BUCKNELL SHARES ITS RESEARCH WITH THE WORLD
by Andrew Asher, Scholarly Communications Fellow

Last fall, Library and IT implemented Bucknell Digital Commons as a new online space to display, disseminate, and preserve the academic and artistic output of Bucknell’s faculty, staff, and students. The repository plays an important role in supporting open access scholarship at Bucknell by providing faculty members a central location to make accessible journal articles covered by Bucknell’s open access policy.

In addition to hosting open access materials, Bucknell Digital Commons offers many additional functions that can be utilized by faculty members. The repository is able to collect materials in any electronic format, including images, films, and other media, and can be customized for use with specific projects or collections. For example, the Bucknell Dance Company recently added its archive of performances dating to 1987, including both digital video of the performances and images of their original programs. Similarly, Professor Eric Faden used a custom collection to support research in his Pre- and Early Cinema course. Students in this course researched contextual and interpretive information about early cinematic technologies using objects from the David Francis Pre-Cinema Collection. The results of this research were posted on Bucknell Digital Commons along with original films of objects. Adding this research to the repository makes it easily discoverable via Google and other search engines, and provides a valuable service both to other students and scholars as well as to the general public.

Bucknell Digital Commons also offers “Selected Works” pages to help individual authors manage and showcase their work. Selected Works pages are easily customizable and allow authors to organize materials into whatever descriptive categories make the most sense for their research and disciplines. To help authors communicate with their audiences, these pages automatically generate RSS feeds and provide mailing list functionality so that other scholars can be notified when new materials are available. Finally, the repository has built-in support to enable faculty members to easily set up new scholarly journals, including a suite of submission, peer review, and editorial workflow tools to manage the publishing process from beginning to end.

For more information about how to set up a project-specific collection or for any other questions about submitting materials, please contact Andrew Asher, Bucknell’s Scholarly Communications Fellow at andrew.asher@bucknell.edu.

visit  Bucknell Digital Commons at http://digitalcommons.bucknell.edu

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