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Annual Report for the DigitalCommons @ LU - 2009

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Annual Report

2009

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*, *The Journal for the Christian Pre-Law Society* (forthcoming), *Lamplight*, 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 2009

In 2009, the Digital Commons experienced exponential growth in [SelectedWorks](#) sites, item downloads, and total number of items. This growth is largely due to the addition of a full time staff position to handle the day-to-day administration of the Digital Commons and to solicit new content from the LU community.

The breadth of content was expanded from primarily theses and dissertations (which consisted of over 40 percent of the content in December 2008) and some faculty scholarship, to include audio and video files, faculty dissertations, Bible studies, online books, presentations, school newspapers, out-of-print journals, newsletters, and many other works from the LU community.

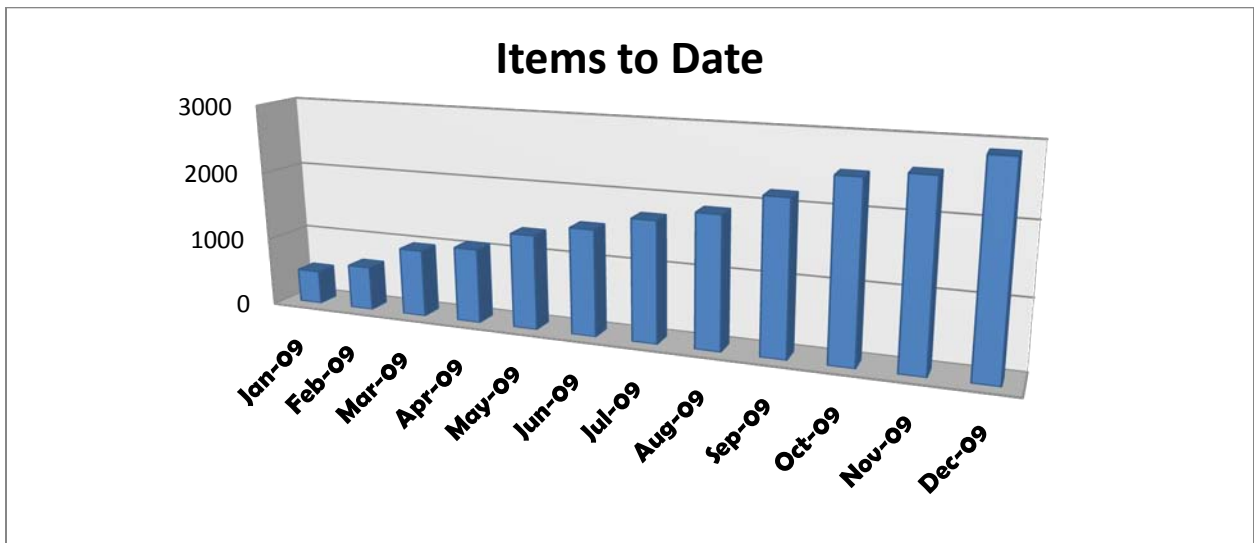
In addition to the theses and dissertations that were completed this year, holdings were expanded through a digitization project whereby over 175 previously completed theses and dissertations were scanned and added to the Commons.

Statistics and Highlights

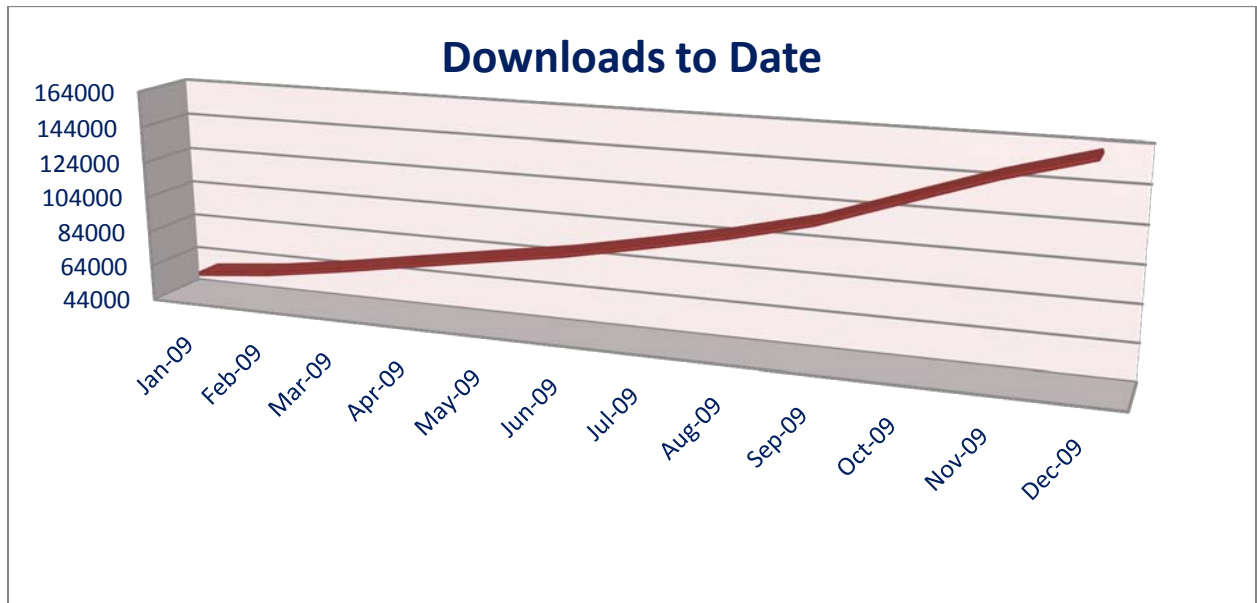
The following is statistical representation of the Digital Common’s growth over 2009 calendar year.

	Items	Downloads	SelectedWorks Pages	ETDs
Beginning	451	53908	43	196
End of year	2885	161375	123	576
Percent Increase	639.69%	299.35%	286.05%	293.88%

- **2885 total items available, a 640% increase for the year**



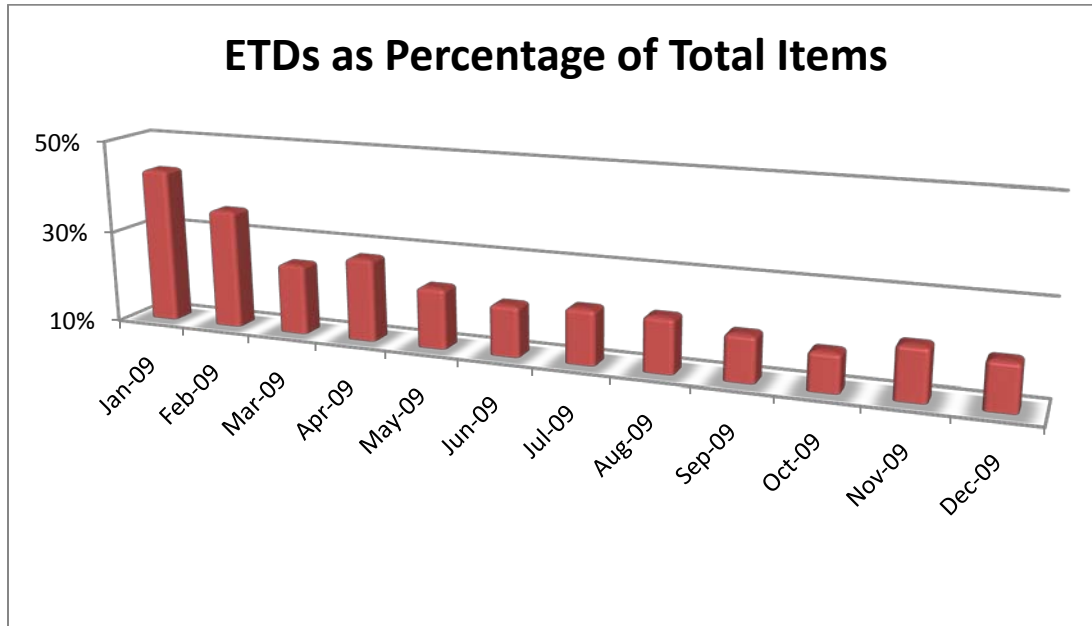
➤ **161,375 full-text downloads, a 299% increase for the year**



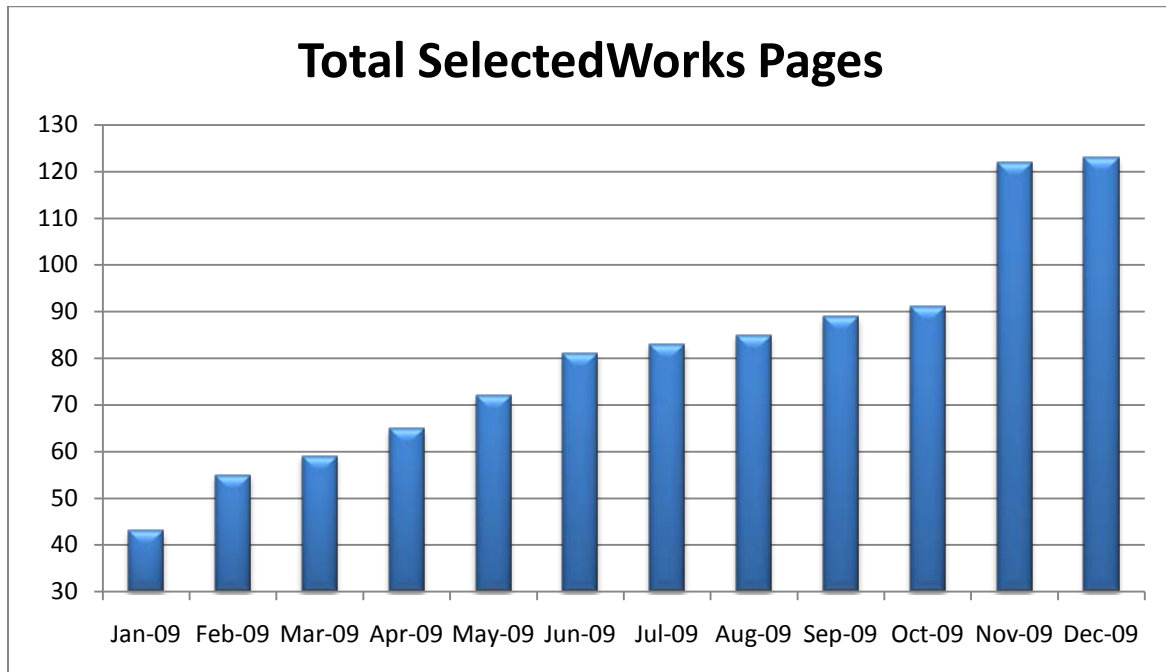
➤ **Researchers from over 70 countries**



➤ **576 theses and dissertations, a 294% increase for the year**



➤ **123 SelectedWorks pages, a 286% increase for the year**



Challenges ahead

- convincing faculty of the benefits of including their scholarship in the Commons
- encouraging schools and departments to establish more online journals hosted by the Digital Commons
- clarifying submission policies in an evolving digital environment
- persuading journal editors and publishers to allow faculty to post their previously published works in the Commons

Future Direction

- developing incentives for faculty to include their work in the Digital Commons
- expanding participation in the Digital Commons to include more schools and departments
- creating Library sponsored student journal(s)
- increasing scholarly content through the establishment of more online journals, and including LU sponsored conference presentations

Conclusion

Digital Commons@Liberty University experienced phenomenal growth over the past year while expanding services to the LU community. The Commons is rapidly becoming known as the place to find Liberty University student and faculty scholarship. By providing personalized service, we hope to keep this momentum going and to broaden participation to include work from all areas of the LU community.

For more information contact:

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