Promoting Feminist and Queer Scholarship at Santa Clara University

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The Chair of the Women’s and Gender Studies (WGST) Dept. reached out to the library for help creating a website featuring feminist and queer works published by SCU faculty. The goal was to showcase scholarship produced not only by WGST faculty, but also by faculty in other departments interested in gender studies.

The Library suggested using Scholar Commons, SCU’s institutional repository, to create a special online collection. This was the beginning of a collaborative project that resulted in unforeseen benefits for all involved.

IMPLEMENTATION (2017-2018)
• Initial meeting to discuss the use of Scholar Commons as a platform and the criteria for inclusion in the online collection. Participants include WGST representatives, the Library’s Digital Initiatives Assistant (DIA) and the WGST librarian.
• Bibliography of eligible works created by the WGST Dept.
• Authors contacted to sign Scholar Commons agreement.
• DIA creates the online collection in Scholar Commons.
• DIA and student assistants verify publication rights of individual works.
• Publications uploaded in the collection
• Creation of an author gallery for the collection

BENEFITS
• For the University: More recognition for the wide range and cross-disciplinary nature of feminist and gender scholarship published at Santa Clara University.
• For the Library: Recognition of its commitment to open access initiatives; renewed interest in Scholar Commons and increased number of faculty depositing their publications in the repository; labor cost for the management of the collection shared with the WGST Dept.
• For the Authors: More access and discovery for their publications without any additional efforts on their part.

"The Gender and Sexuality Studies @SCU collection....is a testament to the vitality of feminist and queer research on our campus. The collection provides visibility and also an opportunity for faculty to make connections across varied academic departments and institutes.” - Linda Garber, WGST chair

CHALLENGES
• Getting all faculty to sign the Scholar Commons agreement
• Training WGST student workers and creating a workflow to update the publications
• Assessing the specific impact of the online collection on the number of downloads per publication