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Annual Report for the Digital Commons @ LU - 2010

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LIBERTY UNIVERSITY™

Integrated Learning Resource Center

Annual Report

2010

Digital Commons@Liberty University

Background

Digital Commons@Liberty University serves as an online institutional repository for disseminating, storing and preserving the educational and research output of the LU community. The Commons provides worldwide open access to the research and scholarship of LU faculty and students, thereby showcasing Liberty's academic excellence.

Initially launched by the ILRC as a pilot project with the School of Education in January 2007, the Commons was officially opened to the LU community in May of the same year. All Liberty student theses and dissertations completed after Spring 2006 are available in the Commons. In addition, the Commons provides a place where faculty scholarship can be easily accessed by potential collaborators, scholarly societies, current or prospective students, and fellow researchers. The Digital Commons also contains several online journals, including *Christian Perspectives in Education*, *Eleutheria*, *Eruditio Ardescens* (forthcoming), *The Journal for the Christian Pre Law Society*, *Lamp*, and the *Liberty Business Review*.

The Digital Commons is managed by Dr. Tyler Veak, Scholarly Communications Librarian, and administered by Joshua C. Stone, Scholarly Communications Associate, who was added to the Library staff in January 2009.

Synopsis of 2010

This year was characterized by significant growth in the areas of total downloads and in new projects such as: *Eleutheria*, the addition of *The Liberty Champion* archives, and the Liberty University Oral History Project. Instead of focusing on general growth, 2010 proved to be a year where the Commons made significant inroads into the specific departments and schools within the University, providing much needed technical and archival support. This additional support

showcased the value and diversity of the Commons while providing an important service to the LU Community.

The total downloads for the Commons almost tripled in 2010, increasing 284 percent. The increase is primarily due to the diversity of the collection, the increase in items, and the inclusion of more precise metadata (keywords, abstracts, comments, etc.).

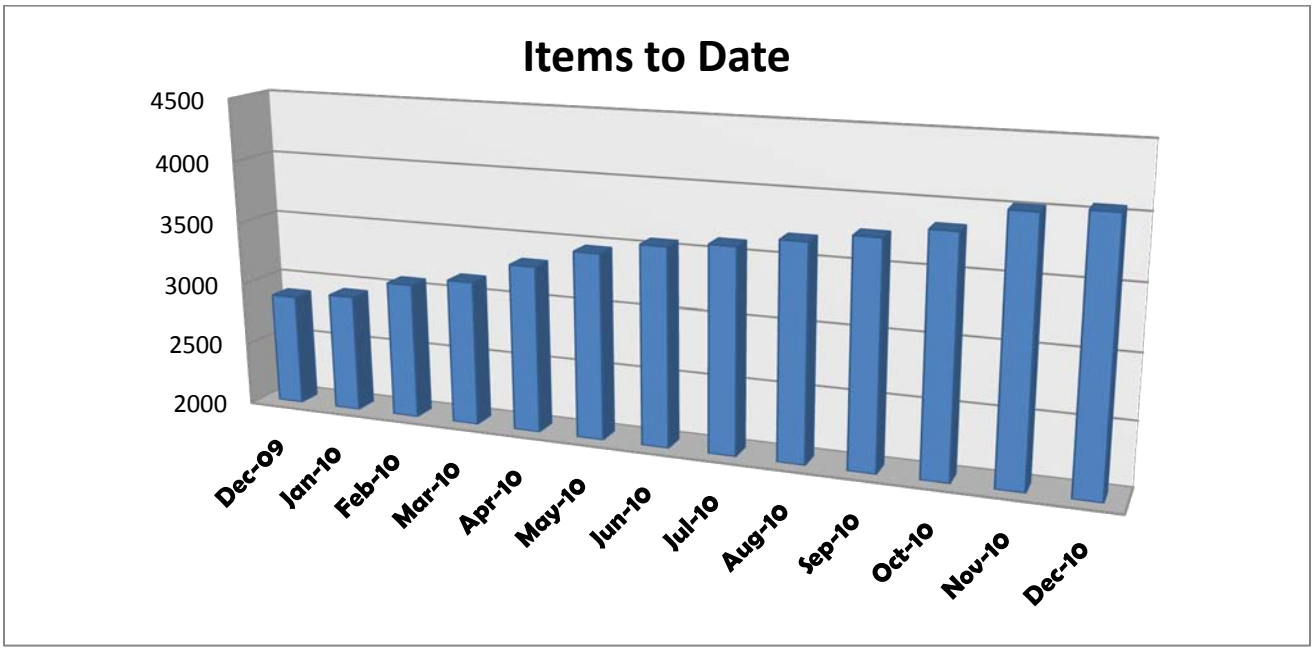
Several new projects also helped to increase the total number of items and downloads. These projects included a new graduate student, peer-reviewed journal, *Eleutheria,* the Liberty University Oral History Project and LU's student newspaper *The Liberty Champion.*

Statistics and Highlights

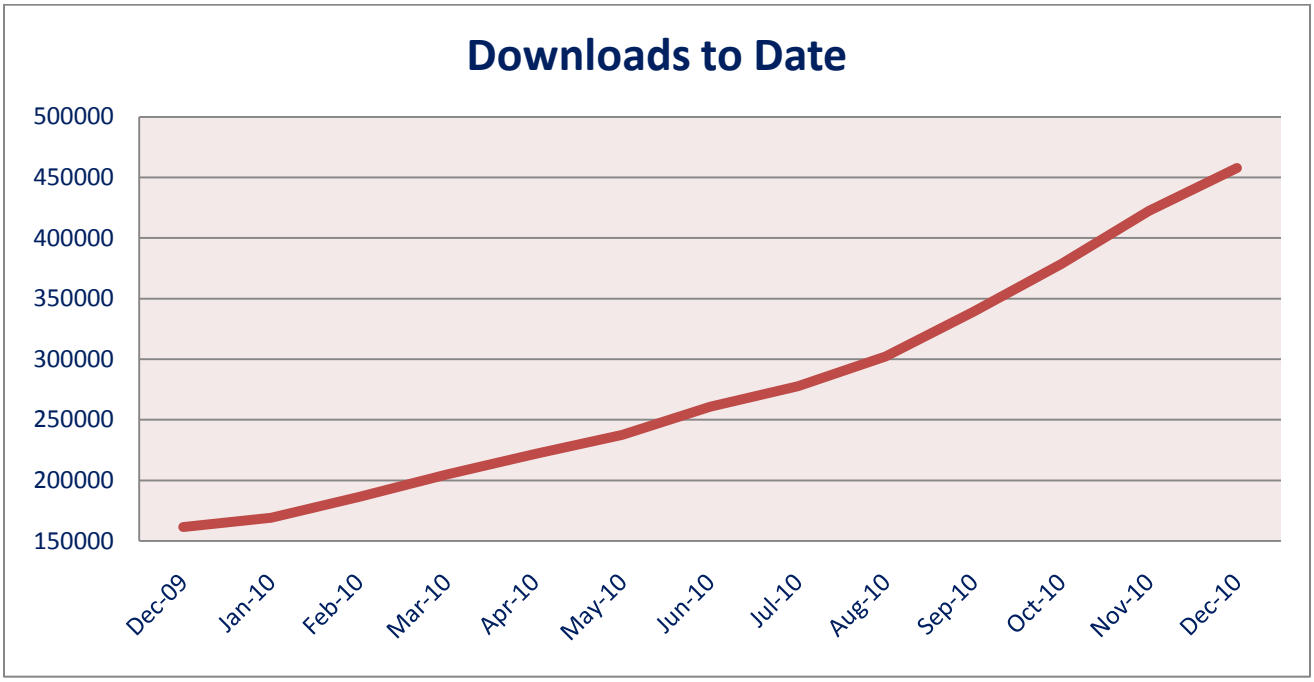
Percent Increase of Items, Downloads, and ETDs:

	Items	Downloads	ETDs
Beginning of Year	2885	161375	576
End of Year	4054	457918	867
Increase for the Year	1169	296543	294
Percent Total Increase	40.5%	283.8%	51.0%

- **4054 total items available, a 40.5% increase**

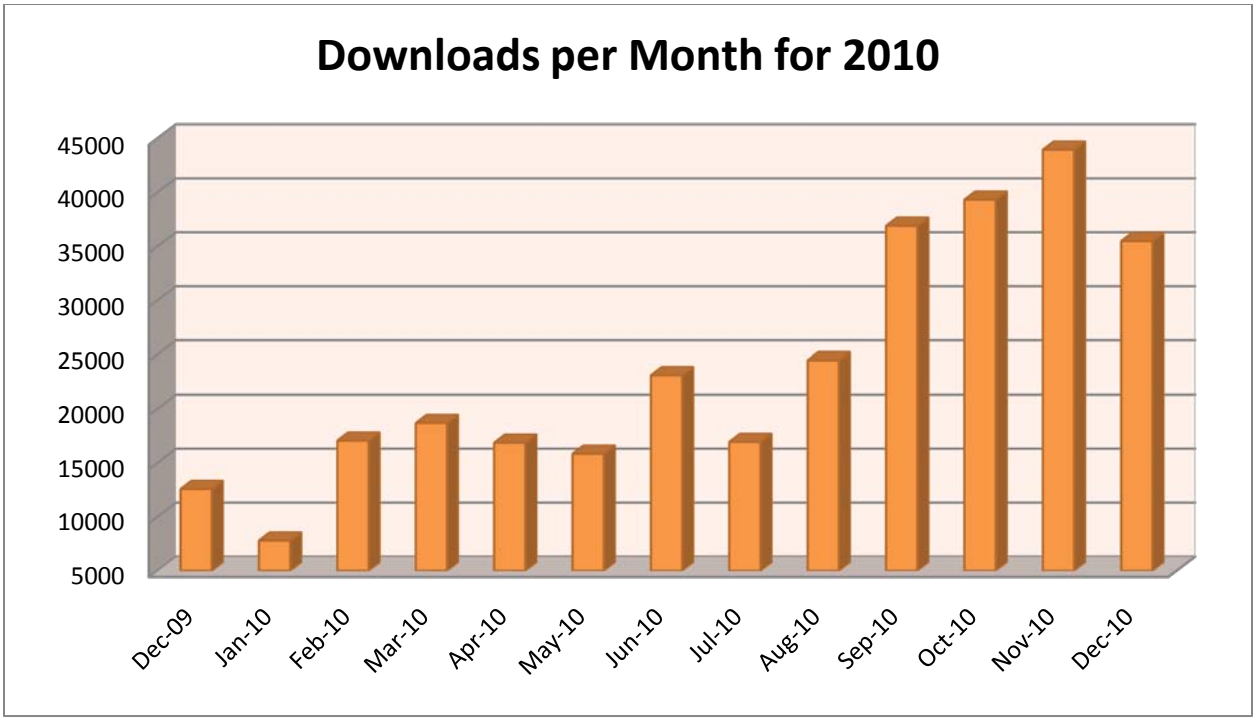


- **457,918 total downloads to date, a 284% increase**

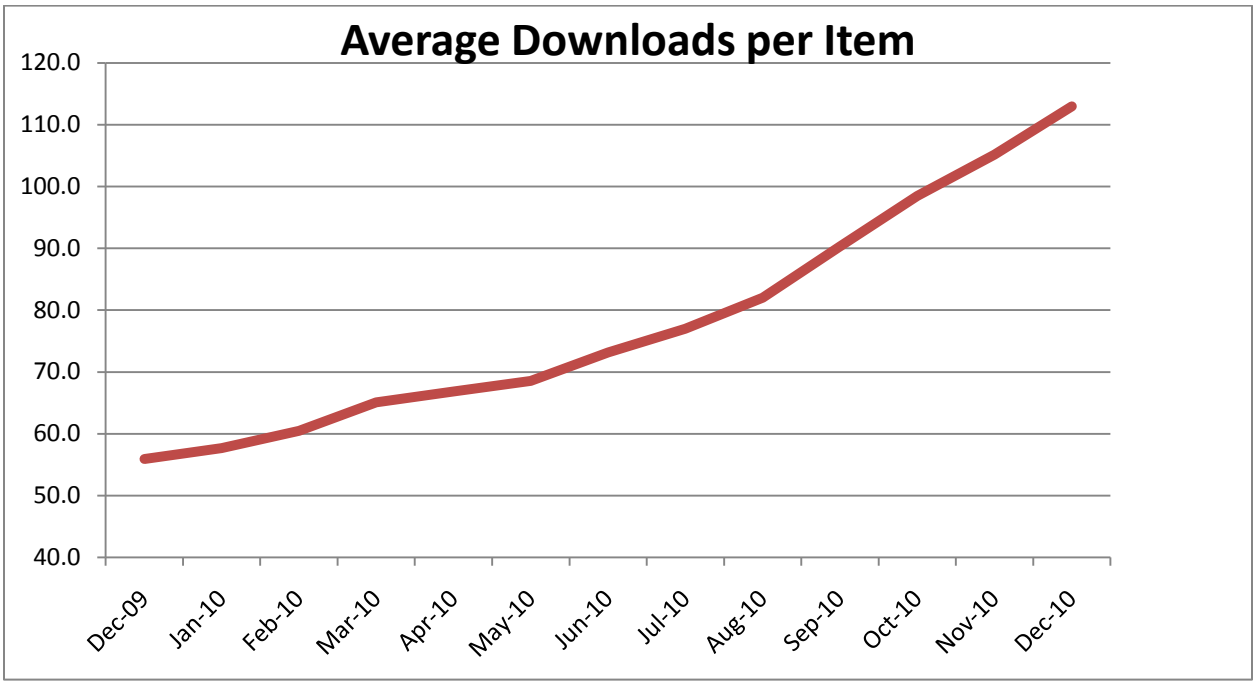


- **Researchers from over 164 countries**

- **Monthly downloads increased significantly**



- **Average Downloads per Item increased significantly, highlighting greater exposure**



Challenges Ahead

- Obtaining university-wide support for participation in the Digital Commons
- Managing the potential influx of Liberty University Online adjunct faculty
- Transitioning multiple journals from library managing to departmental managing (i.e. *Lamp*, *Eleutheria*)
- Integration into local library search system

Future Direction

- Incorporation of more Liberty University Online adjunct faculty
- Creation of more e-journals
- Occupy a more central role in departments throughout LU
- Identify potential monographs for inclusion in the books collection (e.g. out-of-print books)

Conclusion

The Digital Commons@Liberty University experienced a year of establishment and utilization in 2010. The total downloads increased exponentially, journals were created, and the electronic thesis and dissertation deposit process continued unabated. The Digital Commons should experience another significant year of growth in 2011 with the increasing participation of Liberty University Online adjunts. In addition there is a large corpus of scholarly content still to be garnered from LUO and residential faculty. The Digital Commons continues to prove itself as a valuable resource for faculty, students, and to researchers around the world. 2011 should prove to be the most exciting year for the Digital Commons and the Office of Scholarly Communication.

For more information, please contact:

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