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PDXScholar

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PDXScholar Annual Report 2013

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PDXScholar Annual Report
January 1, 2013 - December 31, 2013

Prepared by:

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Overview

PDXScholar is a repository and digital service for gathering, indexing, storing and making available the scholarly work of the Portland State University faculty, students and staff -- and their collaborators from around the world. The majority of content in *PDXScholar* is **open access**¹; demonstrating the University's commitment to the idea that shared information and academic collaboration are essential to the progress of knowledge in our global community.

PDXScholar is an invaluable promotional tool for the University. Prospective students, faculty and staff can easily find and access examples of higher caliber scholarship and unique learning opportunities that are created within the Portland State University community.

Portland State University is one of many institutions that have begun to build and develop a digital repository program. As the cost of access to scholarly publications has grown, researchers are increasingly facing cost barriers to information essential for their work. It has become clear that academic institutions have both an opportunity and a responsibility to respond by providing open access to their faculty and students' work for the benefit of other scholars.

Through *PDXScholar*, the University Library provides a suite of services, which allow students and faculty to advance knowledge, collaborate with other scholars, and create a sustainable venue for communicating and evaluating diverse ideas.

The services offered (repository services, journal publishing, and support for academic conferences) also directly support the Library's 2014 Planning Document, which includes the following core themes:

- Collaborate with students and faculty to gather, preserve, and make accessible the intellectual work of the University; digitize and make accessible unique materials and collections; provide services for publishing and hosting conferences.
- Provide a greater array of services highlighting and supporting PSU's scholarship and unique collections, transition to the Digital Commons infrastructure for *PDXScholar* and implement SelectedWorks, publishing, and conference administration services.

System Information

At the beginning of 2013 *PDXScholar* was hosted on DSpace, an open access repository platform, and in July of 2013 the Library migrated to a Digital Commons, a hosted repository platform from Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress).

The Library was looking for opportunities to expand its publishing services and allow students to submit their work directly into the system. As a hosted platform, all technical support for

¹ Open Access (OA): OA literature is digital, online, free of charge and free of most copyright and licensing restriction - Peter Suber (<http://mitpress.mit.edu/books/open-access>)

PDXScholar is provided by bepress, and repository content is stored and backed up on bepress servers in Berkeley, California. Bepress works to ensure that all content in *PDXScholar* is indexed in Google and other search engines, increasing discoverability of Portland State University content to a worldwide audience. As a distributed repository product, Digital Commons also connects *PDXScholar* to all other Digital Commons installations around the world through a simple search interface. *PDXScholar* users are able to discover content easily in other institutional repositories, and work in our repository is more discoverable to researchers within other repository communities.

To see a complete list of other universities and colleges using this platform, please visit the bepress listing of IR's: <http://digitalcommons.bepress.com/institutional-repository-colleges/>

Digital Commons is able to provide access to a wide variety of formats, from text files to multimedia (audio and video) files, presentations and images. It is configured to host three types of content: discrete collections of files, scheduled events (e.g. conferences), and peer-reviewed serial publications (e.g. journals, conference proceedings, etc.). *PDXScholar* provides access to content in all of these categories.

PDXScholar is ADA compliant.

Design

The migration to a new system also included a site redesign. The Digital Initiatives Team and the Digital Initiatives Unit worked with bepress to create a new look and feel for *PDXScholar*. During the design process the Digital Initiatives Team consulted with library faculty and staff to gain feedback and insight on design proposals.

The Digital Commons design offers several new features, including:

- Top 10 downloads
- List of most recent additions
- Discipline Wheel, allows users to graphically search and browse by discipline
- Paper of the day

In addition to a new look and feel we also updated the collection hierarchies, allowing users the opportunity to browse by School, College, or Department; Research Centers and Institutes; Dissertations and Theses; Special Collections and University Archives; Conferences; and Journals. This enhances the overall experience for our users.

Year in Review

In its third year of operation, *PDXScholar* continues to grow and evolve. As of December 31, 2013, *PDXScholar* contains 3,919 items with 37,087 full-text downloads from July 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013, post-migration.

While providing access to previously published faculty work remains a focus, *PDXScholar's* strongest and most heavily used collections are those dedicated to student work. Of the top ten most-downloaded items in *PDXScholar*, six are graduate, undergraduate and high school sponsored work.

Top Student Work:

- *Timur Shishkin*, [Marginalized Characters in Contemporary American Short Fiction](#) – Master of Arts (M.A.) in English : **1,323 downloads**
- *Jonathan David Fine*, [At the End of the Peninsula](#) – Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) in Creative Writing : **1,183 downloads**
- *Sema Hasan*, [Women of the Scientific Revolution: The Forgotten Scholars](#) – Young Historians Conference : **480 downloads**
- *Benjamin Hawkins*, [Exploring Realism and Magical Realism in Slum Novels of the Global South](#) – Undergraduate Honors Thesis : **447 downloads**
- *Maryjane Dunne*, [The Representation of Women in Comic Books, Post WWII Through the Radical 60's](#) – McNair Scholars Journal : **416 downloads**

Top Faculty Work:

- *Charles H. Heying*, [Brew to Bikes : Portland's Artisan Economy](#) – Urban Studies and Planning Faculty Publications and Presentations : **2,259 downloads**
- *Ted A. Scambos, Christina L. Hulbe, Mark A. Fahnestock, and Jennifer Bohlander*, [The Link Between Climate Warming and Break-Up of Ice Shelves in the Antarctic Peninsula](#) – Geology Faculty Publications and Presentations : **1,500 downloads**
- *Susan M. Conrad and Douglas Biber*, [The Frequency and Use of Lexical Bundles in Conversation and Academic Prose](#) – Applied Linguistics Faculty Publications and Presentations : **1,325 downloads**
- *Meredith Farkas*, [Participatory Technologies, Pedagogy 2.0 and Information Literacy](#) – Library Faculty Publications and Presentations: **1,006 downloads**
- *William C. Porter, Bradley Kopp, Justin Charles Dunlap, Ralf Widenhorn, and Erik Bodegom*, [Dark Current Measurements in a CMOS Imager](#)— Physics Faculty Publications and Presentations : **744 downloads**

*Download statistics from June 2013 - December 2013 and are a combination of statistics from DSpace and Digital Commons platforms. During migration, systems ran parallel, and prior item level statistics from DSpace are unavailable.

With the migration to Digital Commons, *PDXScholar* is now a tool for providing access to conference information (ranging from conference schedules to full-text downloads and presentation material). Conferences in *PDXScholar* include the Student Research Symposium,

which attracted more than 50 undergraduate and graduate students and the Young Historians Conference (an annual event co-sponsored by Portland State University's Challenge Program and History Department). *PDXScholar* continues to gain recognition as a useful tool for facilitating and capturing the intellectual exchange that occurs at locally-hosted conferences.

Online Activity

PDXScholar uses Google Analytics to track online site visits and search activity. While Google does not capture full-text downloads, the information it provides about page views, visitors, and search terms creates a useful demographic profile of *PDXScholar* users.

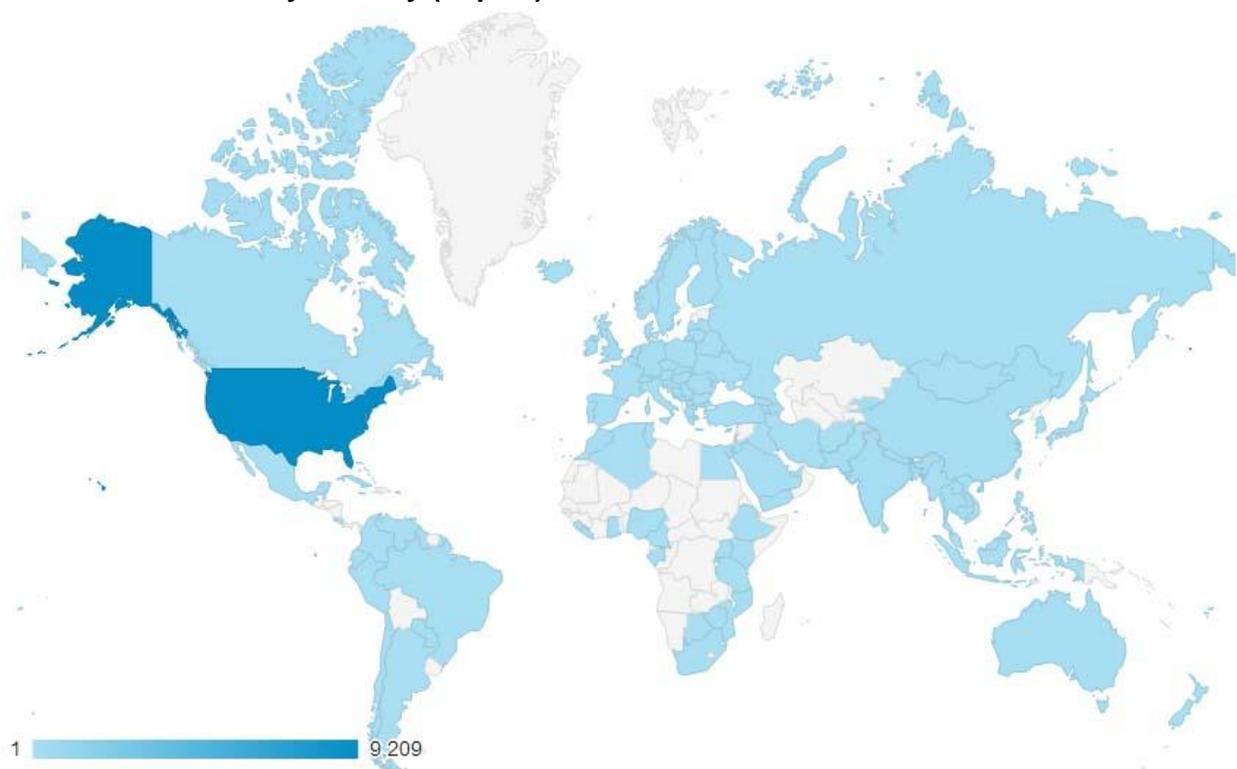
All figures below are from July 1, 2013 - December 31, 2013.

Visits: 12,087

Unique Visits: 8,114

Page Views: 79,546

Visits: Distribution by Country (Top 10)



Country

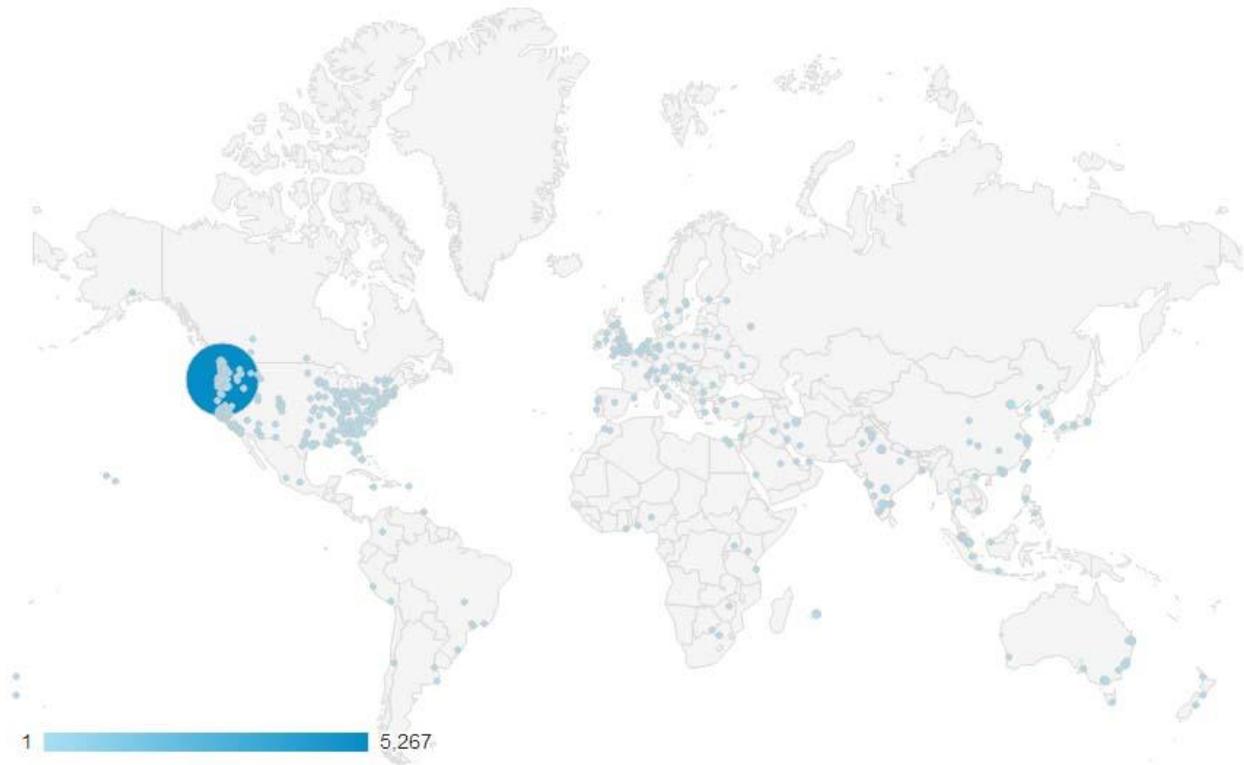
United States: 9,223

United Kingdom: 292

Canada: 238

India: 202
China: 156
Australia: 146
Germany: 129
Iran: 82
Malaysia: 71
Philippines: 70

Visits: Distribution by City



City
Portland: 5,277
Berkeley: 235
Beaverton: 157
Seattle: 135
Hillsboro: 85
New York: 84
Vancouver: 84
London: 71
Salem: 68

Top Collections, 2013

- [Dissertations and Theses](#): 18,198 downloads
- [Physics Faculty Publications and Presentations](#): 1,499 downloads
- [McNair Scholars Journal](#): 1,326 downloads
- [Library Faculty Publications and Presentations](#): 1,325 downloads
- [Young Historians Conference](#): 1,183 downloads
- [Urban Studies and Planning Faculty Publications and Presentations](#): 1,105 downloads

*Download statistics from July 2013 - December 2013 and from Digital Commons only.

Success Stories

A sampling of accomplishments and notable developments (some already referenced in this report) from *PDXScholar* in 2013:

- Platform migration from Dspace to Digital Commons
- In December 2013, Civil and Environmental Engineering Undergraduate Honors students and Civil and Environmental Engineering Master's Project Report students started submitting their work directly into *PDXScholar*.
- Starting in January 2014, Undergraduate Honors students will be submitting their theses to *PDXScholar* and their advisors will approve the work directly in *PDXScholar*. This was set up as a way to alleviate paperwork and expedite the thesis approval process.
- In September 2013, SelectedWorks faculty author profile pages were rolled out as a new service of *PDXScholar*. The Digital Initiatives Unit has been building the volume of SelectedWorks profiles. SelectedWorks statistics, as of December 31:
 - SelectedWorks Sites: 49
 - Total Cover Page Hits: 3,145
 - Total Full-Text Downloads: 1,217

Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges

After three years of operation which have focused on creating awareness about the repository and our services, the challenge for the coming years is to successfully maintain *PDXScholar* as a sustainable program. Key issues:

- *Faculty Participation*: Devising ways to increase faculty participation and continuing to identify ways that the repository can support the mission and goals of individual units on campus
- *Publishing Support*: With the migration to Digital Commons, *PDXScholar* gained the capability to provide services that support publishing. As publishing support starts to grow the library should examine:

- a) what services the Library is able to provide
- b) what level of services the library can sustainably offer
- c) what level of staffing support is both necessary and available for publishing activities

Opportunities

- *PDX Open*: The Provost's Challenge grant-funded the open textbook initiative project, and the Library will begin to publish open textbooks. The Library will continue to explore ways to leverage *PDXScholar* to support alternative means of disseminating knowledge.
- *Thesis/Dissertation Digitization*: Continue digitizing older dissertations and theses. Dissertations and theses are *PDXScholar's* most heavily used collections and older dissertations and theses provide a more complete picture of the work that was produced at Portland State University.
- *Data*: In Fall 2013, faculty began to state within their grant proposals that their research data would be archived and made accessible in *PDXScholar*. Currently, long-term access to research data is required by National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Over time, more funding agencies will be adding this requirement. *PDXScholar* is the solution the Library is providing to faculty to satisfy this funding requirement. *PDXScholar* currently does not archive and store data sets larger than 1GB, but can link to the location of those data sets on other servers.

Goals for 2014

1. Systematically expand coverage of PSU departments/units to achieve greater balance of scholarship and research by:
 - a. With library liaisons, build stronger relationships with faculty to ensure that we are notified when a participating author has new content
 - b. Work with liaisons to reach out to departments that are not currently represented in the institutional repository
2. Increase participation in our new service, SelectedWorks
3. Increase the number of faculty publications available in *PDXScholar*
4. Work with liaisons and departments to increase the visibility of student scholarship
5. Work with liaisons, Scholarly Communications Coordinator and Outreach Coordinator to create marketing and outreach strategies for *PDXScholar* and its suite of services
6. Work to expand journal publishing
7. Work to expand conference hosting

Conclusion

In many ways, 2013 was a remarkable year for Digital Initiatives at the Portland State University Library. The migration from our DSpace repository to the Digital Commons platform, which included a redesign of the interface, went smoothly in spite of the vast number of details involved. The Digital Initiatives Group successfully migrated existing content between repositories, saving the Library a significant fee that would have accrued had bepress performed the same function for us.

As noted previously in this report, page views, downloads and site visits increased across the board. The number of participating faculty continues to rise, as do the number of SelectedWorks author profile pages. Partnerships with groups across campus continue to be fostered, resulting in collaborations with groups such as the Honors Program and Civil and Environmental Engineering.

It is clear that *PDXScholar* meets a variety of needs for a variety of stakeholders across Portland State University and beyond. From its initial role as a means of disseminating student and faculty work, it has evolved to support a broad range of services. *PDXScholar* provides an economical, efficient and effective means of fulfilling the Library's mission and supporting the University community as a whole.

In 2014, we can look forward to continued growth in the depth and breadth of our digital collections, while beginning to develop and strengthen other features of the Digital Commons platform, such as journal publishing and conference hosting. Challenges remain, but there are many opportunities ahead.