

2012

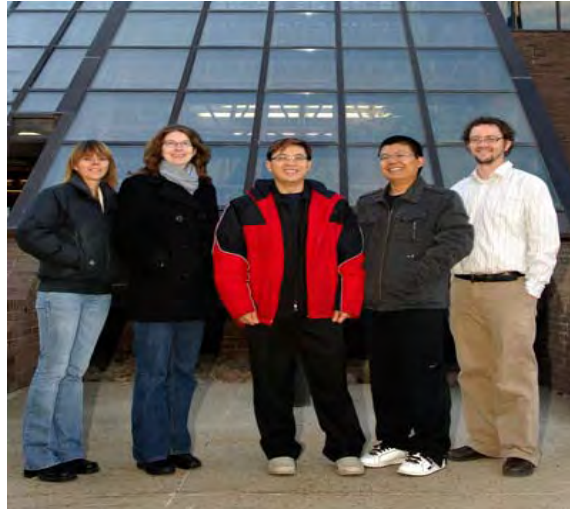
Digital Initiatives & E-Resources Unit:

Profiling Leadership & Expertise in
Digitization & E-learning



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About the Unit

The Digital Initiatives & E-Resources Unit was established in 2004, providing digitization services and electronic resources in support of teaching, learning and research at Athabasca University (AU). The Unit works collaboratively with other units, academic centers and outside entities creating digital surrogates of learning and cultural resources to be used for access, discovery, and preservation.

Unit's core activities include:

- Planning, implementation, management and evaluation of AU Library's digital initiatives & E-resources.
- Provision of access to electronic resources, tools, training and support for AU staff, faculty and student.
- Maintenance and enhancement of the library "gateway" to all library resources and services in support of teaching, learning and research.
- Leadership and support for innovative use of e-learning and mobile technologies to support AU teaching and learning and delivery of library resources and services.

The Unit is led by Head, Digital Initiatives & E-Resources with support from a digitization coordinator, a digitization technician, and a digital objects repository network developer.



Athabasca University's Digitization Portal is the gateway for staff, students, and the public to access and explore Athabasca University Library's unique digital collections. Local history, natural history, women's studies, cinema studies, environmental archives, art and photography collections are represented in the portal. To learn more about the Digitization Portal, contact Tony Tin (tonyt@athabascau.ca).



Programs and Services Overview:

- Maintenance and enhancement of library website and electronic resources to support teaching, learning and research. In 2011, library website had a recorded hit of 15,195.406 (21.93 Hits/Visit) with 268896 visitors. The WAM stats for E-resource access (273 library subscribed journal databases) were 18,157.604.
URL: <http://library.athabascau.ca>
- Maintenance and enhancement of the Digital Reading Room (DRR) to provide effective and efficient access to e-course reserve material. DRR now houses 599 current and archived Digital Reading Files (DRFs) with links to 26,413 online learning resources.
URL: <http://drr.lib.athabascau.ca>
- Maintenance and enhancement of The Digital Thesis and Project Room (DTPR) to facilitate e-submission and repository storage. DTPR now holds a total of 3,737 digital theses and projects.
URL: <http://dtp.r.lib.athabascau.ca>
- Maintenance and development of the DThesis Portal for Doctoral/Master thesis e-submission and repository storage. Established in 2011 DThesis Portal now holds 9 submissions and metadata is harvested by theses Canada.
URL: <https://dt.athabascau.ca>
- Maintenance and enhancement of AUSPACE, a digital repository, to facilitate open access to all AU research, cumulative and perpetual, of the institution through one interface and stewardship of scholarship output. AUSPACE currently houses 2056 items, ranking 95 of top Canada/USA digital repositories (http://repositories.webometrics.info/top100_continent.asp?cont=usa_canada).
URL: <http://auspace.athabascau.ca>

- Support of Open Access (OA) and Open Educational Resources (OER) by organizing annual international OA Week and OERs Webcast, featuring international speakers on the topics. The events were highly successful with 75 participants for the OER webcast and 272 participants for the OA week in 2011-2012.

URL: <http://openaccess.athabascau.ca>

URL: <https://oerknowledgecloud.com/presentation/>
- Design and development of searching tools for OA/OERs. A federated search tool is designed and developed to search across different OA/OER repositories.

URL: <http://aufs.athabascau.ca/aufs/>
- Design and development of OER contents to support language training and mobile learning, including mobile ESL, mobile workplace English, mobile French. These websites showcase mobile learning objects, multimedia, interactive lessons and exercises, freely accessible through desktop and mobile devices. Developed in 2006 the mobile ESL project website still experiences a tremendous growth with a hit of 50,9055 (55653 number of visits) in 2011, 45714 (6636 number of visits) in 2010 and 41979 (5663 number of visits) in 2009 (<http://www.eslau.ca/awstats/awstats.pl>). The site has been widely used by ESL learners as well as educators. The mobile workplace English project website is also heavily used with a hit of 49553 (6581 number of visits) in 2011 as opposed to 8367 (1488 number of visits) in 2010 (<http://www.wpeau.ca/awstats/awstats.pl>). Recent mobile learning project includes partnership with Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers to develop a mobile accountant bridging program to improve workplace communication skills of immigrant accountants.

URL: <http://eslau.ca>

URL: <http://wpeau.ca>

URL: <http://fslau.ca>

URL: <https://emcn.athabascau.ca/>
- Maintenance and enhancement of a portal of digital collections that showcase AU library, archival primary holdings in many formats, cultural artifacts and learning resources that support use of these collections across the curriculum. The Portal site currently holds more than 249,849 items (246,995 in 2011) with more than 83,298 total viewing.

URL: <http://digiport.athabascau.ca/>

- Design and development of the Bibliography of the Athabasca River Basin (BARB), an online bibliography, to provide free and open access to all research initiatives, data, and other information on all aspects of the Athabasca River Basin. The bibliography contains more than 26,000 entries including reports, journal articles, dissertations, and learning objects. The project website has 3,569 visits in 2011, including 82.85% new visitors (2,957 visits) and 17.15% returning visitors (612 visits).
URL: <http://barbau.ca>
- Development and enhancement of the UNESCO'S OER KnowledgeCloud Repository to support research opportunities and access to knowledge and research on Open Educational Resources. The repository was established in February, 2012, housing more than 353 items. The project website has 1,306 visits up to May 8rd, 2012, including 58.96% new visitors (770 visits) and 41.04% returning visitors (536 visits).
URL: <https://oerknowledgecloud.com/>
- Support of open scholarly communication and use of OJS e-journals by participation in the Synergies E-Journal project. Eight AU OJS journals have been showcased in the Synergies Prairie project, including Cinema Canada which is digitized by the unit. New projects include digitization of the Take One Magazine.
URL: <http://synergiesprairies.ca/journals/hosting-site>
URL: <http://cinemacanada.athabascau.ca/index.php>
- Maintenance and enhancement of AU iTunes Channel to support teaching and learning, allowing AU students to listen and download audio files from AU Library's iTunes channel.
URL: <http://digiport.athabascau.ca/fp/>
- Champion of E-book reader technologies by designing and piloting an E-reader research project with CDE and E-Lab for mature learners. Partnership with AU's Access to Students with Disabilities Office to explore the use of e-book technologies for student with special needs.
- Participation in COPPUL Private LOCKSS Network to explore the benefits of digital preservation of electronic resources.
URL: <http://www.coppul.ca/pln.html>
- Promotion of Quick Response (QR) code technologies by designing and developing a QR code system to deliver digital contents such as video to mobile

users with QR code readers. Partnership with the Town of Athabasca is in place to deploy the use of QR code technologies for local tourism. The essence of the project is the simple connection between a real-life environment, the history of the location and the ability to enhance a user's experience via rich media on a mobile device.

URL: <http://www.qingtan.ca:8081/qr/index.php> (Beta site)

Digitization Portal Brief Collection Summary :

Alberta Women's Institutes

- The site contains digitizations of organizational documents, biographies of members, organizational and rural histories, scrapbooks, interviews, maps, photographs, short essays, and lists of resources, many of which are rare or hard to find.
- Partner(s): Provincial Archives of Alberta, Alberta Women's Institutes.
- Content: images, PDFs, audio files

Alberta Women's Memory Project

- An inventory of all material related to women held in archives in Alberta.
- Partner(s): Thomas A. Edge Archives & Special Collections
- Content: images, records, PDFs

Alice B. Donahue Library and Archives

- This collection makes available historical photographs, documents, and audio recordings from the Town of Athabasca.
- Partner(s): Alice B. Donahue Library and Archives
- Content: images, audio files, PDFs

AU Photo Collection

- A collection of photographs of people, places, and events related to Athabasca University.
- Partner(s): Communication and Creative Services
- Content: images

Bibliography of the Athabasca River Basin

- A digital online Bibliography of the Athabasca River Basin (BARB).
- Partner(s): Faculty of Business, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology, Cumulative Environmental Management Association
- Content: records

Boyle and District History Book Society

- Photographs and audio recordings of times and lives that have passed.
- Partner(s): Boyle History Book Society
- Content: images, audio files

Connecting Canadians

- Connecting Canadians provides an opportunity for individuals to connect with their heritage by exploring early newspapers and engaging in learning activities.
- Partner(s): Canadian Heritage, Multicultural History Society of Ontario, Simon Fraser University, Commonwealth Imaging, Galileo
- Content: PDFs

Digi-books

- Books digitized by the AU Library.
- Content: PDFs, audio files

Joint Arctic Weather Stations

- Images of places and personnel.
- Content: images

Karvonen Films Natural History

- The Karvonen Films Natural History Collection captures the spectacle of the wild.
- Partner(s): Karvonen films
- Content: images, audio files, PDFs, videos

Martha Kostuch Archives

- The Martha Kostuch Archives Collection consists of more than 100 boxes of correspondence and personal notes from Martha's 30 years at the forefront of Alberta's environmental movement.
- Content: PDFs

Muskwa Kechika Artist Camp

- Artwork inspired by the Muskwa-Kechika Wilderness Area.
- Partner(s): Writing on the Ridge
- Content: images

OER KnowledgeCloud

- The **OER Knowledge Cloud** has been established to identify, collect, preserve and disseminate available documents of enduring value to researchers, industry, government, scholars, writers, historians, journalists and informal learners.
- Partner(s): United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Open Universiteit, Commonwealth of Learning
- Content: PDFs

Poetry Collection (Vina Tirven-Gadum)

- This is an Audio collection of French poetry read by French Professor Vina Tirven-Gadum and her husband Tim Tirven-Gadum.
- Partner(s): Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences
- Content: audio files

Rocks and Minerals

- This collection presents some of the most common rocks and rock forming minerals.
- Partner(s): Faculty of Science & Technology
- Content: images

Sharing Circle

- A collection of episodes from Canada's longest running Aboriginal documentary television series.
- Content: videos

Student Film Library

- This Student Movie Library is designed to give university students access to the substantial body of, often forgotten, work created by Canadian film makers.
- Partner(s): Centre of Integrated Studies
- Content: videos

T.S. Bakshi Herbarium

- The digital collection currently holds over 600 specimens including one specimen from each genus in our collection.
- Partner(s): Faculty of Science & Technology
- Content: images

Thomas A. Edge Archives & Special Collections

- Documents the history of AU, the Roberts family fonds and the Robert and Shirley Hendriks collection of William Bleasdel Cameron.
- Partner(s): Thomas A. Edge Archives & Special Collections
- Content: images, PDFs

Western Canadian Studies Conference

- Podcasts of presentations from the conference.
- Partner(s): University of Alberta
- Content: audio files

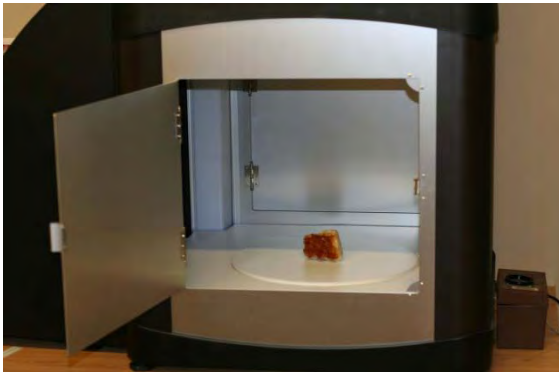
Digitization Facilities and Tools:



Kirtas Book Scanner



Gigapan & Camera



3D Image Scanner



3D Camcorder



Digital Audio Recorder



Flatbed Scanner