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NC DOCKS at 10: A Conversation with Anna Craft

NC DOCKS is an acronym for North Carolina Digital Online Collection of Knowledge and Scholarship. The most visible part of NC DOCKS is a shared institutional repository available online at <https://libres.uncg.edu/ir/>. However, NC DOCKS is also a group of librarians from member institutions who cooperate to make the scholarly output of the University of North Carolina system more widely available. The member representatives meet annually to discuss and develop consensus on proposed interface enhancements and changes to guiding principles. The NC DOCKS group is led by Anna Craft, Coordinator of Metadata Services at Jackson Library, UNC Greensboro. Anna works to “integrate aspects of metadata and scholarly communications” by “coordinating institutional repository services and ensuring discoverability of the Libraries’ resources through accurate and adequate metadata description.”¹ Anna provided details about the origin and goals, staffing, services, and potential future plans for NC DOCKS.

The purposes of NC DOCKS—then, as now—are to “collect, preserve, index, and distribute scholarly works... in order to make [them] available to a global audience.”² UNCG’s Tim Bucknall recalls that the first meeting of the NC DOCKS group was May 1, 2007, at Jackson Library, UNC Greensboro. Representatives from UNCG, Appalachian State University, East Carolina



University, UNC Charlotte, UNC Pembroke, and UNC Wilmington came to discuss options for a low-cost, shared, and cross-searchable repository. “At that meeting,” he writes, “we focused on what kind of platform would work best. We looked at commercially hosted solutions (like Digital Commons), locally hosted open source products (DSpace at UNCC and ECU), and a UNCG-hosted custom build. The group decided that the custom build option seemed to offer the most value at the best price.” Representatives reached consensus at an August 28th meeting on shared principles and key features of a shared IR, and development began. Tim Bucknall and Richard Cox of UNCG’s Electronic Resources and Information Technologies division developed the NC DOCKS repository and continue to be involved in the project.

The NC DOCKS repository first went live in November 2008, nearly a decade ago, and was promoted to faculty beginning in January 2009. Under the leadership of library personnel from UNC Greensboro, NC DOCKS began with four other founding members: Appalachian State University, East Carolina University, UNC Pembroke, and UNC Wilmington.

Each of these founding schools provided funds of \$3,500 per year for three years to UNCG to offset the development costs, and all members now contribute a small annual maintenance fee. The group agreed to review NC DOCKS at the end of that first three-year period and determine collectively if NC DOCKS was worth continuing. Of course it was, and representatives have continued to meet on an annual basis.

At UNCG, there is no one who is dedicated 100% of the time to work on NC DOCKS; Ms. Craft devotes about ¼ of her time to it, including her role coordinating the member group, providing training, and serving as point of contact. Three Technical Services staff members devote roughly a third of their time combined to add theses and dissertations, check publisher permissions and add faculty publications. Outreach and promotion of NC DOCKS to UNCG constituents is a responsibility shared by a new library faculty member, liaison librarians and the Assistant Dean for Collection Management and Scholarly Communication. Librarians at member institutions are responsible for outreach to their campuses, verifying permissions, and depositing items.

According to Anna Craft, NC DOCKS was designed to facilitate full-text searching of materials through Google and the open web, with the understanding that those entry methods would be the primary access point for most users. The initial plan was to not create a complex, feature-rich NC DOCKS user interface, but instead to focus on getting the users quickly and easily into the content no matter where they started. In part, this choice affected the amount of customization each member school could expect, although the NC DOCKS repository can be browsed or searched across all institutions, and each member library also has a scoped, institutionally-branded interface for its own content.

The scope for included content that the group agreed upon includes the requirement that the work be complete and final versions of scholarly, research, or educational works by faculty of a member institution, or final versions of theses, dissertations, or equivalent cumulative works by students. Further, these items would be deposited (not metadata-only, or abstract-only), and contributed on a voluntary basis to be made freely available online, with the authors granting their institution's library a non-exclusive perpetual right to preserve and distribute the works.

Individual authors have a basic profile which includes their contact details, a brief biographical sketch, an image, and a list of included publications. The publication listing on the profile page includes the title, date, number of views, and brief description. The figure below illustrates a successful faculty profile with publications sorted by highest number of views.

One of the major expansions of service for NC DOCKS begin in the fall of 2012, as NC DOCKS formed a partnership with the Odum Institute at UNC Chapel Hill to provide a repository for research data. Members of

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There are 126 included publications by Paul Silvia :

Title	Date	Views	Brief Description
Objective self-awareness theory: Recent progress and enduring problems.	2001	37320	Objective self-awareness theory has undergone fundamental changes in the 3 decades since Duval and Wicklund's (1972) original formulation. We review new evidence that bears on the basic tenets of the theory. Many of the assumptions of self-awareness ...
Assessing creativity with divergent thinking tasks: Exploring the reliability and validity of new subjective scoring methods.	2008	23254	Divergent thinking is central to the study of individual differences in creativity, but the traditional scoring systems (assigning points for infrequent responses and summing the points) face well-known problems. After critically reviewing past scori...
Assessing creativity with self-report scales: A review and empirical evaluation.	2012	19694	This article reviews recent developments in the assessment of creativity using self-report scales. We focus on four new and promising scales: the Creative Achievement Questionnaire, the Biographical Inventory of Creative Behaviors, the revised Creati...
Openness to experience, plasticity and creativity: Exploring lower-order, higher-order, and interactive effects.	2010	16680	What are creative people like? Openness to experience is important to creativity, but little is known about plasticity, the higher-order factor that subsumes openness. College students (n = 139) completed measures of the Big Five and measures of crea...

the group had realized that changing expectations for sharing research data could not be adequately met by the NC DOCKS repository, as data sets may have multiple versions, additional metadata requirements, and differing citation requirements. To meet these needs and allow member institutions to focus on working with individual faculty members on data management planning, NC DOCKS entered a partnership with the Odum Institute at UNC Chapel Hill.

The Odum Institute agreed to create, host, and maintain a customized Dataverse data repository for NC DOCKS members at no charge to them.³ In return, NC DOCKS members agreed to mediate deposits of faculty research data, specifically those which could be shared widely and did not include protected health information, personally identifying information, or other data which would need to be restricted. NC DOCKS holds metadata records that link to Dataverse, and which can be used to link deposited publications and their supporting data. Member libraries report modest use to date, and that primarily by faculty who are early in

their data management planning. Some of the faculty members have specified Dataverse as their repository of choice in their sponsored research applications, but have not yet collected the data. Others may be using subject-specific data repositories. As researchers become accustomed to funder mandates for sharing research data and as member libraries onboard data services librarians, members hope that use of the NC DOCKS Dataverse will continue to grow. The figure above shows the home page for the NC DOCKS Dataverse, which is available online at <https://dataverse.uncg.edu/dataverse/ncdocks>.

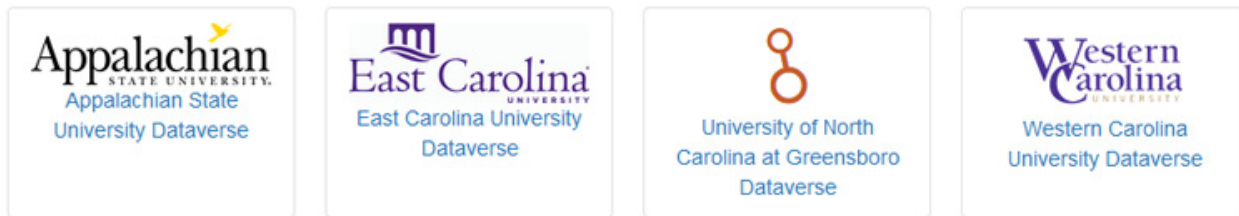
In addition to its mission to collect, preserve, and share the scholarship of its members, NC DOCKS' goals are also to raise awareness of open access on campuses, to help authors retain appropriate rights to their own scholarship, and to help member institutions demonstrate compliance with funder mandates for public access to publicly-funded scholarship. In support of these goals, NC DOCKS is exploring three initiatives: SHARE, ORCID, and MetaArchive.

NC DOCKS Dataverse

[UNC Dataverse](#) > **NC DOCKS Dataverse**

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NC DOCKS (NC Digital Online Collection of Knowledge and Scholarship) is an open-access database for collecting, preserving, and disseminating the scholarly and creative works of faculty and students for select University of North Carolina institutions. The NC DOCKS Dataverse contains data deposited by researchers working at affiliated institutions including Appalachian State University, East Carolina University, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and Western Carolina University.



Search this dataverse...

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SHARE is described as a “higher education initiative whose mission is to maximize research impact by making research widely accessible, discoverable, and reusable.”⁴ Founded in 2013 as a response to federal funders’ push toward public access to research publications and data, SHARE was developed by the Association for Research Libraries, the Association of American Universities, and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, and built by the Center for Open Science with support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. In 2016, UNCG joined SHARE as a data provider as a test case. Since that time, there has been interest from additional NC DOCKS members, but SHARE has pulled back on adding providers while they work on a redesign of their service architecture. NC DOCKS will continue to monitor SHARE, especially in light of its commitment to public access.

Another initiative that NC DOCKS has been monitoring is ORCID. The Open Researcher or Contributor ID (ORCID) program, which launched in 2012, permits individuals to register for a unique identifier so that they can claim their scholarly products and funding awards.⁵ ORCID works with CrossRef to permit easy import of citation data for publications that have Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs). Since several major publishers and US federal funders have adopted ORCID, there has been more widespread interest on NC DOCKS member campuses. At their most recent meeting, NC DOCKS representatives agreed to add a field for ORCID numbers to author profiles.

The third initiative that NC DOCKS is monitoring is MetaArchive. UNCG joined this distributed digital preservation network in 2017 in order to preserve content from Digital Collections, and is considering adding content from NC DOCKS as well. The NC DOCKS

repository was built as a system for access—not a digital preservation repository, like MetaArchive, which provides distributed dark archives for member content, focused specifically on preservation. While not a preservation repository, NC DOCKS has implemented file fixity software Verisys, provides multiple backups of files, and is willing to migrate file formats if access file types change in the future.

In leading the NC DOCKS partner cohort, Anna and her colleagues try to keep up with open access developments that can help the group even if they do not seem directly related to NC DOCKS. Among these open access developments, the ones most likely to influence future initiatives within the NC DOCKS group are Open Educational Resources (OER), digital scholarship/digital publishing, and creating and sharing best practices and publicity materials for outreach. At its most recent annual meeting, members of the group agreed to form task forces

to research these issues. Results from the task forces will be considered by the group in future meetings.

Conducting an assessment of NC DOCKS means taking into consideration not only quantitative metrics, such as how many items were added in a year or how many views items had, but also qualitative measures. In particular, NC DOCKS is successful because it continues to meet the needs of member institutions. The group holds an annual meeting of partner representatives, during which the group reviews the principles, scope, and decision-making processes, and works by consensus on next steps in development. There are now nine partner schools, with the addition of Western Carolina University in 2011, UNC Charlotte in 2013, UNC Asheville in 2014, and North Carolina Central University in 2016. NC DOCKS is open to new partners in the UNC system; observers from sister schools have attended NC DOCKS meetings in the past to learn more about the initiative. Interested parties should contact Anna Craft (arcraft@uncg.edu) for more details.

What else should readers of *North Carolina Libraries* know about NC DOCKS? NC DOCKS was purposefully designed with a lightweight front end because group members expect

most traffic to come from Web searches. And **it works** to bring more visibility to scholarship from UNC schools. With just over 18,000 items across all of NC DOCKS, the article with the highest number of views is “[The Impact of Divorce on Children](#),” by David Demo, first published in the *Journal of Marriage and Family* in 1988, with more than 112,000 views. The next highest view count is about 105,000 for Dale H. Schunk’s “[Self-Efficacy and Academic Motivation](#),” published 1991 in *Educational Psychologist*. Long-time NC DOCKS representative Allan Scherlen recalls several professors from his home institution (Appalachian State University) who appreciate being able to direct their students to NC DOCKS, and who appreciate the visibility that NC DOCKS brings their work. One Political Science professor even commented that he was called to serve as an expert witness in a trial because his work was discovered on NC DOCKS. Allan himself says, “Making our university’s research open access to the world though NC DOCKS is a service to global research and education.”

Are you at an NC DOCKS member institution? Deposit your content today!

References

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