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## Is Creative Commons Right for Us?

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# Is Creative Commons right for us?

A Story of ETDRs Published on  
Digital Commons @ Michigan Tech

# Who We Are

- R2 Doctoral University
- ~200 master's theses, master's reports, and dissertations (ETDRs) approved and published per academic year
- Institutional Repository: Digital Commons @ Michigan Tech
- Graduate School manages all aspects of publishing and managing ETDR collection on the repository
- Library serves as administrator for entire repository and supports the Grad School



# Where we were

## Approval Process

- Paper forms requiring physical signatures
- Inefficient system with room for human error

## Publication

- Students self-submit to Digital Commons (all ETDRs) and ProQuest (ETDs only)
- Offer embargoes on both platforms
- Two Access options: Open and Campus Access Only (restricted)
  - \$95 on ProQuest
  - Free on the IR
- No licensing options



# Where we're going

1. Approval and publication fully managed by Digital Commons platform
2. Creative Commons licensing options available to choose during student submission process
  - Optional
  - Only for those who choose OA publishing option

These two changes are intentionally tied together and pitched as an overall ETDR process improvement

# How we're getting there

- Discussions between Grad School and Library - What do we think about Creative Commons for ETDRs?
- Community scan - what are others doing?
- Introduction to Graduate Faculty Council - does this seem like the great idea we think it is?
- Lots of testing - mostly the new approval process, but also the addition of CC licensing
- Demonstration to GFC - approval and licensing
- Educational workshops and online resources improved - expansion/update of existing copyright outreach
- Additional outreach to the community via daily campus newsletter and blog posts



# Education is key

- LibGuide
- Graduate Faculty Council presentation
- Graduate School dissertation support
- Announcements in University newsletter
- Direct emails to targeted groups
- Workshops
- On-demand consultations

# Handling conflict...?

- Advisor is last word
  - Manager of data
  - Represents University interests
  - Broader and deeper knowledge
- Gives away some author authority
- Graduate School review to ensure consistency



# Observations and Reflections

- Collaboration is key!
- Checklists are important!
- Balance the information load
  - Creative Commons
  - Online approval
- Positive reception from faculty and students



# Thank you!

## What questions do you have?

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