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# Contributions to the Scholarly Record: Conferences & Symposia in the Repository

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## ABSTRACT

Many academic libraries have found opportunities to showcase unique content through conference-hosting services, such as website-hosting and conference proceeding publishing. This poster describes two libraries' successful efforts to archive conference materials from an undergraduate research conference and a professional conference for scholars.

Through the lens of these two case studies, the repository coordinators will discuss engaging with presenters on topics of author rights, ethical use of others' work in their presentations, creating a sustainable infrastructure for continued growth of the conference, and collaborating with faculty.

## PROBLEM OF "CONFERENCE EPHEMERA"

Conference ephemera often includes conference proceedings, papers, posters, images, reports of discussions, multimedia, and programs. Despite this rich variety and value of conference ephemera, much of this content is not accessible past the original event.

## SOLUTION: CONFERENCE-HOSTING AS IR SERVICE

By posting documents and artifacts from conferences within an institutional repository, the content is not only accessible for future use, but also preserves those materials for the future and for institutional memory.

## CONCLUSION: BENEFITS FOR STAKEHOLDERS

**Administrators/Librarians**
- Stable access
- Preserves institutional memory
- Builds a resource collection
- Promotes awareness of author rights and open access
- Increases awareness of event and institutional reputation

**All Scholars**
- Enhances scholarly identity
- Raise s their visibility
- Stable access

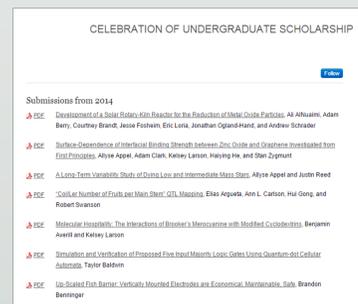- Create potential for re-use of conference ephemera in others' scholarship

**Undergraduate and Graduate Students**
- Develops public speaking skills, informal scholarly writing, poster composition and other forms of professional development associated with conferences
- Introduces concepts such as open access and author rights before professional publication cycle

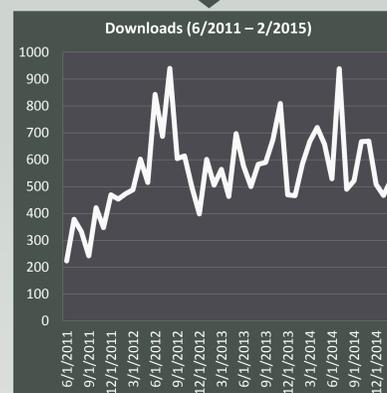## CASE STUDY: VALPOSCHOLAR (VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY)

### ValpoScholar

- Valparaiso University's institutional repository
- 4,250+ records; 1.2 million+ downloads since March 2011
- Originally, ValpoScholar was supposed to collect institutional scholarship and host a few professional journals
- Conference-hosting services were not included in initial scope

http://scholar.valpo.edu/cus/

http://scholar.valpo.edu/ttlworkshop/

Example Conference/Event: **Celebration of Undergraduate Scholarship ("CUS")**
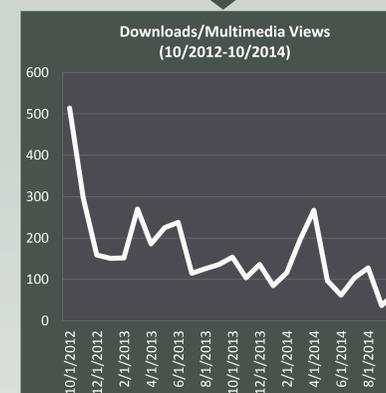- **undergraduate/graduate student conference**
- **392 records**
- **document types include: abstracts, white papers, slides, posters, data sets**
- **repeating twice-a-year; June 2011 - present**

Example Conference/Event: **U.S.-Japan Bilateral Workshop on the Tropical Tropopause Layer ("TTL Workshop")**
- **professional and graduate student conference**
- **63 records**
- **document types: slides, posters, data sets, video files, audio files, conference schedule**
- **non-repeating; October 2012**

Downloads (6/2011 – 2/2015)

Downloads/Multimedia Views (10/2012-10/2014)

## CASE STUDY: DIGITAL COMMONS @ IWU (ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY)
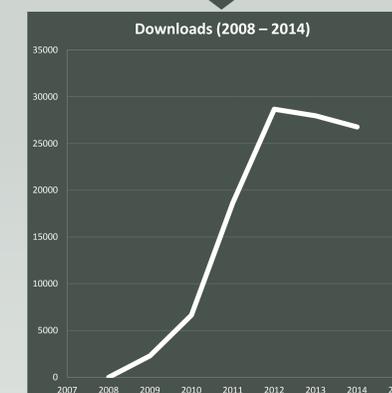
### Digital Commons @ IWU

- Illinois Wesleyan's institutional repository
- 10,499 records, 1.8 million+ downloads since January 2008
- DC@IWU was implemented not only to capture and disseminate student and faculty scholarship and creative activity, but also for some university records
- Undergraduate conferences were very much part of our plan from the outset.

http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/

http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/germanresearch/

*"The John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference (JWPRC) was established as an annual event in 1990. Held in April each year, the conference provides an opportunity for students who are pursuing individual research projects to present those projects in a public forum."*

- **Undergraduate conference**
- **2,102 records (1990 – 2014); full text collected 2008 – 2014**
- **Document types include abstracts, full text of papers, slides, posters, video and the full conference program/schedule.**
- **Annual**
- **Unofficial kick off to Commencement season**

*"The purpose of this German-language conference is to provide an outlet for students engaging with any area of German Studies to present their research to their peers and to receive feedback in an academic setting."*

- **Undergraduate conference**
- **56 records (2012 – 2014)**
- **Document types include abstracts, full text of papers, and the conference program/schedule.**
- **Annual**
- **All papers and posters presented in German; students from around the country participate**

Downloads (2008 – 2014)

Downloads (2012 – 2014)