

Access to Archival Content in an Institutional Repository

Evaluating the Digital Arm of the University of Minnesota Archives

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Background

This year marks the 5th anniversary of the University of Minnesota's institutional repository, the University Digital Conservancy (UDC). Since January 2008, the IR has recorded 1.6 million downloads; 1 million of which have come from University Archives related content.

Problem

The online description of archival materials does not equal discoverability of their content. This has a two-fold effect: 1. Searchers do not distinguish between discovery and delivery in their web searches and find it discordant to experience this disconnect in the library environment.¹ 2. Born-digital content creators do not associate the Archives with accessing content online and thus tend to retain information locally creating "little archives everywhere."²

Approaches

First, the University Archives developed an in-house, low-cost, rapid capture program to digitize University publications on a mass scale to populate the IR.³ This digitized content consists of nearly 1 million pages of full-text searchable publications, reports, planning documents, minutes, press releases, newsletters, and more from the past 150 years. This rapid scanning effort represents a recovery of information and further commitment to its on-going preservation and use.

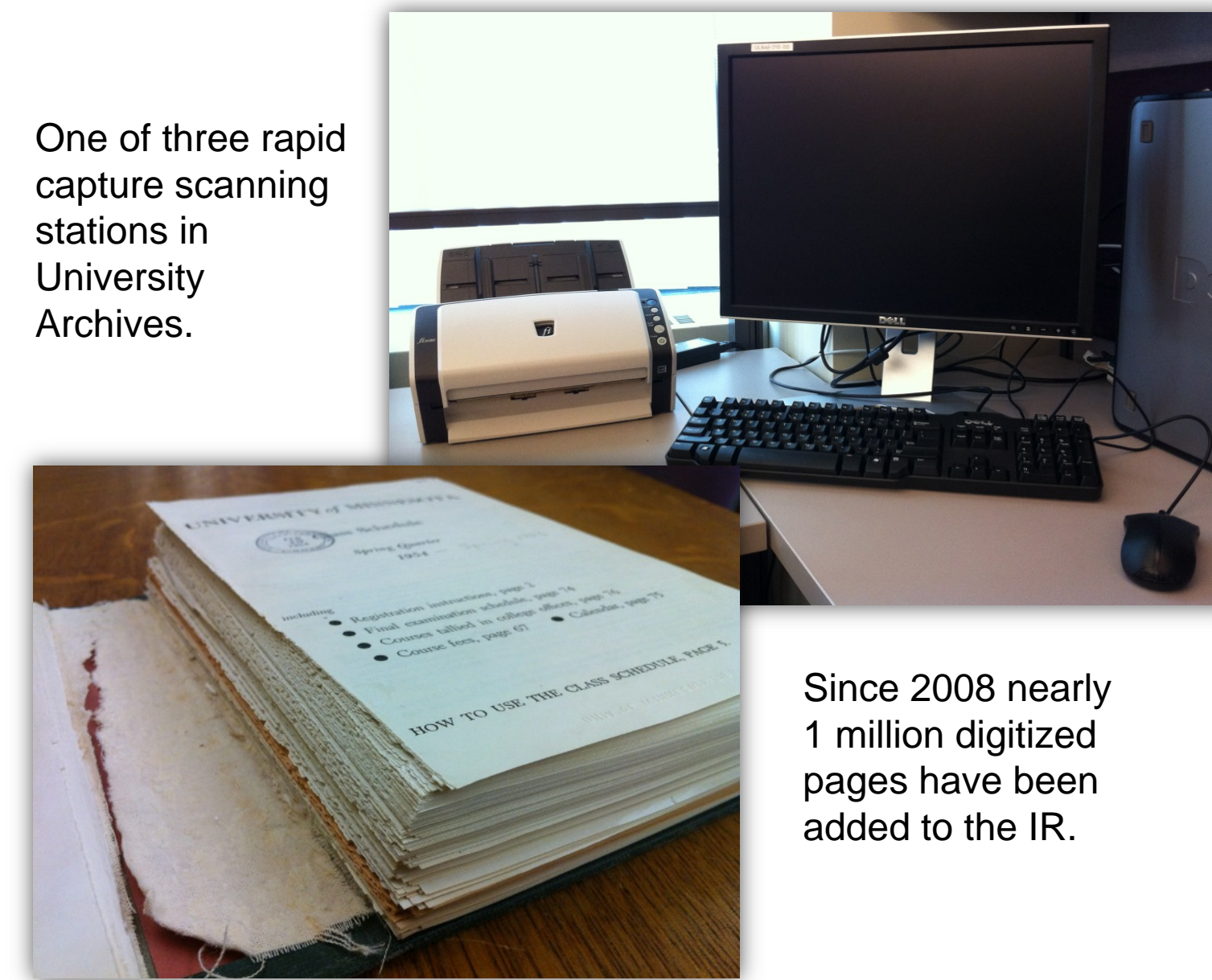
Second, the Archives identified on-campus partners who could add their born-digital institutional records directly to the IR. This distributed model serves as a means to capture born-digital records at the point of creation. Many of these born-digital records are paired with their analog predecessors converted to digital format through the rapid capture process, providing seamless access to digitized and born-digital content in one place.

Outcomes

These actions have increased our functionality in managing and providing access to digital content, shifted procedures and management toward the IR including reference, acquisitions, & processing, and made the Archives a sought-out partner on-campus that provides solutions and efficiency with which we capture historically significant born-digital information that is otherwise difficult to acquire.

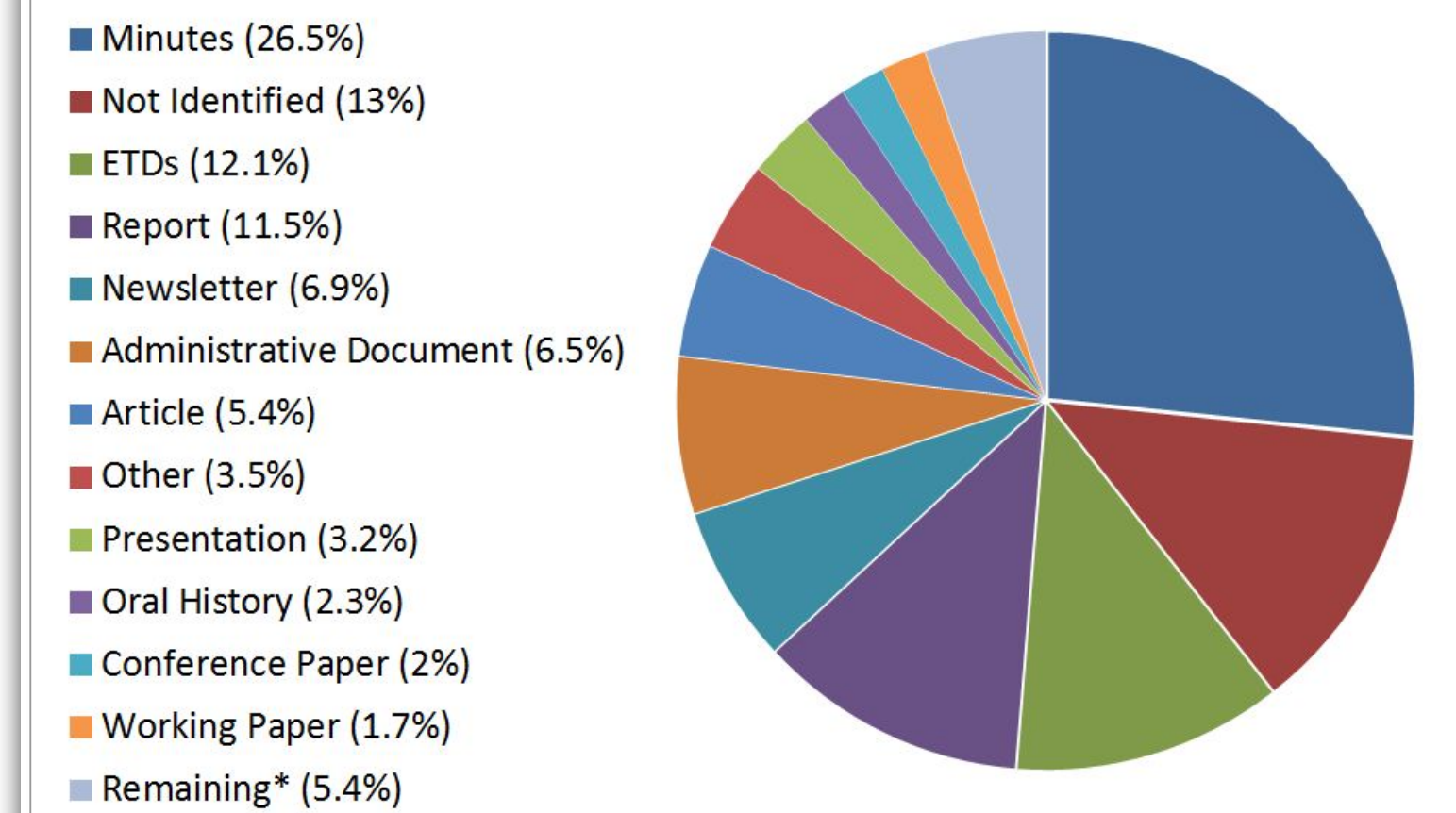
These demonstrated outcomes should prompt archivists to consider the rising expectations of online access to the content of archival materials finding that both external audiences and internal partners expect discovery and delivery to coincide.

One of three rapid capture scanning stations in University Archives.



Since 2008 nearly 1 million digitized pages have been added to the IR.

Type of Content in the IR



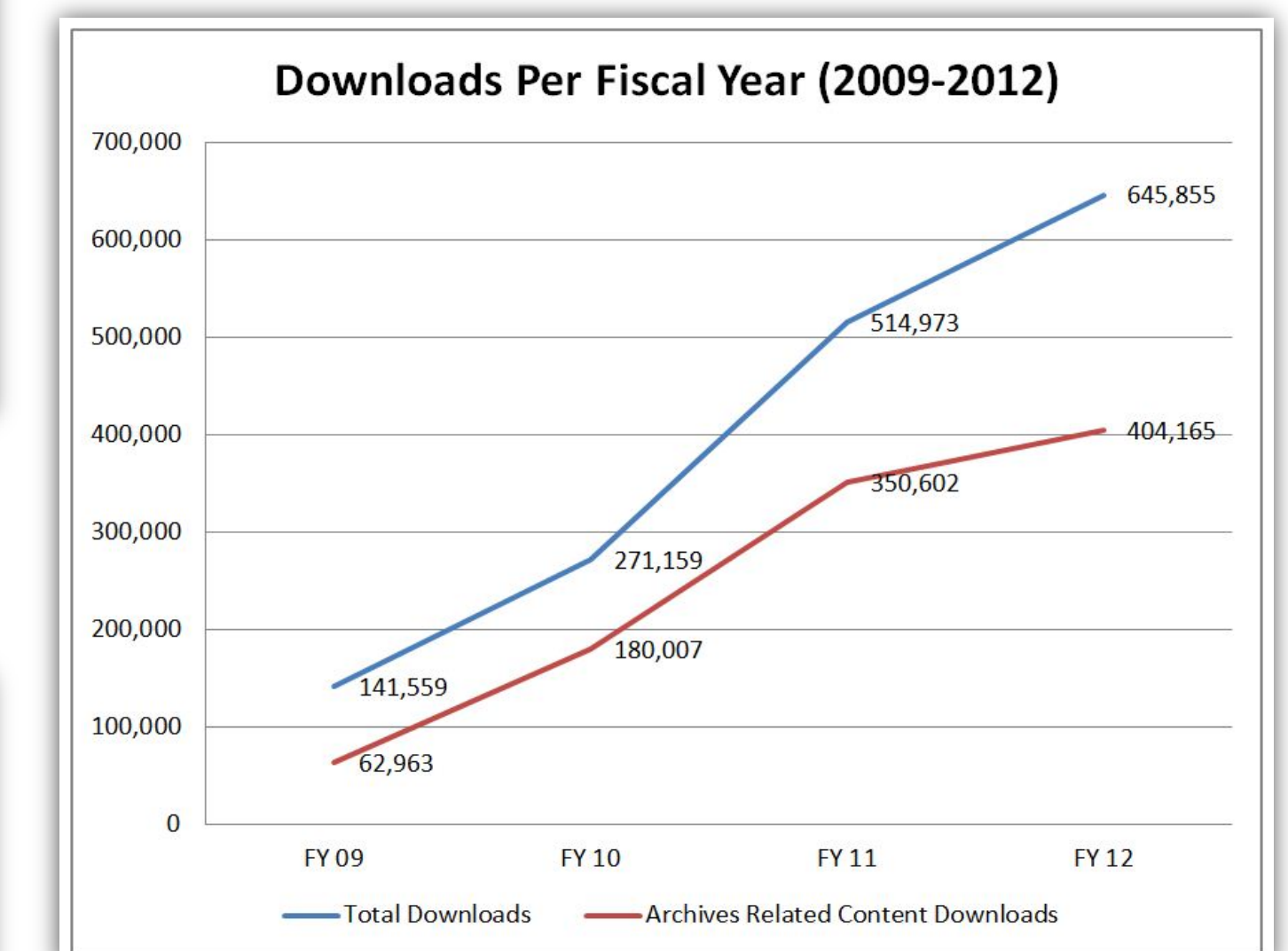
*Includes Audio, Book, Book Chapter, Dataset, Learning Object, Image, Manual, Map, Musical Score, Plan or Blueprint, Preprint, Scholarly Text or Essay, and Video or Animation

The IR preserves and provides access to core institutional documents traditionally collected by the University Archives in both born-digital & digitized formats.

Date	Title	Author	View/Download
5-Apr-2012	Minutes: Student Senate, University Senate, and Faculty Senate: April 5, 2012	University of Minnesota: University Senate	PDF (240 KB)
1-Mar-2012	Minutes: Student Senate, University Senate, and Faculty Senate: March 1, 2012	University of Minnesota: University Senate	PDF (247 KB)
1-Dec-2011	Minutes: Student Senate, University Senate, and Faculty Senate: December 1, 2011	University of Minnesota: University Senate	PDF (283 KB)
6-Oct-2011	Minutes: Student Senate, University Senate, and Faculty Senate: October 6, 2011	University of Minnesota: University Senate	PDF (297 KB)
5-May-2011	Minutes: Student Senate, University Senate, and Faculty Senate: May 5, 2011	University of Minnesota: University Senate	PDF (680 KB)
5-May-2011	Senate Dockets: Student Senate, University Senate and Faculty Senate: May 5, 2011	University of Minnesota: University Senate	PDF (2604 KB)
14-Apr-2011	Senate Dockets: University Senate and Faculty Senate: April 14, 2011	University of Minnesota: University Senate	PDF (1111 KB)
14-Apr-2011	Minutes: Faculty Senate and University Senate: April 14, 2011	University of Minnesota: University Senate	PDF (172 KB)
31-Mar-2011	Senate Dockets: Faculty Senate and University Senate: March 31, 2011	University of Minnesota: University Senate	PDF (1893 KB)

Born-digital records are deposited in the IR via a distributed model (above) & are paired with digitized copies of their analog counterparts (below) to provide full online access to archival content.

Date	Title	Author	View/Download
7-Oct-1915	Docket: University Senate: October 7, 1915	University of Minnesota: University Senate	PDF (179 KB)
6-May-1915	Docket: University Senate: May 6, 1915	University of Minnesota: University Senate	PDF (320 KB)
4-Feb-1915	Docket: University Senate: February 4, 1915	University of Minnesota: University Senate	PDF (67 KB)
1-Oct-1914	Docket: University Senate: October 1, 1914	University of Minnesota: University Senate	PDF (141 KB)
5-May-1914	Docket: University Senate: May 5, 1914	University of Minnesota: University Senate	PDF (444 KB)
5-Feb-1914	Docket: University Senate: February 5, 1914	University of Minnesota: University Senate	PDF (42 KB)
2-Dec-1913	Docket: University Senate: December 2, 1913	University of Minnesota: University Senate	PDF (88 KB)
2-Oct-1913	Reports to University Senate: October 2, 1913	University of Minnesota: University Senate	PDF (70 KB)
29-Jan-1913	Report of Senate Committee on Organization: January 29, 1913	University of Minnesota: University Senate	PDF (161 KB)
1913	Docket: University Senate: 1913	University of Minnesota: University Senate	PDF (503 KB)
1912	Minutes: University Senate: October 3, 1912 - May 15, 1912	University of Minnesota: University Senate	PDF (8128 KB)



Archives related content accounts for nearly two-thirds of all downloads each year.

References

- Hanson, Cody, Heather Hessel, et. al. *Discoverability Phase 1 Final Report*. University of Minnesota Libraries. 2009. <http://purl.umn.edu/48258>.
- Dunnam, Jennifer, Vicki Field, et al. *University Information Assets: Re-Defining the University Archives in a Digital Age*. University of Minnesota: President's Emerging Leaders Program. 2006. <http://purl.umn.edu/5513>.
- Erway, Ricky. *Rapid Capture: Faster Throughput in Digitization of Special Collections*. Dublin, OH: OCLC Research. 2011. <http://www.oclc.org/research/publications/library/2011/2011-04.pdf>. See also *Rapid Capture: Mass Digitization of Special Collections*. Webinar. 27 October 2011. <http://www.oclc.org/research/events/20111027rc.pptx>.