

Testimonial about the USFSP Digital Archive
By Professor Alejandro E. Brice, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
College of Education, USFSP
September 23, 2013



As a faculty member and researcher it is important to disseminate my research findings. I am a firm believer in others having open access to important publications. Recently, the Open Access movement has shifted the power of access to information from publishing houses to accessible, online journals. The University of South Florida St. Petersburg Digital Archive (spearheaded by Dean Carol Hixson and the Nelson Poynter Library) has been a pioneer in making information easily available. Consequently, my digital archive page, currently containing 22 of my publications, has been viewed almost 16,000 times in the past two years from dozens of countries around the world. That is an amazing amount of exposure for my work! The best feature has been that this exposure and access has been provided to all researchers worldwide who have previously not able to afford the costs of journal subscriptions. Investigative results can now be open to all interested researchers.

Testimonial about the USFSP Digital Archive
By Dr. Deby Cassill
College of Arts & Sciences, USF St. Petersburg
September 20, 2013



Universities create two products: (1) Students who have developed creative, analytical and communication skills to advance the goals of local, national and global societies. (2) Research publications from faculty and students that add to the current body of knowledge. It is this second product that differentiates research universities from teaching colleges. But, publications are not enough. Dissemination is essential. Easy, and free, access to publications is the most effective way to disseminate new findings. The Digital Archive created by Carol Hixson, Dean of the Poynter Memorial Library, provides that service in spades. For example, I have thirty-one publications in her collection that have been viewed thousands of times from dozens of countries around the world! My collection home page <http://dspace.nelson.usf.edu/xmlui/handle/10806/4036> alone has been viewed over 500 times from nine different countries. That is an amazing amount of exposure for my work and will provide essential documentation of my research exposure.

Testimonial About the USFSP Digital Archive

By Dr. James P. McHale

September 20, 2013



Many of us still active in academia hail from a bygone day when it typically took hours, and occasionally days or more, to track down leads regarding potentially relevant but non-mainstream works by others in our field. Finally locating these precious articles or chapters from card catalog to stack search to book borrowing from distant institutions was sometimes a turning point, but sometimes a disappointing dead-end. The advent of rapid online journal searches has obliterated many-to-most of those earlier scholarly memories, but still elusive are behind-the-scenes stories about the when, how, and why of evolving ideas and data. I believe the USFSP Digital Archive has only begun to skim the surface of what will ultimately be a revolution in the chronicling of the genesis and promulgation of new ideas, spotlighting of the strengths and limitations of social science data of any kind, and ratcheting up of international intellectual commerce on a scale never previously imaginable. As younger colleagues enter the field already skilled in the ways of the world wide web and its affordances, our Digital Archive levels the playing field some in allowing more senior researchers to "speak" to others around the globe wanting to quickly plug into leading-edge thinking, published, and publicly vetted data. I appreciate and thank my forward-looking colleagues for creating and tending tirelessly and thoughtfully to this terrific resource. It is absolutely destined to become a game-changer.

Testimonial about the USFSP Digital Archive

By Dr. Martina Schmidt

College of Business, USF St. Petersburg

September 12, 2013



The online portfolio of my work that the Library has made available through the USFSP Digital Archive has been tremendously helpful in making my work more visible. Through the Digital Archive my research is being much more widely viewed around the world than would have been possible previously. For example, I have been contacted numerous times by researchers who found my research on the Digital Archive. The Library has also been very supportive during my negotiations with my publishers to get a more open licensing agreement. I believe that posting my research in the Digital Archive is a win-win situation for me, for my publishers, and for scholars and other people around the world who are interested in my area of research.

Testimonial about the USFSP Digital Archive

By Dr. Thomas Smith

College of Arts & Sciences, USFSP

September 27, 2013



[The Honors Thesis Archive](#)

The capstone achievement for students in the USFSP Honors Program is the honors thesis. These are rigorous, original research projects conducted over two semesters under the supervision of a faculty committee. Thesis topics cover the waterfront: literary criticism, forensic accounting, photography, novels, screenplays, psychological experiments, constitutional law, environmental science, civil rights history, and so on. In the past, I had to tell people about the theses, how original the ideas were, how rigorous the research was, how exemplary the writing. Of course, telling people *about* a thesis was never the same as actually *seeing* the thesis. USFSP's Digital Archive has changed all that. Now, all 158 [USFSP Honors theses](#) are immediately, searchably available in PDF form. This is a fabulous resource. I use it several times a week – directing current students to sample theses; showing potential faculty thesis directors examples to work from; showing off our student work to honors supporters and donors. Above all, the Digital Archive extends audience and outreach exponentially. Honors students' research is out in the world, readily accessible through a simple Google search. The impact of the Archive is already noticeable. Several USFSP honors students have been contacted about their thesis research; some have been approached about publishing opportunities. The idea that student research should interact with the world is at the heart of the Honors Program mission. The USFSP Digital Archive helps make this possible.

Testimonial about the USFSP Digital Archive

By Dr. Lisa Starks-Estes
College of Arts & Sciences, USFSP
September 23, 2013



I am truly grateful to USFSP librarians for creating and maintaining this excellent Digital Archive, which has been extremely helpful for my students in the USFSP MLA in Liberal Arts Program and for me. As a requirement for graduation, students in our MLA in Liberal Arts Program must complete a thesis or a final project, which may include websites, films, recorded performances, creative work, or e-portfolios. The theses have always been housed in the library, but not projects, which do not conform to a traditional academic paper format. I was thrilled to discover that our librarians could archive these terrific projects. I have already received many positive comments from students, both about their own archives and those of fellow students. I know that being able to share their projects with larger audiences gives students a great deal of pride in their work. It also helps them as they embark on their careers.

I'm also thankful that librarians have archived my own scholarship. I'm pleased to find out that my 33 items and collection page have been viewed thousands of times from dozens of countries around the world! My collection home page alone <http://dspace.nelson.usf.edu/xmlui/handle/10806/5742> has been viewed over 262 times from 9 different countries. This archive has already helped me extend the influence of my research to a wider, global audience, and it's only been posted a short time. And, all I had to do was submit my CV to our wonderful librarians at the Nelson Poynter Library. They did all the work for me. I greatly appreciate their efforts on this amazing USFSP Digital Archive. Thank you!

Testimonial about the USFSP Digital Archive

By Dr. Charles Vanover
College of Education, USFSP
September 26, 2013



I have found the digital archive to be an invaluable resource. The archive has allowed me to put up chapters and conference proposals and to receive high visibility for those items, particularly in Google Scholar. The archive's appearance is highly professional and when I send people links to my work the format makes a good impression. Google not only gives items in the archive favorable placement, but it counts the works that I cite in the other books/article's 'times cited' column. It's a good way for me to connect my work to the larger dialogue and then to contribute to it.