

Date: Mon, 21 Mar 2011 15:43:13 -0400 (EDT)
From: limgrim@wm.edu
To: honorsadvisors@lists.wm.edu
Subject: [Honors Advisor Listserv] Honors Project Advisors: A Message from Swem Archivists

Good afternoon,

Since 2008, William & Mary students completing an honors thesis have been required to submit the electronic copy to the W&M Digital Archive (<http://digitalarchive.wm.edu/>). We are contacting you to share some important updates to the submission process for students completing a thesis this year.

The W&M Digital Archive is an initiative to collect, preserve, and distribute digital material related to and produced by the university community. The W&M Digital Archive provides open access to research and contributions are accepted from William & Mary students, faculty, and staff. Contributions range from the scholarly - theses and dissertations - to course catalogs to material documenting campus life. With over 300 submissions to date, the Honors & Senior Theses Collection (<https://digitalarchive.wm.edu/handle/10288/15>) is one of the largest in the W&M Digital Archive. It continues to grow with new submissions each semester as well as through optional submissions by alumni who completed their theses pre-2008.

A new feature added this year enables students to temporarily embargo the electronic version of their thesis as they submit it to the digital archive. The embargo prevents online access to the thesis for a period of time designated by the student. In the past, restrictions had to be mediated by administrators of the W&M Digital Archive when the submission process was completed. Should you and your student consider imposing such a restriction we strongly encourage you to contact us in advance of submitting the thesis. Since one of the purposes of the W&M Digital Archive is to provide an open access forum for the distribution of research at William & Mary, we discourage unnecessarily lengthy embargoes whenever possible, yet understand embargoes are sometimes needed.

Copyright to theses and dissertations available through the W&M Digital Archive is retained by the author - and does not differ in any way from the rights that apply to the paper copies shelved in the library. In 2010, the W&M Digital Archive began offering authors the opportunity to also grant a Creative Commons license during the submission process. Students are not required to attach the license, but we want to make certain you are aware that it is an option should any of your students ask you about it. More information about Creative Commons licenses can be found at <http://creativecommons.org/> or students may contact us to discuss this further.

If you have any questions regarding the W&M Digital Archive, feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

W&M Digital Archive Co-Administrators

Amy Schindler
University Archivist and Acting Marian and Alan McLeod Director of the Special Collections Research Center

Ute Schechter
Warren E. Burger Archivist