU

- \* General college success seminars open to all first-year students
- \* 2 credit elective course
- \* 13+ sections taught in Fall term and two sections in Winter term
- \* Academic skills: note taking; study skills; how to talk to a professor; academic resources; public speaking
- \* Student life skills: conflict management; balance; student involvement; study abroad



# History of the FYE Program

## 1996-2004

- Report written on the benefits of FYE
- Not implemented until 2002
- Elective class
- Volunteer instructors

## 2005

- Freshman Academy implemented
- Required for students and faculty
- Poorly planned and executed; considered a failure

## 2006 - 2010

- Housed under Academic Advising
- Ten sections offered
- 2 pilots run simultaneously – one with faculty instructors, one with student affairs instructors

## 2011 +

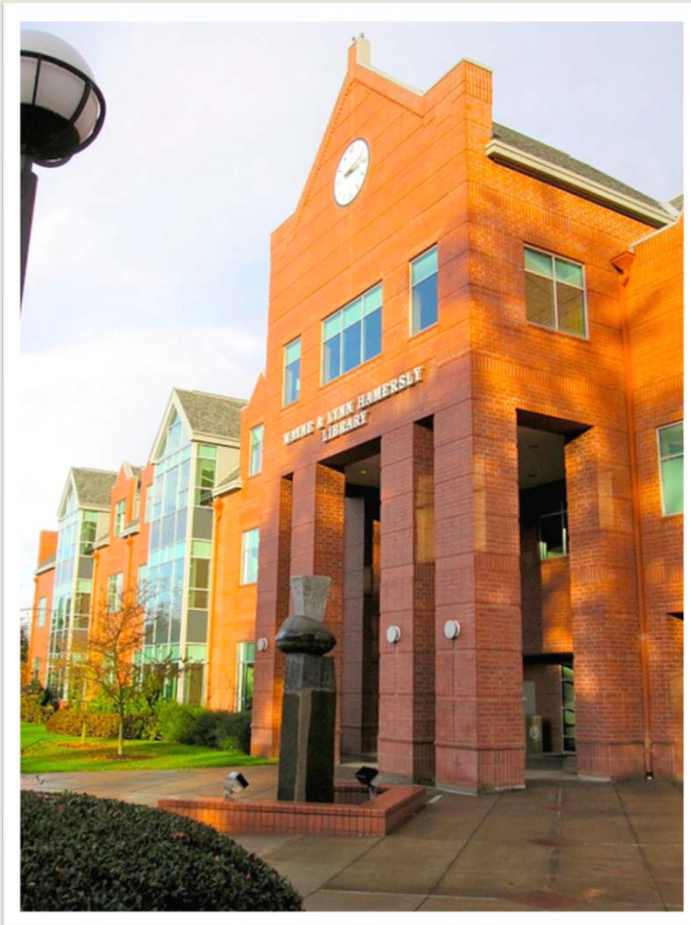
- Run by 3 person committee
- Faculty and staff volunteer instructors
- Symposium and assessment required
- 13 sections with 250 students served

*“The Freshmen Year Experience courses are undergoing extensive review and enhancements that will lead to increased success in future years.”*



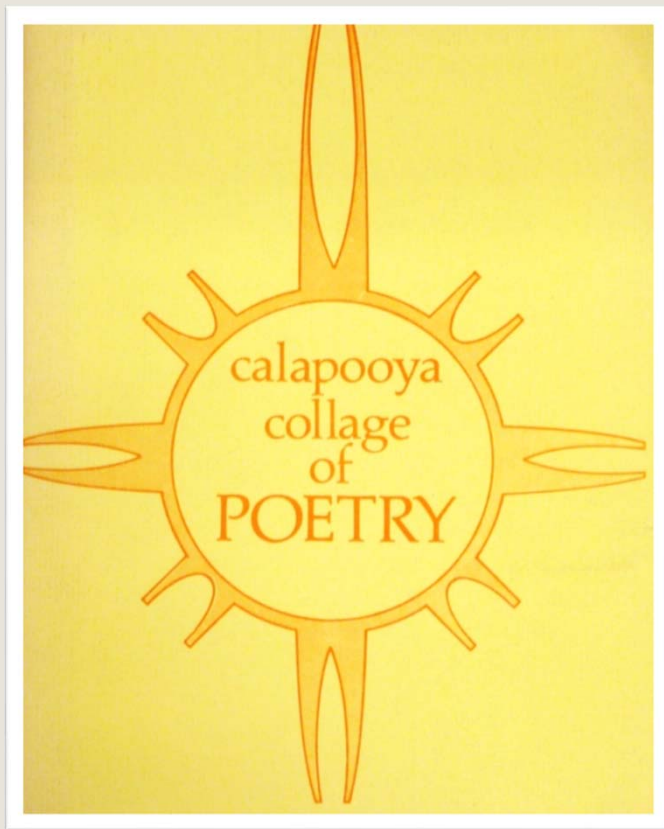
# A New Partnership Emerges

## *Hamersly Library & FYE Program*

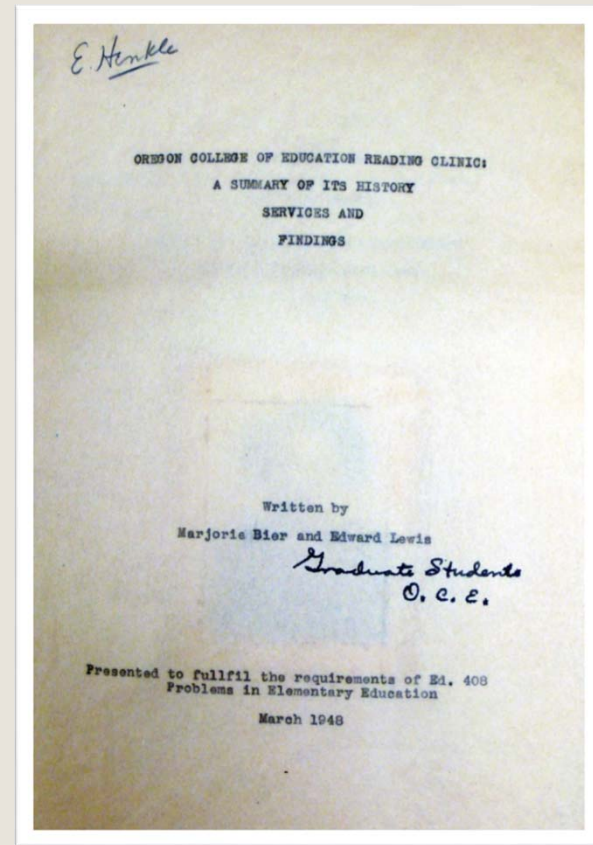


- \* Linked together through library liaison/coordinator
- \* Both the repository and the FYE program are starting fresh
- \* Shared marketing and promotional goals
- \* Recognized need to develop archives, repository, and connections on campus

# This isn't new for University Archives...



*Student published poetry, 1975*

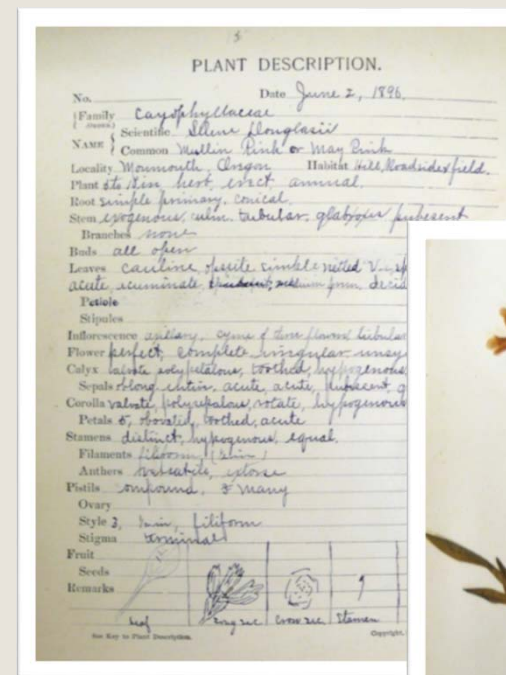


*1948 thesis*

# Problems with documenting only “the best and the brightest”



OSNS Student artwork, 1914



OSNS student herbarium, 1898

# Digital Commons @ WOU: Starting with student scholarship

**western oregon university** **Digital Commons @ WOU**

Hamersly Library [DC Home](#) [About](#) [FAQ](#) [My DC](#)

Enter search terms:  
   
in this repository ▾

**Advanced Search**

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## Browse Research and Scholarship

- [Colleges, Departments, and Centers](#)
- [Journals and peer-reviewed series](#)
- [Student Scholarship](#)



Preserve - Access - Share

Welcome to the Digital Commons @ WOU. This institutional repository is managed by Hamersly Library. We provide open access to published and unpublished scholarly and creative works, research, publications, and reports contributed by WOU faculty, staff, students, and others. The repository includes digital materials from University Archives and campus departments.

Digital Commons @ WOU promotes the collaboration, ongoing development, and discovery of knowledge. Members of the WOU community are invited to share materials for long-term preservation and worldwide accessibility.

<http://digitalcommons.wou.edu/>

# Preparing for Symposium

## Coordinators

- Planning meeting
- Interest in participation form
- Create student permission form

## Instructors

- Midterm meeting
- Concerns of plagiarism
- Quality of student work

## Assumptions

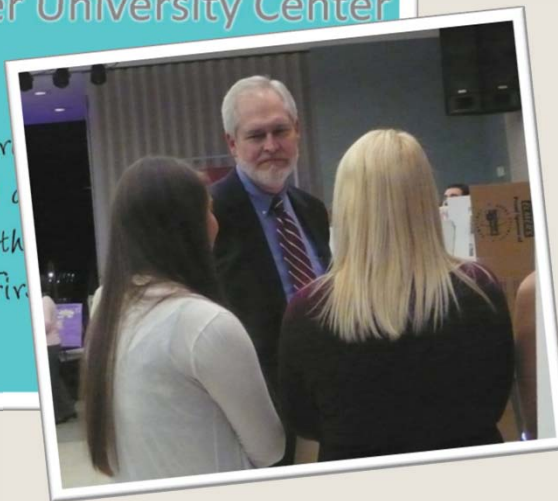
- Formats of final student work
- Flow of Symposium event

# FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE SYMPOSIUM

Wednesday, November 30  
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Pacific Room, Werner University Center

*We invite you to join us for the presentation of the final projects of the LCS 101 class. This is a great opportunity to ask questions of the students about their experience in their First Year Experience.*



- \* 10 out of 13 FYE classes participated (not mandated but encouraged to present)

- \* Approximately 100 projects presented

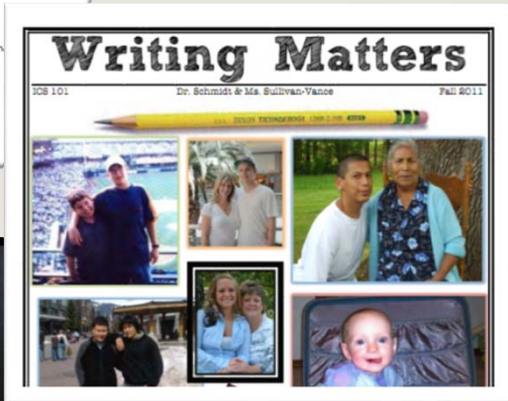
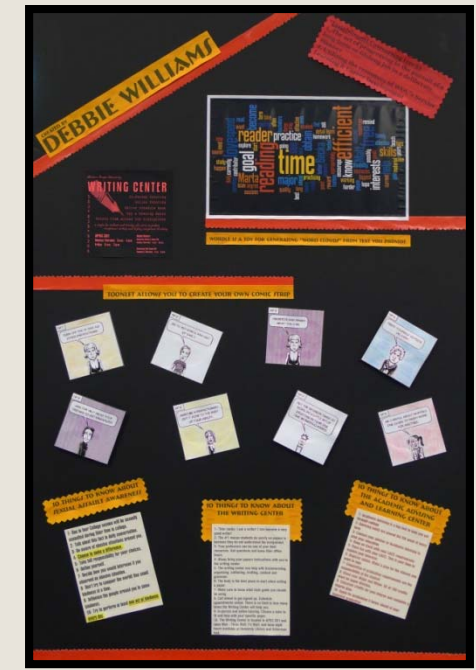
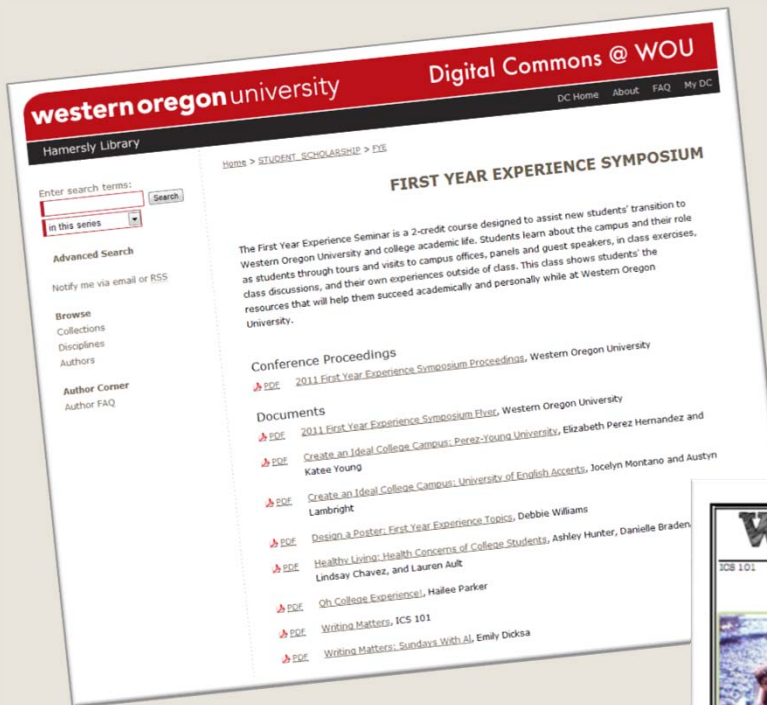
**Around 200 people in attendance, including upper administration**

# Capturing work on the spot



# What we ended up with

<http://digitalcommons.wou.edu/fye/>



Grant got in trouble a lot, and each time his parents got more and more mad at him. They became so angry that they often would ignore him.





# How do we measure success?

## FYE Program

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- \* Some statistics (GPA, retention in 2<sup>nd</sup> year)
- \* Continued funding during economic freeze
- \* Marketing and growth for next fall
- \* Symposium will be required in future terms

## Library

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- \* Developed relationship with FYE program for continued growth, build on reciprocal marketing
- \* Dry-run for Academic Excellence Showcase
- \* Proven example to show potential partners on campus
- \* Model for future projects, better planning

# Takeaways from pilot

## FYE Program

- Require instructor participation in symposium and partnership
- Design of final projects
- Illustration of FYE mission
- Encouraging creativity
- Enhanced marketing

## Library

- Liaisons involved to find opportunities
- Involve all stakeholders early in the process
- Get into the classroom if possible to allow time for students to ask questions
- Get permissions ahead of time
- Preference of born digital materials

# Ongoing Challenges

Continued link to student retention, assessment?

Getting people on board, buy-in from stakeholders

Educating campus about repository, publishing content online and copyright, plagiarism

Look beyond public services library links to students – what can other departments in library offer?

Funding

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