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Open access and institutional repositories

Open access literature is free, digital, and available to anyone online. Typically open-access material is housed in an academic library's institutional repository. Broadly defined, an institutional repository is a digital collection that captures and preserves the intellectual output of university communities.

Some faculty participate in open access to promote their work on a global stage. However, many proponents of open access also take a principled stance on the free sharing of information. Open access and institutional repositories help to bring down the barriers to open scholarship that are often created by journal publishers and scholarly databases. Many of these publishers charge exorbitant fees for access to work that some think should be made available for free at places like faculty web sites, the [Directory of Open Access Journals](#), and other online repositories.

To learn more about the benefits of open-access and institutional repositories, please visit [this resource](#) by Berkley Electronic Press.

Some quick facts about our repository

Our [Digital Commons](#) went live in November of 2008. Since that time we have added 1,774 items and have achieved more than 21,000 downloads. What follows are some of our top downloads by [contributor name](#).

Marshal Gregory	142
Harry van der Linden	139
Chad Bauman	138
James F. McGrath	134
Sheridan Stormes	119
Stuart Glennan	113
Sally Neal	83

What is interesting to note is that out of 130 faculty contributions we have had 4,218 downloads since our debut in 2008 – that is **4,218 times** that someone, somewhere in the world took the time to access scholarship and other works that were created by Butler faculty! Please click on [this link](#) to see our top 20 downloads since November 2008.

Special thanks to [Teresa Williams](#) for allowing us to modify and use her newsletter template!