Building student media publication content in Digital Commons: Advice from the trenches

Virginia Dressler
Digital Projects Librarian
Kent State University
Overview at Kent State: Current state of affairs

● Began around Spring 2015
● Four publications are up on Digital Commons to date
  ○ The Burr- A student produced magazine made for Kent State University (Office of Student Media)
  ○ Kaleidoscope- Historical review of creative writing and art work submitted by staff, faculty, and students on the Kent State University at Ashtabula Campus
  ○ Platypus- A student journal of the arts that was produced every semester to showcase the best writing and photography of the student body of the Kent State University at Ashtabula Campus
  ○ Writing Center Review- Student academic writing on the Kent State at Stark Campus
● Two in the works
  ○ Fusion- Kent State University's LGBTQ magazine (Office of Student Media)
  ○ Brainchild- Literary and arts publication (Honors College)
Dream big, start small

- Idea to build a comprehensive collection of all past publications, as well as providing support for current publishing efforts
- Cast the net wide to encompass all types of student publication
  - At KSU, this has included: regional campus content, office of student media and other avenues, like the Honors College
  - Use existing networks
  - Keep your eyes open!
- Make a game plan, create benchmarks, solicit help when needed
  - Working with others to set priorities
  - Implementing guidelines for digitization
  - Student workers, staff, and librarians- Who does what?
Adapt to the realities of the work

- **Missing issues**
  - Leaving a place for missing volume number for Journal set-up
  - University Archives filled some gaps in missing issues
    - And conversely, connections through the project filled some gaps in the Archives
- **Unanswered email requests for new projects**
  - Persistence is key!
  - Highlight the advantages of openly accessible digital archives
    - Service point to refer alumni and others
    - Full text searching
    - Explain analytics
Get creative with Digital Commons

Consider using a Book Gallery
*If available, use some additional plug-ins with Embedly, such as ISSUU for page turning functionality.
Metadata: Solicit advice from the originating office to consolidate and normalize changing titles
Keep on plugging along!

- Small steps will lead to big results- and build momentum
- Consider historical publications as well
- If possible, get students involved with the process

Remaining hurdles:

- Future issues contributed
- Applying additional features?
- And... unanswered emails
Thanks!!

Virginia Dressler

vdressle@kent.edu