Scholarly Communications Report on Activities 2017-18

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Scholarly Communications Report on Activities 2017-18

Abstract

Keywords
annual report

Disciplines
Scholarly Communication

This report is available at The Cupola: Scholarship at Gettysburg College: https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/librarypubs/105
The Scholarly Communications department expanded in July 2017 with the arrival of our first Scholarly Communications Librarian, Christopher Barnes. This allowed departmental activities to grow beyond supporting our institutional repository. Notable initiatives from the year include:

**Open Access and Publishing**

In October, we celebrated [Open Access Week 2017](#) with a session for faculty called “Working and Negotiating with Publishers: The Devil’s in the Details,” co-presented with the Johnson Center for Creative Teaching and Learning. Prospective and experienced book authors gathered for informal conversation about working with publishers. Scholarly Communications staff shared information about copyright and contract language, including a [handout](#) with samples of publisher-friendly and author-friendly language from actual contracts. We also hosted a screening of *The Internet’s Own Boy* (a documentary about information activist Aaron Swartz) and screened a webinar about open access monographs.

Student outreach during Open Access Week focused on the cost of textbooks. Students were invited to add a post-it note to the #textbookbroke wall indicating the most they had spent on textbooks in one semester at Gettysburg College. The activity, along with a display of open materials currently being used in campus courses, was designed to raise awareness. The display was amplified by a feature article in the student newspaper, “[Open Access Week Seeks to Address ‘Textbook Crisis.’](#)”

Throughout the academic year, Scholarly Communications staff collaborated with Copyright Committee members to field [faculty requests for advice about their publishing contracts](#).
The annual **College Author Reception** celebrated the work of 103 authors (including 22 students) who collectively published 151 works in 2017. 51% of those works are openly available in The Cupola. Our faculty speaker was Associate Professor and Chair of the Spanish Department, Radost Rangelova, and the student a cappella group *Upscale* contributed to a festive atmosphere.

We also conducted an assessment in order to learn which publishers our faculty authors work with most frequently. We are hoping to open conversations with those publishers about author rights for Gettysburg authors.

14 articles by Gettysburg authors were published in open access journals (not hybrid journals) this fiscal year.

**Open Education**

Scholarly Communications Librarian Chris Barnes participated in the first cohort of the **SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) Open Education Leadership Program** in 2017-18. As his final project, he created a proposal for a pilot grant program that would support faculty interested in creating open resources and textbooks for their courses. Many larger schools have launched such grant programs, but fewer small schools offer them. We are in conversation with the Johnson Center for Creative Teaching and Learning about possibilities.

We marked **Open Education Week** (March 5-9, 2018) by publishing a new [libguide](#) for Open Education. We also worked with Bookstore staff to produce a flyer called “**Selecting Affordable Course Materials: Considerations for Faculty**,” which presents a range of strategies faculty can use to reduce or eliminate course material costs.
Focus on student work

Open access really does increase impact. On March 27, 2018, a Cosmo blogger published a piece titled My Hijab Should Not Affect My Medical Care. The author linked to a student essay by Dayna Seeger ’15 called Muslim Women and United States Healthcare: Challenges to Access and Navigation. Downloads to Seeger’s piece spiked in March and April.

In April 2018, Cory Madison ’20 published an article in the peer-reviewed Asian Journal of Comparative Politics. We were able to upload a post-print to The Cupola, thereby expanding access beyond subscribers of the conventional journal. Cory is the sole author of the work, which he completed with the assistance of a Kolbe Fellowship in 2017.

Gettysburg College sociology students launched a new, undergraduate, peer-reviewed journal called Gettysburg Social Sciences Review. The editors completed two issues this fiscal year – the inaugural issue was released in December 2017 and a second one appeared in spring 2018. This journal accepts submissions from undergraduates at any institution. The first articles are by authors from Gettysburg College, Johns Hopkins University, Skidmore College, Santa Clara University, and York University.

Finally, we archived an exhibition called Wonders of Nature and Artifice, a Renaissance-inspired “Chamber of Wonders” curated by students from the First Year Seminar, “Exploration of the Marvelous: Art and Science in the Renaissance” and the Art History and Interdisciplinary Studies course “Wonders of Nature and Artifice: The Renaissance Quest for Knowledge.” Students curated a physical art gallery exhibit, built a digital companion, and provided audio introductions to their pieces. Although the physical exhibit has been taken down, the Wonders live on in The Cupola.

We received 137 nominations of student work from faculty or others this year. Departments with the highest number of nominations in 2017-18 include Art and Art History (28), History (20), Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (15), and Anthropology, English, and FYS (9 each). We also conducted an assessment of nominations to learn which departments submitted the most and least nominations (since inception in 2012). Departments with the most student work in The Cupola include English, Studio Art, History, Environmental Studies, and Globalization Studies. Departments with the highest number of Cupola items in relation to majors include Studio Art, English and History. Conversely, departments with the lowest number of Cupola items in relation to majors include Health Sciences, Organization and Management Studies, and Economics.
During this fiscal year, students co-authored with faculty members 10 times.

The Cupola – Gettysburg’s open access institutional repository

2017-18 was another year of growth for The Cupola: Scholarship at Gettysburg College, our bepress institutional repository.

- We added over 1200 records\(^1\) this year.
- Our items have been downloaded over 779,000 times total (221,000+ times this year), and our average download/item has risen to 114 (up from 98 last year).
- Most of our traffic (56%) was from within the U.S. We also had visitors from 215 other countries.
- We supervised a more robust Scholarly Communications rotation for the Holley Library Intern.

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\(^1\) We use “record” or “item” to refer to a work that is described with metadata in The Cupola. We use “file” to indicate that there is full content associated with the record/item. Records may have 0, 1, or more files associated with them.
Work that is exclusively available in The Cupola receives the most downloads:

- Student works consistently get more downloads than anything else in our repository. This scholarly work is not available anywhere else.
- The two most-downloaded faculty works are Open Educational Resources, and their download numbers are likely to overtake student downloads next year. Both are authored by Dr. Charles Kann in the Computer Science department. References in Wikipedia articles likely help drive traffic to the work.
- The #1 and #3 items in “Library Publications” are not available anywhere else online.
- This year, the “Other Publications” section includes two sections of the *Contemporary Civilizations* textbook published by Gettysburg College in 1958 – the book includes primary sources as well as introductory text written by Gettysburg College professors. The article titled “Veterans Residing in Adams County, Pennsylvania, 1840-1930” was published in the 2004 issue of *Adams County History*, the journal of the Adams County Historical Society.
Journals in The Cupola

Currently we host five student journals in The Cupola, including Gettysburg Social Sciences Review which published its first issue in December, 2017. It covers all social science disciplines and is open to undergraduate authors from beyond Gettysburg College.

We also host Adams County History, the annual publication of the Adams County Historical Society.

The most downloaded article from the June 2017-May 2018 year is listed for each title (not all-time downloads).

The Gettysburg College Journal of the Civil War Era. “Freedmen with Firearms: White Terrorism and Black Disarmament During Reconstruction” by David Schenk (Marquette University) was the most popular article (1,805 downloads this year).

The Gettysburg Historical Journal. “The Tavern in Colonial America” by Steven Struzinski ’03 was the most-accessed article (3,160 downloads this year).

The Mercury. “One of Us,” a fiction piece by Thomas Bender ’12, was the most popular item (189 downloads this year). The piece has been removed at the request of the author.

Gettysburg Social Sciences Review. “Conversations in Education Reform: Socioeconomic Integration as a Tool for Student Success” by Anjani Kapadia (Johns Hopkins University) was the most popular article (58 downloads this year).

The Gettysburg Economic Review. “The Economic Decline of Zimbabwe” by Chidochashe Munangagwa ’11 was the most popular item (5,272 downloads this year).

Adams County History. “Veterans Residing in Adams County, Pennsylvania, 1840-1930” was the most popular article (625 downloads this year).
## Appendix

### The Cupola - Statistical Summary

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<tr>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>records</th>
<th>files</th>
<th>MDOR (metadata-only records)</th>
<th>percent MDOR</th>
<th>percent uploaded content</th>
<th>total downloads</th>
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<td>384</td>
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<td>67%</td>
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<td>63%</td>
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Professional publications and presentations by departmental staff


