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# From Scratch

Developing a New Student Journal in  
a New Digital Repository

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# Brief Background

- Ohio Northern University (ONU)
  - Small private university
  - 2,855 FTE (Fall 2019)
- New Repository Administrator
  - Chris Deems, Systems & Technology Librarian
  - Started June 11, 2018
- DigitalCommons@ONU
  - Started official development June 12, 2018
  - Official launch in October 2018



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# First Contact

- Began marketing campaign to gather content from faculty before repository's official launch
  - Interest from English professor regarding the repository as a journal platform
    - Jonathan "Beau" Pitts, Associate Professor of English
    - Interested in the repository as a publishing platform
  - Met to discuss what the repository could do
    - Agreed to collaborate on new student journal
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# Aims & Scope

- New student-led journal
    - Would be a new class in the curriculum
  - Focus on undergraduate student research at ONU
  - Content gathered from University's annual Student Research Colloquium (SRC)
  - First issue to be published in Spring 2019
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# Setting the (Virtual) Stage

- Collaborated to complete journal form
    - First journal in the repository
    - Conflicting schedules delayed completion of form
  - Discussed design options of page with student team
    - Opted for simple design matching rest of repository
    - Live date for page delayed for students to create logo
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# Training Day

- Scheduled virtual training with bepress
    - Held in late-Spring 2019
    - Useful for journal's student team, faculty advisor, and repository admin
  - Q&A portion created good discussion amongst group
  - Journal team left with information on how to proceed
    - Or so it seemed...
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# First Year Hurdles

- Timing and delays
  - Content, or a lack thereof
    - Student team had trouble gathering content from Colloquium
    - Preparing content for publication took far longer than anticipated, and bled into the summer
  - Learning curves
    - New system structure took some time to comprehend
    - Student team had trouble using the backend of Digital Commons
  - Fellowship of the English professor
    - Fullbright grant to research in Japan for the 2019-20 year
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# New Year, New Team

- New English professor assigned as faculty advisor
    - Bryan Lutz, Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Composition
    - Prior experience with journal webpages
    - Connected with Repository Admin over being fairly recent hires
  - New students joined the journal team
  - New approach for Repository Admin
    - Less hands-off, more hands-on
    - Continue maintaining journal autonomy
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# Training Day... Again

- Training session held in-house by Repository Admin
    - Held in late-Fall 2019/early-Spring 2020
    - Couldn't schedule with bepress due to time constraints
  - Split into two separate meetings
    - First meeting with Bryan to discuss journal
    - Second meeting with new journal team during class
    - Sent along resources from bepress on using Digital Commons
  - Focus on backend management
    - Necessary coding for fields
    - Process of uploading materials
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# Colloquium Revamp

- Annual Colloquium underwent a restructure in 2019-20
  - New planning committee formed
    - Joined committee after discussion with Chair
    - Colloquium held on April 24, 2020
  - Concurrently worked to plan Colloquium and journal's first publication
    - Helped setup submission form to allow entries to be collected by journal team
    - Would add other submissions to private collection in repository
      - Extremely useful when campus went remote
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Conference proceedings will be housed online in [DigitalCommons@ONU](#). Digital Commons is the University's online institutional repository, which houses works created by ONU faculty, staff, and students. Works housed in the repository are available to be freely accessed by all members of the University and the general public. Works requiring an embargo or works that cannot be viewed by the public due to copyright or patent agreements can also be stored on the repository with their respective restrictions intact.

- ☐ By selecting Yes, you are agreeing to allow a copy of your work to be non-exclusively housed within the repository. The repository administrators will contact you and your sponsor to confirm this agreement, as well as any necessary restrictions pertaining to the work that will need to be applied when it is added to DigitalCommons@ONU.

I would like my submission to be considered for publication in *Aurora*, the undergraduate research journal at Ohio Northern University. The editors may contact me after a review of my abstract.

- ☐ Yes, please consider my abstract for publication

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# Second Year Hurdles

- Worries over lack of content
    - Expanded scope to include works outside of Colloquium
  - Marketing journal to University
    - Agreed to place displays in Heterick Library
  - Outreach initiatives to encourage growth
    - Recommended team reach out to students, faculty, and administration.
    - Start with meeting members of University individually
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# *Aurora: The Research Journal of Ohio Northern University*

- Inaugural issue published on May 13, 2020
  - Issue contained a mix of entries from Colloquium and classes at ONU
  - <https://digitalcommons.onu.edu/aurora/>
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# Lessons Learned

- Expect delays before first issue is ready
    - Hide the journal page until content is ready and posted!
  - Know your role and what you can do for the journal
    - Repository Administrator, member of the journal team, or both?
  - Be ready to offer help to the journal team
    - Resources, guides, training, and more!
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# Looking Forward

- Return of the English professor
    - Debrief Beau on journal developments over last year
  - Marketing and gathering content in the age of COVID-19
    - Refine method of gathering content from SRC
    - Continue outreach to faculty and administrators for classwork submissions
  - Prepare for new student team
    - Create and collect training documents
    - Discuss possible design changes and updates
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# Questions?

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