

## Collecting Campus Culture: Collaborations and Collisions

STEPHANIE DAVIS-KAHL AND MEG MINER

**Abstract:** In 2007, a library at a small liberal arts college jumpstarted two initiatives that set two colleagues on a parallel path to collecting, archiving and digitizing campus content, such as student and faculty scholarship and creative works, internal publications, minutes of key committees, historical information, and other materials. An archivist and special collections librarian and a scholarly communications librarian, were tasked, respectively, with creating and implementing a records management program and a scholarly communications program, including coordination of a new institutional repository.

As both initiatives progressed, the two found that their roles intersected more often than not, and that the lines between their work became increasingly blurry as new opportunities were identified both within campus and in the community. The archivist and scholarly communications librarian found themselves united on some fronts, but divided at times on big picture questions such as the definition of campus culture and the extent to which we should collect products of that culture, how to best describe and structure collections, and who should be responsible for certain collections.

The two librarians will share their perspectives on the advantages of the current structure and will also discuss their best practices for outreach and educating key campus leaders and offices about their work to create buy-in, commitment to and excitement about their programs. Interwoven throughout the presentation will be examples of how these issues were navigated for specific collections in the archives and in the institutional repository.

### **About the authors:**

*Stephanie Davis-Kahl* is the Scholarly Communications Librarian and Associate Professor at the Ames Library at Illinois Wesleyan University. She provides leadership for the development, design, deployment and support of scholarly communication programs and projects at Illinois Wesleyan. She works with various campus offices to collect and disseminate formal and informal student and faculty publications including using the Digital Commons @ IWU, the University's IR, as a peer-review publishing platform. As the Managing Faculty Co-Editor of the Undergraduate Economic Review, she works closely with students on all aspects of the publishing process. She also provides research consultation, collection development and instruction services to a number of departments at IWU, and is involved in faculty governance, most recently Curriculum Council.

*Meg Miner* is University Archivist & Special Collections Librarian and Assistant Professor at the Ames Library at Illinois Wesleyan University. She proposed a Records Management

Program for the University in 2006 and has worked with campus administrators, departmental offices and all levels of campus governing groups to identify appropriate institutional records for inclusion in the online repository Digital Commons @ IWU. This ongoing work involves educating all constituencies about records retention processes generally and the goals and potential for Digital Commons specifically. Miner is the library's liaison to the History Department and the School of Nursing and provides research services for, access to, and presentations on materials held in IWU's archives and special collections.