A Showcase for YOUR Work

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Faculty and students navigate a world where scholarship is increasingly digital. Through STARS, powered by Digital Commons, UCF offers authors a way to manage, share, and increase impact for their full range of scholarship, from research datasets and primary materials to teaching tools and working papers.

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Expand reach and visibility for the full spectrum of work

Institutions benefit when their research gets noticed. At UCF, Rosen College Associate Dean Dr. Robertoico Croes understands the value of sharing his center’s research online. The Dick Pope Sr. Institute for Tourism Studies conducts private and public domain hospitality research, both domestically and abroad. They are dedicated to increasing the benefits of tourism through research, public awareness and education, which makes STARS the perfect fit for providing access to their portfolio of research, publications and white paper series. STARS readership reports detail how researchers from around the globe are finding the materials via Google, Google Scholar, and Google search boxes on UCF websites.

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With the options to upload a photo, provide a biography, add works in a list or card view, customize categories, and detail interests and experiences, SelectedWorks is a versatile user-friendly profile platform for students and faculty. The Author Dashboard provides detailed, exportable analytics about how an author’s work is being accessed around the world, including which organizations are reading their work. Find potential collaborators, identify most widely read research, and even share impact information for tenure and review.

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NEW SCHOLARLY JOURNALS
Launch journals in emerging fields

Many faculty members want to spearhead journals within their discipline—but commercial publishers may be reluctant to launch journals in new or highly specialized fields. When Dr. Joyce Nutta and her colleagues wanted to start an innovative journal in the disciplines of second language acquisition and English as a second language, they knew they wanted to publish exclusively online. Published twice a year, in June and December, The Tapestry Journal is a scholarly refereed journal that integrates research and best practices in a variety of fields as they relate specifically to English language learners. STARS is proud to host this and other journals as open access journals with no publishing costs.

TEACHING & LEARNING MATERIALS
Open educational resources, student-led journals, and class research projects

Teaching materials are an important, and sometimes overlooked, component of professors’ academic legacy. With STARS, that legacy is preserved in an attractive, discoverable place. Christian Beck, a Lecturer in the Department of English, worked with librarians and instructional designers to include open educational resources for his students. When an openly available version of a particular poem could not be obtained, he decided to create a shareable translation himself. Through STARS, Dr. Beck had ready access to a professional publishing platform and was able to make the poem available - with an accompanying Creative Commons license - for free to students and professors the world over.

RESEARCH DATA & GRANTS
Meet funder mandates, increase transparency, and manage grants online

Whether researchers are fulfilling funder requirements or need ways to manage grants and preserve digital research data, STARS provides a long-term solution. The John C. Hitt Library uses Digital Commons to help researchers provide access to grant materials and fulfill data mandates from funders and publishers.

When Dr. Barry Mauer (Associate Professor, English), Yulia Tikhonova (former Director, UCF Art Gallery) and John Venecek (Research & Information Services Librarian) received an IMLS grant, they understood the value of providing continued access to the grant and exhibit materials in a single online location.

DIGITAL HUMANITIES & CREATIVE WORKS
Support innovative work across multimedia formats, digital projects, and public history

Your most interesting work may be the most challenging to share because of hybrid formats and multimedia requirements. With support for audio, video, images, and curated digital collections, STARS lets authors bring their most creative projects to life. The Department of History’s Dr. Robert Cassanello partnered with the library to provide access to the A History of Central Florida podcast project. Having previously made the podcast videos available on iTunes, he was ready to add some new features and share additional content.

Google maps were created to provide location information for museums and artifacts. Dr. Cassanello utilized his collection administrator access to add related resources and customized citations to each episode. The images used to create the videos were given a new purpose in Museum Image galleries linked from accompanying episodes. The previously inaccessible images are some of the most downloaded content for this collection and have ranked highly in the Digital Commons Network.
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