Dueling Repository Woes
Greater Need, Fewer In-House Experts

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Northeast Institutional Repository Day
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Overview

01. Setting the Stage
   Compass and its status before March 2020

02. Woe #1: Greater Need
   The pivot to digitization-on-demand

03. Woe #2: Fewer Experts
   Staff changes over the course of the 2020-21 school year

04. Making it work
   How we managed to make it work and what we’ll carry forward
01. Setting the Stage
Compass

- A shared repository for member institutions to store, manage and publish digital objects on the Web.
- Built on Islandora 7.
- 1 million+ objects ingested!
Governance, Support, Usage

- Product Owners
- Tech Team
- Metadata Team
- Design Team
- Vendors
- Stakeholders
A (Very) Brief History

- **2015**: Five College Library task force proposal for “3CDL”
- **2016-2017**: Research & initial build
- **2017**: Compass is launched!
- **2018-2019**: Increased capacity & ingested 1 million objects
- **2020-2021**: Covid, staff transitions
02.
Greater Need
Digitization-on-demand

Remote Classes
All Fall 2020 classes were announced to be remote

Travel Fellows
While some fellows deferred, many did not

Student Coursework
Graduating seniors working on their theses prioritized
03. Staff Changes
# Compass staffing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Staff at Smith</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 2020</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2020</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2021</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2021</td>
<td>2</td>
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04. Making it Work and Moving Forward
Making it work

- Setting our priorities - **immediate access**
  - Digitize > Post-process > Put in GDrive, available to anyone > add links to GDrive content to ArchivesSpace
  - As time allows, add to Compass and replace the GDrive links with Compass ones.

- Focused on **training**
- Working meetings with real data, recorded Zoom calls
- Moved staff around & shared the burden
- Folks who knew Compass well had created great documentation
Moving forward

- Have a plan for the material we leave behind
- Allow ourselves dedicated time to *try* stuff, if we can
- Material we already digitized is saving us from having to digitize more
- Lessons from “Crisis mode”
Thanks!

Do you have any questions?

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