Digital Initiatives & Scholar Commons

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In this presentation I will talk about the two main areas of digital initiatives at SCU, our digital collections and the suite of services we offer faculty, staff and students to preserve and promote their intellectual work.
Digital collections

- CONTENTdm platform
- Over 10,000 items
- 34 collections
- 88,000 views in the past year

We use the CONTENTdm image management platform. We host the server here, though CONTENTdm is moving toward a cloud-based model more and more. Currently we have 32 collections in CONTENTdm, made up of over 10,000 digitized photographs, books, postcards, manuscripts, and letters.
Where do the items come from?

- Our archives: items from SCU-produced material that we preserve and curate.
- Special collections: items donated to us or bought by us to enhance our existing areas of collection.

Digital Initiatives is part of the Archives & Special Collections Department. We choose items to digitize and make into online collections from our archival material - things produced by members of the SCU community and preserved by A&SC, or from our special collections material - things donated to us or bought by us to enhance a subject area we are interested in.

The examples here: from special collections, a set of homilies, or sermons, by a local priest donated to us by his sister. He was not a part of SCU, but his talks add to our body of material focusing on local history and culture. From our archives: a collection of photographs from the early 20th century by a photographer working for SCU, one of a number of such collections we have that document the history of SCU.
Areas we focus on in creating collections

- **History of SCU or Mission Santa Clara**
- **Noted people from SCU**
- **History of the Santa Clara Valley area**
- **Curriculum support**

There are several topical areas we focus on when creating digital collections. One is the history of SCU or of Mission Santa Clara, upon whose grounds the school was started. Examples shown here are collections made up of materials from our archives - letters, journals, government documents - covering the history of the mission, and photos drawn from several collections showing the progression of the school from its beginnings in the 1850s through the early 2000s.
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SCU has had a few celebrities over the years, and some of our collections feature them. One was a Jesuit priest, Bernard Hubbard, who taught at Santa Clara but spent much of his time as an explorer. He was famous for his expeditions to Alaska, and pioneered the audio-visual presentation, traveling the country lecturing about his trips, with movies and photos showing the areas and people. This collection is a small part of our physical collection of his items - we have over 10,000 photos, movies, and audio recordings of his journeys. Putting this collection online attracts researchers who are interested in Hubbard’s travels, or just in the places he visited.

Hubbard King Island Expedition

In 1937 and 1939 Father Hubbard lived on King Island, with his boats, dogs, expedition members, and more than 100 tons of supplies and equipment. During this expedition, he combined the latest research and captured the King Island people on film. The King Island film has won an 8,000 mile-open-water trip by undersea (skin) boat in his attempt to prove that the Eskimos, from home to Bering Island, shared a common language.

Hubbard's arrival on the island had an impact on the community. Among his supplies were powerful electric generators and engines to power his wing picture equipment and light the field he constructed to show his films, as well as his own power to other parts of the village. He constructed buildings for the villagers and introduced oil-burning stoves to replace the older and less efficient coal burning stoves that had been used.

Hubbard made several long documentary films and took thousands of photos, sometimes every aspect of King Island life, including rare foxes and the colubrine dance of success at bear hunting. Britney and Robert L. Porter, who published a number of Hubbard’s expedition and more than 150 books, gave these photos to the University of California at Berkeley, which donated them to the Santa Clara University. They now reside in theなど with more than 150 books. Hubbard had thousands of photographs that were published in his book “The King Island Adventure.”

While on King Island, Hubbard also supervised the creation of the bronze statue entitled “Christ the King” on the top of the island mountain. This was the creation of a statue of Father Hubbard, King Island’s hero, by his own son, King Island carver. This sculpture is presented by Hubbard with love, care and appreciation for his work. The statue is located in the University of California at Berkeley, which donated it to the SCU.”
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Here are two examples of local history-related collections: Silicon Valley History Online was a consortial project we did with a number of local schools, libraries, archives, and historical societies. The collection includes both images and also lesson plans for K-12 classroom use; the lesson plans use the images as part of the student learning modules.

Encarnacion Pinedo was a member of one of Santa Clara’s pioneer families from the Spanish colonial period. She wrote the first Latino-American cookbook, and a memoir of life in Santa Clara during the latter half of the 19th century, after California had become a state. We transcribed the handwritten memoir to make it easier to read, and present each page with its transcription. Both items are in the online collection.
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Part of A&SC’s role at SCU is to support teaching. We offer classes in the reading room where students gain hands-on experience with primary source materials and historical volumes from our collections. This online collection, “Voyages and Castaways”, supports an advanced English class. The theme is explorations of the New World, with a focus on ocean voyages, shipwrecks and pirates. We digitized a number of 18th and 19th century volumes from our archives. After the classroom visit where the students interact with the physical books, they can still examine the volumes online to continue their assignments, without damaging the books from overuse.
Within the collections, the image of each item can be examined as a whole, or zoomed in on to study details. We offer the possibility of downloading the item up to its original size, or, in the case of a book, as a PDF. Each item in a collection has extensive metadata included with it. This gives context to the item. Note that some of the text fields are bold - these fields can be searched, to gather together other items that share some characteristic - a subject, or date, or creator, for instance. We try to use consistent terms for our metadata, so that searches across collections can retrieve relevant results.
Here is an example of searching one of the searchable terms in an item. One can choose which collections to search, to narrow or expand the results. In this case, the search was for the subject “Student life” from the last slide. Searching across our collections retrieved 314 results.
Promote and disseminate

Our collections are made with an SCU audience primarily in mind, but we know also that researchers and viewers from around the world are interested in the subjects we put online. We have registered our collections with open access directories, the OCLC WorldCat Digital Gateway, the Digital Public Library of America and Calisphere, among other platforms, so our collections are available to a wide audience who may not know to go to our Digital Collections page. We also link to the comprehensive finding aids at the Online Archive of California, so people can find out more about the collections from which we choose images to digitize. A person not familiar with any of these places can still find us by doing a Google search on a topic, person, or place - we allow harvesting of our metadata so our items will show up, usually near the top of the results list.
Scholar Commons is the online presence of SCU’s Scholarly Communication program.
It’s an online repository for the intellectual output of members of the SCU community - faculty, staff, and students.
It’s also a place where authors have their own dedicated profile pages, events are managed, books are presented in a gallery, journals are referred and published, and the various publications produced by SCU are gathered and presented.
Scholar Commons

- Over 3,000 items
- Over 182,000 downloads (as of July 2017)

Scholar Commons began several years ago as a way to present Engineering student theses online. Just over a year ago we moved from the open source Dspace platform to the Digital Commons platform created by bepress. Digital Commons offers a number of features that we'll talk about, and also has its own network of members, creating a scholarly network.

Note the map in the screenshot - this updates in real time, showing who is downloading what from where. Authors have their personal dashboard that includes a personal map, along with extensive information about how many downloads they've had, which publications have been downloaded, from where the downloads have come, and from where the downloaders were referred to Scholar Commons.
What’s included

- SCU units
- Conferences
- Book gallery
- SCU publications
- Student scholarship
- SCU Journals

This shows the range of Scholar Commons, with units depositing material, events and conferences, galleries and publications, with various options for searching and browsing, and the option for getting alerts when a new work in a selected subject or author is added to the repository.
Digital Commons operates as a collection of communities. We have organized them in line with SCU’s academic organization. As you can see, there are a number of ways to explore the works in a community - by browsing, searching, or going to an author's page.
Here is an item page. There are several features we’ve worked on to make our deposited items more useful:

- A lot of information is included - the Creative Commons license, the DOI (persistent URL), a valid citation.

- The article can be read in the window on the item page without actually downloading it., to see if it is what one wants.

- Working with the author we have tagged the article with disciplines, so it joins other discipline communities within the Digital Commons network. These can be browsed or searched if the reader finds the topic interesting.
The book gallery

An attractive feature is the book gallery. Each year we deposit books authored by SCU faculty in the gallery, giving them a centralized location to view their work.
The book gallery

The book item page is much like an article item page, with the addition of having a link to buy the book - a feature appreciated by the faculty authors.
Digital Commons also serves as a journal publishing platform; here is the home page of a peer-reviewed student journal from the History Department.
Here are the two pages included with an author’s profile page - his works, and as much information as he or she cares to include. This is where we can add disciplines for an author, as well, to get them included in the Digital Commons network of discipline communities.
Conferences and events

- Set up submissions
- Review submissions
- Publish agendas and schedules
- Link to registration and housing

The conferences and events module is a place to organize events, review and approve submissions, generate agendas with PDFs of presentations attached if desired, and link to registration and housing info. Events, like other repository material, is preserved, and one can link to past events with all items included.
The deposit process is centralized at SCU. We ask authors for a CV, check the copyright status for their work, deposit the articles when possible, ask for preprints/author submitted versions when those are all the publisher will allow, or link to available versions either in a database or on a publisher’s website. We would prefer to have all content in Digital Commons, but in the current commercialized publishing arena this is not possible.