Looking for Solid Ground During Consolidation: The DigitalCommons, Kennesaw State University and Southern Polytechnic State University

Aajay Murphy, Kennesaw State University, amurph18@kennesaw.edu

Session Type
☐ Poster

Abstract
It was announced in November of 2013, by University System of Georgia Chancellor Hank Huckaby, that Kennesaw State University and Southern Polytechnic State University would consolidate. The institutions are scheduled to be operating as a consolidated university by July 2015. This decision has impacted every facet of campus life and work, including DigitalCommons. This poster will highlight the experiences of the repository manager at Kennesaw State University during the transition with hopes to encourage others who may be going through similar scenarios to engage in a more personal dialogue. How the repository manager approached the issue of incorporating an additional institution in the DigitalCommons along with other hallenges, accomplishments, and strategies will be addressed.

Conference Themes
☐ Supporting Open Scholarship, Open Science, and Cultural Heritage
☐ Managing Research (and Open) Data
☐ Building the Perfect Repository

Keywords
university consolidation, Kennesaw State University, Southern Polytechnic State University, planning for change, thriving in change

Audience
Repository managers and librarians could appreciate this perspective as it shows how vital it is during consolidation to work together and encourage/support each other.

Background
My experiences are a micro-level interpretation of the conference theme "Looking Back/Moving Forward: Open Repositories at the Crossroads." Working during a consolidation involves both looking back to the strategies that worked in the past *and* moving forward to embrace new

collections and new opportunities. And a consolidation can very appropriately be described as a "crossroad."

Presentation content

Organization has been essential to managing the consolidation with my head above the water. This includes a number of graphics, especially in the form of mind maps, but also to include marketing materials and screenshots of the repository itself. Displaying these images would be more beneficial than just talking about the strategies, because they were vital to the process.

Conclusion
The consolidation of two universities presents a complex set of problems for institutional repositories, but they're all manageable with the proper amount of organization and planning. The repository manager must look at what has worked on her/his original campus in the past, while simultaneously moving forward into a relatively unknown campus. It is a dual effort of marketing and organizing.