

Collecting Campus Culture: Collaborations and Collisions

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Illinois Wesleyan University Institutional Repository Needs and Common Goals

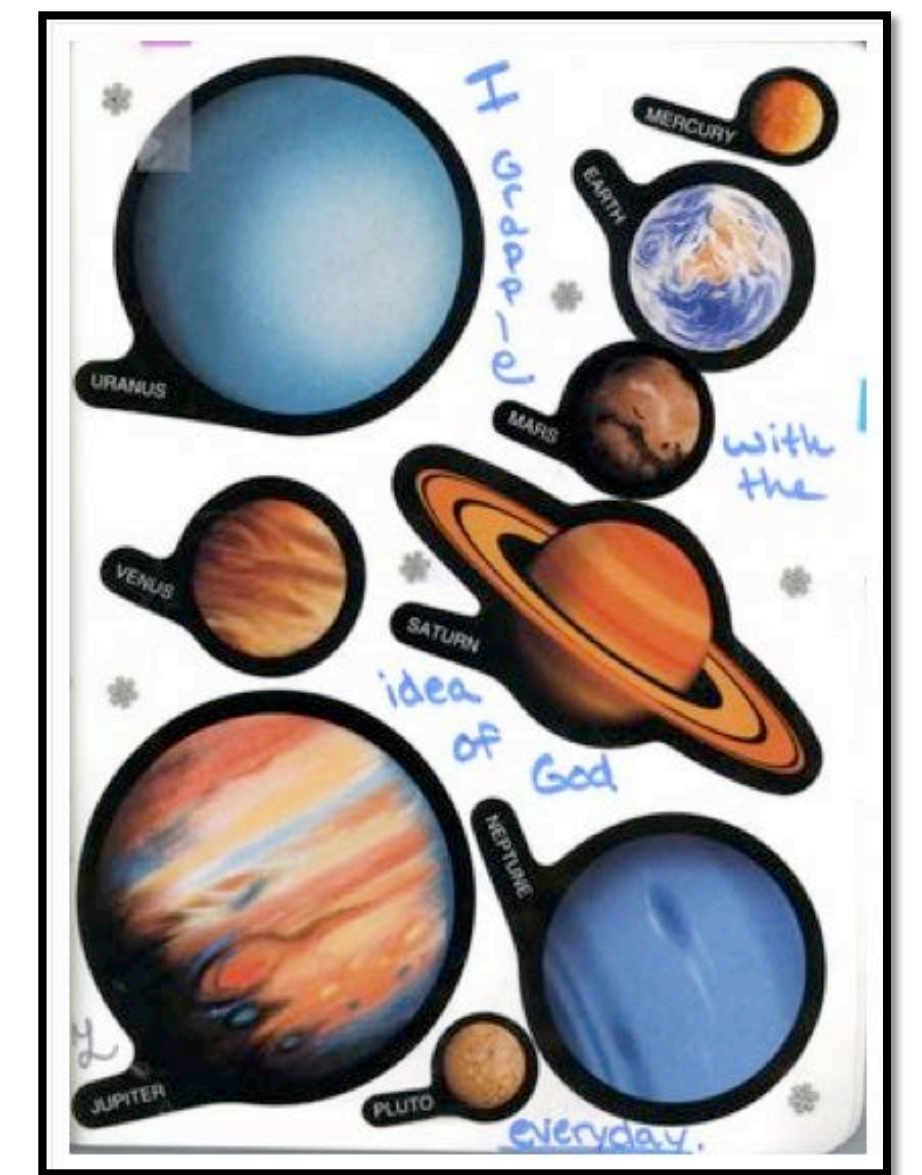
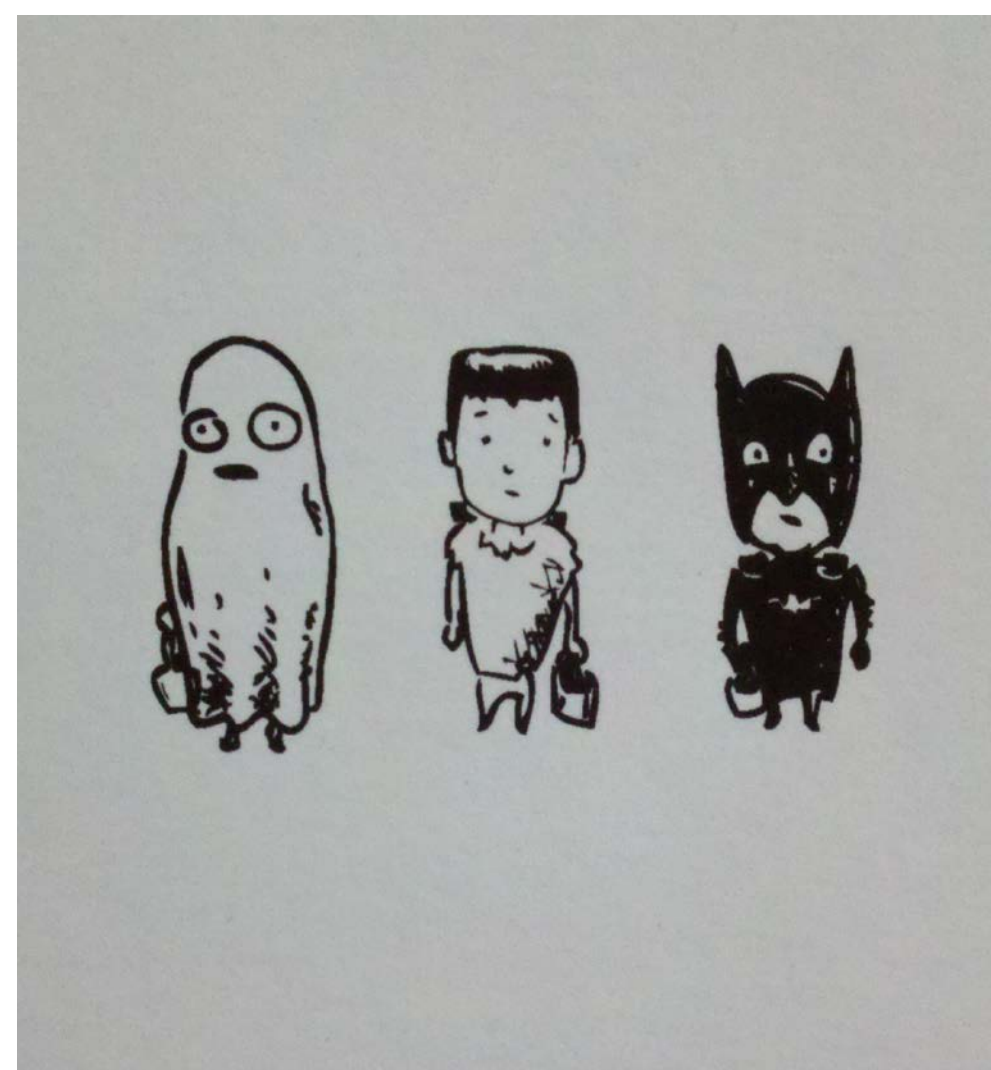
A small liberal arts college jumpstarted two initiatives setting two colleagues on a parallel path to collecting, archiving and digitizing campus content, such as student and faculty scholarship and creative works, internal publications, minutes of key committees, and other materials.

Through this work we aspire to:

- Increase visibility of campus scholarly & creative work
- Provide durability, stability and searching capability for born-digital and digitized content
- Support Admissions, Alumni Relations, and Advancement in their work
- Document institutional history



Student Research, Faculty Publications, Creative Works



Oral Histories, Theses, Minutes & Reports



Collisions from the Repository Perspective

- Collection development policies should allow for expansion
- Findability of materials crucial for continued campus buy-in
- Leverage metadata to provide connections between info silos
- Balance between 'velocity and precision'
- Digital copies should be as rich in appearance and information as possible

Outreach & Education

- Presentations to students, faculty, departments, administrators
- Embedding links to content in campus website
- Embedding search code on key website locations

Consensus

- Continued dialogue and active listening are key
- Our perspectives and strengths create balance
- Success of Digital Commons depends on both perspectives co-existing
- Digital Commons is many things to many people

Collisions from the Archives Perspective

- Deliberate, informed choices of what to save
- Time needed to create item-level vs. series-level descriptions
- Convey structure of institution's changes over time clearly
- Born-digital records must not be "updated" once in IR
- Digital copies of documents must be accurate representations of originals

Future Actions

- Engage with faculty on opportunities for promoting their scholarship
- Encourage campus administration to make wider use of IR for records retention
- Expand from IR usage assessment to users' needs assessment

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