The Jefferson Digital Commons

Starting an Institutional Repository at an Academic Health Sciences Library



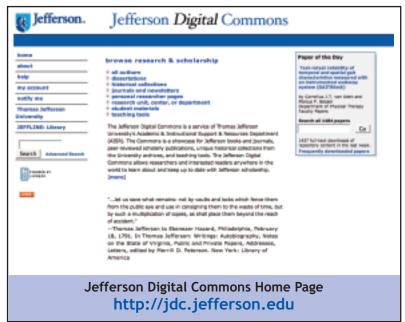
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BACKGROUND

In 2005, Thomas Jefferson University started an institutional repository (IR) and named it the **Jefferson Digital Commons (JDC)**. Intended as a showcase for faculty scholarship, it has evolved to also serve as the University Press for original journals and newsletters, and as an institutional archive.

Since its creation, the JDC has accepted and archived more than 1,500 documents from faculty, students, departments and Library collections in our academic health sciences setting. We share the lessons we've learned about marketing techniques, common IR issues, and advantages for a library.



COLLECTIONS

- Faculty postprints, presentations and posters
- Original journals and newsletters (e.g., Health Policy Newsletter, Jefferson Journal of Psychiatry, Jefferson Surgical Solutions)
- Clinical documents for patient education
- Grand rounds, lectures, and campus events
- Departmental archives (annual reports, events)
- University archives (yearbooks, catalogs)
- Teaching materials (video presentations, podcasts)
- Library collections (rare books), training and help documents
- Dissertations

MARKETING = FACULTY OUTREACH

All methods of contacting faculty were explored, including attending departmental meetings, campus celebrations and receptions, forming alliances with chairpersons, presenting at new faculty orientations, advertising in the Library's e-newsletter, brochures, and mailings.

Create demand by appealing to faculty egos:

- Point to features such as featured author
- Personal researcher pages
- Paper of the day highlight
- Visible statistics (top 10 downloads, stats on metadata pages, monthly emails to faculty showing individual stats)
- Personal invitations from the library director

Continued promotion highlights:

- Personal contacts with librarians (director, liaisons, instructors, JDC manager)
- Incorporation of a JDC component in all relevant Library services
- Emphasis on editorial control by departments or individual faculty
- Free storage of scholarship with permanent links and no size limits
- Invitation program based on database search alerts

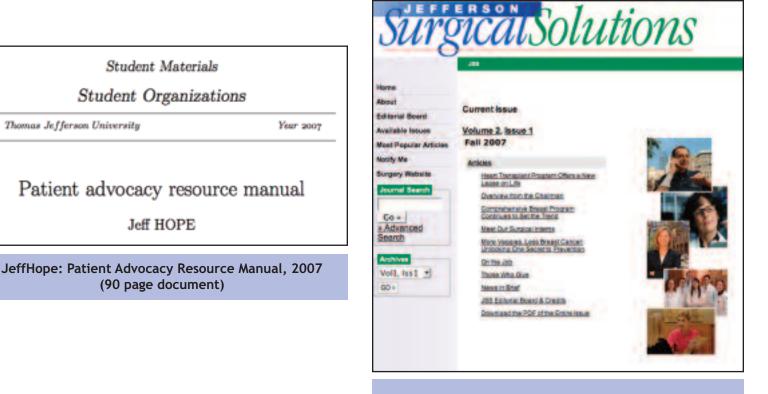
LESSONS LEARNED

- Do not expect high deposit rates without a campus mandate (average 5%, ours 15%).
- Faculty perceive competition with other archives, like NIH or Creative Commons.
- Some publishers will negotiate deposit privileges outside their usual policies, if asked.
- Do outreach to and train administrative assistants. Faculty won't take time to deposit, but will delegate.
- Common barriers to acquiring materials involve costs of recording lectures, extent of access,
 - and file format. Consider subsidies and format modification services.
- Faculty get excited about getting feedback like monthly email alerts with statistics. They care that the program is free for them to use, that it may increase citation rates, that someone on staff will help, that they have control over format, presentation and version.
- Identify and recruit campus thought leaders.
- Lead by example put your own materials up.
- Start slowly when it's staff-driven, it's easy for staff to get overwhelmed.
- No silos ALL Library staff need to promote the IR at EVERY opportunity.
- Measure success. Define meaningful statistics and compare ROI to other tools

CONCLUSIONS

The JDC has raised Library visibility and attracted significant campus participation (number of deposits, number of participating faculty, number of participating departments). The unique service fills a need on campus for a publishing outlet, and as a showcase of Jefferson scholarship. Traditional faculty have been slow to adopt, but extremely positive, once participating.

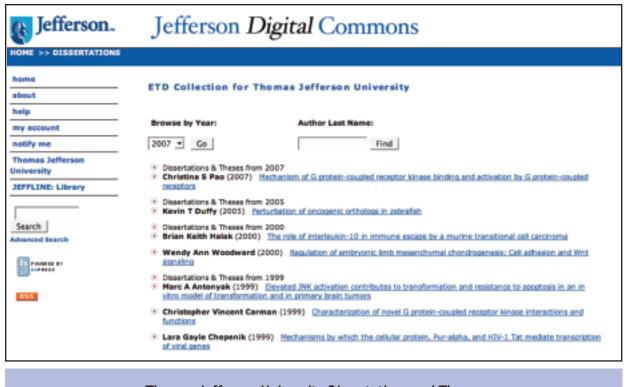
Jefferson Digital Commons Sample Pages



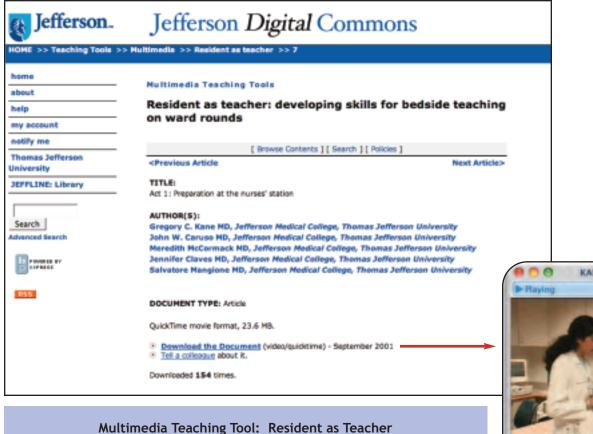
Jefferson Surgical Solutions e-journal



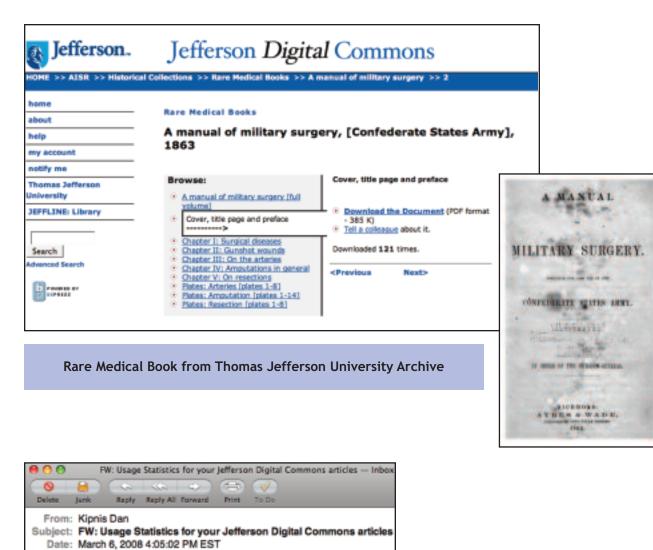
Personal Researcher Page: David Nash



Thomas Jefferson University Dissertations and Theses







To: dan.kipnis@jefferson.edu Subject: Usage Statistics for your Jefferson Digital Commons articles Dear Author,

From: NO_REPLY@jdc.jefferson.edu [mailto:NO_REPLY@jdc.jefferson.edu]

To: Leone Gail

Sent: Monday, March 03, 2008 4:05 PM

-----Original Message-

As a service to our authors, we are pleased to provide you with a monthly report tracking readership for your articles:

"Multi-disciplinary medical case study development for first year medical students"

Email with author statistics

For more information: ann.koopman@jefferson.edu dan.kipnis@jefferson.edu