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Creating an Online Institutional Research Record in ArchivesSpace

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Poster presentation at the 2019 Medical Library Association Meeting.

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Southern Illinois University Medical Library

Timeline of Events

1. **July 31, 2018**
   - The faculty member informs the Library that the School received the award.
   - Wants to move forward with the institutional bibliography in memoriam of Dr. Williams, hopefully in conjunction with a memorial service.
   - September 14, 2018
     - Education Policy committee green-lights installation of ArchivesSpace.
   - September 19, 2018
     - Reed Williams Project Team receives demo of Archives Space and decides it will be the best home for the final bibliography collection.

2. **Late September - October 2018**
   - Back & forth with IT about their concerns regarding ArchivesSpace’s maintenance and server space requirements.
   - October 30, 2018
     - IT installs back-end of ArchivesSpace.

3. **November 29, 2018**
   - Associate Dean of Medical Education sets date of memorial service for Reed Williams to January 18th, 2019.
   - November - December 2018
     - Catalogue “Reed Williams Project” in ArchivesSpace.
     - Upload items that SIU holds copyright to.
     - Link to media/articles available for free online.

4. **January 18, 2019**
   - The Founding Figures Collection and ArchivesSpace are unveiled at Dr. Williams’s memorial.

5. **January 16, 2019**
   - After some debate, the collection is officially named the “Founding Figures Collection of Medical Education.”

6. **November 30, 2018**
   - 10:45 AM - Library director contacts IT concerning the date of the memorial and that we will need the public interface of ArchivesSpace before then.
   - 11:00 AM - Receive reply that it is live: https://libarchive.siumed.edu/public

Background

Since its founding in 1970, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine (SIUSOM) has been an innovator in medical education. Founding Dean Richard Moy’s vision for improving medical education attracted internationally renowned faculty such as Dr. Howard Barrows (one of the founding researchers in Problem Based Learning), Dr. J. Roland Folse (an innovator in surgical education), and Dr. Reed Williams (use of standardized patients in medical education).

In January 2018 Dr. Collin Hitt, a faculty member in the department of Medical Education, contacted the Library concerning an award application he was working on. He wondered whether SIUSOM had a bibliography of the School’s research contributions, most particularly in SIUSOM’s work with Problem Based Learning, Standardized Patients, and Simulation Technology, that he could refer to. We did not, but agreed it would be a useful and interesting resource that we would be interested in helping to compile. Around the same time, the Library was in the beginning planning stages of implementing an online catalog and finding aid for our archives using the open source platform ArchivesSpace. The death of Dr. Reed Williams, a distinguished SIUSOM researcher and emeritus professor, in June 2018 fast-tracked both these projects.

Reflections & Future Plans

- ArchivesSpace was important to the Library, but stalled until high-profile stakeholders understood its application and were willing to provide support for the project.
- In the days and months following the memorial we received many positive comments, requests for copies of materials contained therein, and even offers to donate materials related to the founding figures.
- We took on more work regarding the memorial than expected, but seeing ArchivesSpace implemented was well worth it!
- We are now cataloguing more archival collections in ArchivesSpace.
- We have identified several more SIU researchers whose work should be included in the Founding Figures Collection of Medical Education.

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