

California State University, San Bernardino

CSUSB ScholarWorks

Latino Education and Advocacy Days (LEAD)
Video Recordings

Arthur E. Nelson University Archives

2021

Interview: "CSUSB ScholarWorks: Encouraging new ideas, preserving past knowledge, and fostering new connections"

CSUSB - Latino Education and Advocacy Days (LEAD)

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LEAD Original Programming

"CSUSB ScholarWorks: Encouraging new ideas, preserving past knowledge, and fostering new connections" (2021)

START – 00:00:00

[Music]

>> Hello, and welcome, everyone.

I'm your host, Dr.
Enrique Murillo.

And today's segment
is going to deal

with a very special
topic of ScholarWorks.

Now, the reason why we're
talking about this is

because we are celebrating
Hispanic Heritage Month.

From September 15 through
October 15 every year we set

aside the month in order
to enjoy the time, go back

and think about all
the beautiful aspects

of our culture, all
the contributions

of Latinos to the United States.

And what better than celebrating
the intellectual output

of CSUSB, which is a

Hispanic-serving institution.

And we've been the
[inaudible] since 1994, okay?

Today's guest is
Eric Milenkiewicz.

He's the university, the
CSUSB University Archivist,

and let's welcome him today
and thank him for being here.

He is what we call
the metal metal.

He's the main person
on our campus

who deals with the archives.

And so we just want
to start with --

start out with some
very simple questions.

What is CSUSB's Scholar Works,

it's an open access
institutional repository

that is administered by
the John M. Pfau Library,

and it's really there to
preserve the research,

scholarship, and publications

of CSUSB faculty,
staff, and students.

Additionally, we
also use the platform

for digital collections
based out of the library,

so it's also going to include
historical materials documenting

the history and culture
of not only our university

but also our surrounding region
in Inland Southern California.

>> Would you say those are
the goals of the repository?

Because I know, for us
it's a digital record

of our output, right?

And I like the fact
that, let's say I --

well, even these videos
that we're producing,

long after we're gone, 50 years
from now, I suppose if it's

in a repository,
someone's going to be able

to access that, right?

>> Yeah, that's one of the
main purposes and goals

of the Scholar Works platform.

It's the long-term
preservation of this content.

So making sure that we preserve
this content for generations

to come so that it can not
only be, you know, accessed,

but still used by, you know, our
community as well as the larger,

you know, research communities.

It also protects these materials
from file corruption, from loss,

so that we don't lose all

of this scholarly output
that's being generated here

at our university.

>> Is there -- what are the
advantages of Scholar Works?

Because, for example, right
now, with our lead projects,

we're putting a lot of videos
on YouTube, and which is great.

And it's one way
to access people.

But I suppose YouTube tomorrow
can say, "You know what?

There's something
wrong with your video.

We're going to take
it off, or we're going

to cancel your account."

And so you lose that.

So what really is the
advantage of Scholar Works?

Is it something where,
again, 50 years from now,

someone at the university's
going

to make sure it stays
available and could be accessed?

>> Yeah, so that's one
of the main advantages

of Scholar Works, is
that it puts the content

under our control.

So when you use services
like YouTube

or anything else that's
proprietary out on the Internet,

it's up to whether
they want to continue

to host your content, all right?

So with us hosting it in
Scholar Works, you know,

we have direct access to the
files, to the descriptions

about this material, so
that we can make sure

that it doesn't disappear
and that it is available for,

you know, our faculty and
students, you know, 10, 15,

20 years down the line.

>> That's excellent.

Okay, well, is there any cost?

Who can -- who -- I mean,
we know it's public,

so anybody can access it.

But is it you upload materials?

Or like, what are the kinds
of things that one would see

if you were to visit the
our CSUSB Scholar Works?

Like, what is on there?

>> Yeah, so Scholar Works,
it's freely available

to the public, so
anyone can use it.

It's not just restricted
to Cal State

or Cal State San Bernardino.

When you access the
site, there's lots

of different things
that you can view.

Anything from, you know,
faculty publications

to original research
reports, student theses,

projects, dissertations.

So there's a lot of
that scholarly output

from our university that's available through Scholar Works.

The library also uses Scholar Works

as a digital asset management platform

for our digital collections.

So you're going to find a lot of historical materials,

anything from photographs, event recordings,

newspapers, oral histories.

Those are all hosted in Scholar Works as well for public access.

>> Yeah, the -- I am --

right now, I'm coordinating our doctoral program.

And you know, our master's theses

and doctoral dissertations, you have to --

they have to format it and make it available

on Scholar Works, right?

That's part of the -- yeah.

>> So currently, yeah.

So currently, all theses

and dissertations are now electronic.

We no longer do the
print versions of those.

So, yeah, so students would
upload, you know, their theses

and dissertations directly
into Scholar Works for access.

>> That's great because
one of the -- one of the --

one of the goals of
anybody who's doing research

or creating some kind of
intellectual endeavor output is

that you want to make
it available publicly.

I mean, there's an old
adage that we used to say

in higher education, which
was publish or perish.

And so there was this
race, you know, as faculty,

to get your work
published out there.

However, as you grow
more experienced

and perhaps there's no --

no more immediate rush
to publish so much.

One of the goals, I think,
at least for me as a kind

of a veteran faculty, is that

I want my work to be available.

And so the new model really is
public or perish, that we need

to make our work public.

And we are a state-funded
university, tax-supported,

and I work on behalf of
the people of California.

And so I want to
make it accessible.

Like, my work has to
be accessible to folks.

So is CSUSB Scholar Works
connected to, like, Google?

Can I do a Google search?

Is it going to come
up Google Scholar?

What about those searches?

>> Yeah, so that's one
of the key advantages

to Scholar Works
is the platform.

Everything is indexed by Google.

So anything that's available
in our platform will show

up in Google search results.

It'll also show up
in Google Scholar.

It provides, as you said, a

mechanism for, you know, faculty

and students to publish
their work online

in a stable environment with a
URL that we know is not going

to change so that they can have
their work cited and reused

by other scholars in the field.

So it really, like you said,
allows us to push this content

out to the broader public
much easier than in the past,

when a lot of these things
were in print publications.

>> Got it.

Got it. Okay, so one
other question is,

I have is I've always wondered,
can we use Scholar Works

to comply with public
research mandates?

For example, I'll
give you an example.

Let's say you get a grant from
the National Science Foundation

or a grant from the State
of California or some kind

of federal grant,
and they make it --

they mandate it that your work

has to be publicly accessible.

So is Scholar Works the venue
for us to make your work --

would we comply with
those mandates?

>> Yeah, so Scholar Works
is the venue for that.

So anything that's grant related
that's mandated for, you know,

open access to this content
in a stable location,

Scholar Works is going to be
the platform that both faculty,

staff, and students are
going to want to use.

>> Got it.

Okay. So a little while ago,
you mentioned the things

that are available, the types
of materials you'll see.

So our learning objects.

I mean, what -- is it
have to be digital?

There's no archive, like, for
something physical, right?

It's everything's digital?

>> Yeah, so everything
on the platform is --

it's a digital format.

>> Uh-huh.

>> So people can view it online.

Also, there's, many times
there's options for downloading.

So if it's a publication,
you can download

that publication or article.

If it's a video,
it streams directly

in the platform for viewing.

So, yeah, most -- so most

of the content starts
off in digital form.

But there's also content
that the library's working

on that's digitizing material.

So we're working with our --

>> Ah.

>> -- our print collections --

>> Got it.

>> -- to digitize some --

>> Yes.

>> -- older publications
or, you know, photographs,

and get those online
digitally for easier access.

>> Okay. Do I give

up my author rights

by putting it on Scholar Works?

>> No, you don't.

You maintain all of those rights that you have.

You can even specify, you know, what those are

within the description of the item.

So, yeah, by putting it in Scholar Works, you don't let go

of any of your rights to the work.

>> Okay. So let's say I have a report that I've done.

So I can very easily put it up on Scholar Works.

But I can also submit it for some kind

of academic publication, and there's no conflict?

>> It can both ways.

I mean, and sometimes that would depend on the journal

that you're submitting it to.

>> Oh, okay.

>> But nowadays, a lot of them have these options

to where maybe it appears

first in a journal,

and then after a
six-month embargo,

it can be freely available
online in Scholar Works.

>> Ah.

>> Another option is, you know,

using Scholar Works
for pre-publication.

>> Uh-huh.

>> So before it is actually
published, using that version

as an open-access version,

and then have a more
complete final version

in a scholarly publication.

>> Almost like a conference,
like a presentation.

>> Like a white paper or
a conference proceeding.

>> Yes.

>> So there's a lot of
options there with kind

of when you put the content on

and how you can increase
access to it.

>> Okay. So how do you
find Scholar Works?

I mean, if I were to just open

up my laptop, well,
what do I do?

>> Yeah, so it's going to be --

you can access it
through the main page

of the library website.

You know, there's
an option there

to click into Scholar Works.

It can also be accessed at
scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu,

so at the web address.

You know, if you're interested
in a specific topic or area,

and you're searching that
Google or other search engines,

content that's related
will appear.

Content that's related in
Scholar Works will appear

in those search results as well.

>> Okay, very good.

Okay. So is there anything
else you think faculty, staff,

and students need to
know about Scholar Works?

>> I just think they need
to know it's a, you know,

a great resource available to
them to really broaden the reach

of the content that
they're producing.

It gives them a platform
that they know is going

to be administered and
preserved for the long term

so that their content isn't
going to disappear, you know,

next year or the year after.

>> Uh-huh.

>> So I think it's a really
valuable resource for them

to document their work
and push it out publicly.

>> Okay. So then
why do you think --

and I think this is
the main question.

And it may -- and
you may not be --

your answer may not
be the only answer.

There may be multiple
answers on our campus.

But why is it important that we
archive our intellectual output?

In other words, what's
the purpose?

Does it create new -- does
it encourage new ideas?

Does it encourage -- excuse me,

does it preserve
our past knowledge?

Does it foster connections?

I mean, really, ultimately,
why do --

why is it important to archive?

>> Yeah, it's important
to archive,

essentially for just the
dissemination of information

and knowledge to society.

So platforms like Scholar Works

that are open access
repositories

that are freely available,
it makes equitable access

to these materials to all
members of our society.

So it's not saying, you know,

people that can afford
it can get into it.

Anyone can access this content.

So it really just helps
push out our scholarly

and research output to

add to the information

and knowledge of our society.

And it also allows that spot
where things can be preserved

for posterity, for the
long-term, to really document

as a university, you know,
what we've done, you know,

over the course of
a set time frame.

>> Very good.

Okay. Well, we want to
thank you, everybody,

for paying attention to us.

We want to thank our
guest, Eric Milenkiewicz,

who is our CSUSB
University Archivist.

And again, I'm your host Dr.
Enrique Murillo, and thank you,

and we hope to see you soon.

[Music]

END – 00:13:46