Capturing Graduate Research: Creation of the Graduate Online Symposium at Minnesota State University, Mankato

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Agenda

• Background
• Process
• Feedback
• Next Steps
• Questions

A picture of the Mankato State University Alumni Arch and Plaza and the Ostrander Student Memorial Bell Tower, 1990s. MSU-UA-309-11160. University Archives, Memorial Library, Minnesota State University, Mankato.
Minnesota State University, Mankato

• 85 miles southwest of the Twin Cities
• Founded in 1868 (Hurray! It’s our Sesquicentennial!)
• About 15,000 students
• 1600+ faculty and staff
• 130 undergraduate programs across 6 Colleges

College of Graduate Studies and Research

• About 75 graduate programs
• 1954 = 1st Masters of Science degree awarded
• 2006 = Approved to offer Doctoral programs
• 1,674 graduate students (2018)
• On Campus, Satellite Locations, and Online (11%)
University Archives and Digital Collections

• 2 Repositories (2014)
  • ARCH: University Archives Digital Collections (Historical materials about the University and South Central Minnesota)
  • Cornerstone: A Collection of Scholarly and Creative Works (University’s institutional repository)

Old Main Library (circa 1900), Mankato State Normal School. MSU-UA-309-10002. University Archives, Memorial Library, Minnesota State University, Mankato.
2015-2018 Academic Master Plan

• Four Extraordinary Education Task Forces
  • Teaching Excellence and Innovation
  • Academic Advising
  • Academic Engagement Programs and Opportunities
  • Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity (RSCA)

• Four Recommendations from RSCA Task Force
  • Increase the engagement of faculty in RSCA.
  • Infuse student involvement in RSCA throughout their studies.
  • Report, market and assess RSCA.
  • Make targeted changes to our financial, physical and organizational infrastructures supporting RSCA.
Faculty Association Research Committee

- Advisory board to the College of Graduate Studies and Research in matters regarding RSCA across campus
- Faculty members from all 6 colleges and 4th Division (Library) along with administrators
- Move RSCA Task Force Recommendations forward and in particular = Marketing RSCA
Showcasing Research and Scholarship

• Faculty
  • Departmental Web pages (CVs) or Physical Collections around campus
  • Cornerstone and SelectedWorks

• Undergraduate Research & URC
  • Undergraduate Research Symposium
  • Minnesota Undergraduate Scholars Conference
  • Posters at St. Paul
  • National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR)
  • Several collections in Cornerstone
Evidence of Graduate Research

- Theses, Dissertations and Alternative Plan Papers (APP)/Capstone Projects
  - Thesis or dissertation = two paper copies (Library Services and University Archives)
  - APPs or Capstone projects = only submitted to the Department, some times to Library Services/Archives
- 2009: Offer electronic submissions (CONTENTdm)
- 2014: Cornerstone (bepress Digital Commons) (https://cornerstone.lib.mnsu.edu/etds/)
But What Else?

• Frontiers Magazine = stopped in spring 2011* ([https://grad.mnsu.edu/research/frontiers/](https://grad.mnsu.edu/research/frontiers/))

• Graduate Research Conference = stopped after three years (2009-2011)

• Graduate Research Conference Journal = stopped after three years (2009-2011)

• MSW Student Research Showcase (poster presentations) = stopped in 2015

• Opportunities for presentations at professional conferences (each department is different)

(*Frontiers restarted in fall 2017 and will eventually have a place in Cornerstone)
New Opportunity

- Lots of Conversations
  +
- Growth of Cornerstone
  =
- Formation of the Online Grad Research Conference Committee (November 2016)
GOS Begins

• 5 member committee
  • Dr. Barry Ries (Associate VP/Dean of Graduate Studies and Research)
  • Dr. Teri Wallace (Education)
  • Dr. Shawna Petersen-Brown (Psychology)
  • Graduate Student Christine Klecker (Biology)
  • Digital Initiatives Librarian (me!)

• Face to face meetings in the fall 2016
• Work mostly done by email
• No budget
The Concept

- Utilize Cornerstone to host an online “conference” called the Graduate Online Symposium (GOS)
- Any graduate student anywhere could participate
- Not a “Live” conference = Recorded video or audio created using free* and easy-to-use tools
- Embedded/Streaming (No Download) videos
- Faculty mentor/advisor approval
- Hidden until all revealed on a specific day

(*Free to our campus and our students)
Tools Considered

- Screencast-o-matic = https://screencast-o-matic.com/
- Camtasia = https://www.techsmith.com/video-editor.html
- Jing = https://www.techsmith.com/jing-tool.html
- Snagit = https://www.techsmith.com/screen-capture.html
- PowerPoint options
- Keynote (Mac) options
- Prezi = https://prezi.com/
- Audacity = https://www.audacityteam.org/
- Adobe Connect
- Smartphone apps
Tools Utilized

• Screencast-O-Matic (https://screencast-o-matic.com/)
  • Free, easy to use, works on both Mac and PC
  • Restricted to 15 minutes of recording
  • Captured your audio, your screen and video of yourself (student choice)
  • Allow saving a MP4 (MPEG-4 file format)

• PowerPoint (campus access)

• Students had equipment (webcam for video, microphone, and a computer) but so did the library (could loan)
Timeline

• January 9, 2017 – “Save the Date” email to all Graduate Faculty
• February 9, 2017 – Initial call for submissions
  • Email to All Graduate Students
  • Email to All Graduate Faculty
• March 20, 2017 = Deadline for submissions
• April 20, 2017 = Go LIVE date
Directions for Students

• Talk to Faculty Mentor/Advisor
• Complete GOS Permission Form and send to me
• Record 15 minute presentation and Save as MP4
• Send video and any supplemental materials through MOVEit Securely
• Could contact me with questions/concerns
Metadata

• Information taken from the Permission Form
  • Name
  • Department/Program of Study
  • Co-Authors if applicable and their Department/Program
  • Faculty Mentor/Advisor, Department, Email
  • Title of Presentation
  • Keywords to Describe your Research (limit of 4)
  • Abstract (limit to 250 words)

• Added at Ingest
  • College and Degree
  • Disciplines
  • Recommended Citation (APA)
  • Creative Commons License (CC BY-NC-ND)
T Minus 31 Days and Counting

• 11 submissions by March 20, 2017
• Representation from 5 of the 6 colleges
• To do list:
  • Checklist created to track submissions
  • Follow up email to the student (re: missing video, missing form, etc.)
  • Email student’s mentor/advisor
  • Answer questions/troubleshoot
  • Prepare videos for streaming
Streaming Video

• Where to put them?
  • MavTube?
  • mnsulibrary Tube?
  • Other options?

• Kaltura (http://www.kaltura.org/)
  • Local space (Media Manager) = not retained after 1 year
  • System space (MediaSpace) = retained until contact expires (November 2022)
  • Made sure link was Unlisted (visible to anyone with link) in Kaltura
  • Add Kaltura link to Cornerstone = had to adapt base Kaltura URL in order for streaming to work
Yeah! It Finally worked!
LIVE from Minnesota State University, Mankato, it’s...

- April 20, 2017 went LIVE
  https://cornerstone.lib.mnsu.edu/gos/2017/

- Associate VP/Graduate Dean sent out a formal campus announcement

- Interviewed by Student Paper
  https://arch.lib.mnsu.edu/islandora/object/MSUrepository:99144 and
  https://arch.lib.mnsu.edu/islandora/object/MSUrepository:99147
Feedback

- Simple and straightforward process
- Software = Easy to use
- Online format = Great for a busy grad student
- Pleased with the end product
- Would participate again
- Awesome first run!

- Need guidance on how to make a video presentation
- Tough deadline
- Staying under the time limit
- Make it easier to contact the author
Round Two!

• New Committee
  • Dr. Stephen Stoynoff (Associate VP/Grad Dean)
  • Dr. Beth Beschorner (Education)
  • Dr. Shawna Petersen-Brown (Psychology)
  • Dr. Joseph Visker (Health Science)
  • Digital Initiatives Librarian (me!)

• Meetings/emails in February and March 2018
• March 12, 2018 = Call for submissions
• May 1, 2018 = Deadline for submissions
• May 15, 2018 = GOS 2018 goes LIVE!
Things to Consider

- Careful wording in cover letter
- Add a photograph
- Space for a short professional biography (75 words)
- Add a permanent email contact
- Select Creative Commons License
- Longer presentation time
- Submission deadline
- Permission form issues
- Requiring CC and/or Transcript!!!
Unanswered Questions

- Promotion = 382 visits in the past year
  - Better way to track visits/views?
  - How to increase this?
  - Can we place it in a more visible spot?
  - What can we do to have that last college participate?
- New streaming service
- Permanent storage space
Questions? Contact me!

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University Archives staff by 150th birthday cake, 2017