Unintended Uses of a Journal Review System within a Repository for Digital Tracking of University ETDs
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The Nova Southeastern University (NSU) Oceanographic Campus Library has always had a unique challenge in that it is the final clearinghouse for student capstone, thesis, and dissertation binding and publication. The library has traditionally been the host of the final print publication and the liaison between the student, university program office, and the bindery. With the launch of NSUWorks, NSU’s institutional repository, 7 years ago, the library worked to develop an innovative and effective start to finish workflow for student Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) to change the physical lifecycle of NSU’s theses and dissertations into a virtual ETD lifecycle. Every step of the process, from proposal to defense to review and final published draft, is now contained within the NSUWorks ecosystem. We will demonstrate the creative architecture behind the unintended use of a journal review manager in an institutional repository in order to create outside-the-box opportunities for our needs and showcase the timeline needed to complete this. This presentation will focus on the history of the discoverability of our ETDs, tracking a student's progress through the research lifecycle, and creating digital review and signature page processes. We also make projections for the future of this ongoing project and how we can further enhance the discoverability of our ETD collection and streamline the management of our workflow processes.

Brief Outline:

I. About Us
   a. NSU Halmos College & Oceanographic Campus Library
   b. NSUWorks IR overview
   c. ETD history, evolution, and challenges
II. Problem 1: Review, Signatures, and Approval
   a. Signature & paper problems
   b. Cost & time frustrations
III. Solution 1: Digital Signatures
   a. Utilized bepress’ journal review system in NSUWorks to collect approvals (aka digital signatures) for ETDs
IV. Problem 2: Tracking Student Progress in ETD Lifecycle
   a. Paper trail issues
   b. Lack of accountability & transparency
V. Solution 2: Tracking ETD Lifecycle Electronically
   a. Creation of proposal and defense approval portals
   b. Mimicking final submission series complete with digital signature process
VI. Future Endeavors
   a. NSU ETD statistics and trends
   b. New NSU college acquisitions
   c. DOIs
   d. Alumni outreach
   e. Hand-off

Learning Objectives

• Attendees will learn how to harness the power of their IR to host non-traditional workflows to become deeply embedded in the university administrative process
• Attendees will identify the challenges of transitioning from an all-paper to an all-digital workflow to calculate and manage opportunities and threats as they arise in their own migratory needs.
• Attendees will learn to repurpose a tool already in their possession and how their library can play a more essential role in the creation and distribution of student scholarly output.

Important Links

• This presentation is in NSUWorks!
  https://nsuworks.nova.edu/asl_staffpres/37/
• History of our ETD Process (Timeline)
  http://lib.nova.edu/OCL_ETDmap
• OC Library Homepage
  https://nsufl.libguides.com/oclibrary
• NSUWorks link to HCAS ETDs
  https://nsuworks.nova.edu/hcas_etd/

We Love to Talk!

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