



# Using a Library **Learning Object Repository** to Empower Teaching Excellence for Distance Students

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# Session goals

- Walk you through our considerations as we built our repository
- Share our story with you so that you can apply it to your own context

A repository may not necessarily be the solution to your challenge!



Go to [www.menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and use the code 76 63 56

**How would you sum up your three major job responsibilities?**

 Mentimeter

>

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# Odyssey



- Library learning object and educational content repository
- Created and maintained by University Libraries at Virginia Tech
- Currently holds around 40 items: videos, tutorials, handouts, games
- Topics include basic and advanced research skills, digital literacy and citation/citation management
- All content is openly-licensed

# Virginia Tech



## University

- Comprehensive, public, land-grant university
- 33,000 students
- Located in Blacksburg, Virginia, with 5 extended campuses around VA
- Primarily focused on campus-based learning instead of creating online programs
  - 12 online grad programs, 10 online certificate programs

## Libraries

- 4 campus libraries, 3 in Blacksburg and 1 in DC
- Massive structural and strategic reorganization in 2014
  - Presented both challenges and opportunities
  - Subject liaison model
- Many librarians could interact with online and extended campus students

# Online Learning at VT Libraries



- Previous distance learning librarian retired in 2012
  - No replacement
- Subject liaison model - distance/online students dispersed among many librarians
- Little outreach to distance/online students
- Needs
  - Modular and adaptable content
  - Content in one place

# Online Learning 2014-2015



- Spring 2014 - Planning for online learning platform begins
- April-August 2015, three new hires:
  - Web Learning Environments Application Developer
  - Two librarians, one focused on online learning and one focused on educational technologies
- New hires charged with creating the platform
- Staffing changes



# Needs Assessment



- New hires with no institutional context or knowledge
- Realized that no one on campus could give us the information we were looking for - no central distance learning center
- Embarked on wide-scale needs assessment in October 2015
  - Sought to learn about current library use in online classes, as well as the needs of online and extended campus students
  - Wanted to identify duplication as well as gaps in service
  - Interviews, site visits, survey
- A chance to build relationships with extended campus users - Blacksburg campus the “mother ship”

# Findings



- No existing tool fit our needs
- Content created at library was scattered around platforms
- Number of students taking online classes doubled from 2006 to 2016
  - Included Blacksburg students and extended campus students
- Most students (64.7%) and faculty (74.9%) didn't require library resources in online classes
- 13.5% of students didn't use library resources because they didn't know how
- Faculty needs could be met by a learning object repository



# Why a repository?

- Wanted a single place to store content
- Didn't want to be prescriptive in how content was used
- Needed it to be modular
- Wanted to be able to control quality
- Wanted it to be open
- Needed a variety of content - not just videos



## University Libraries

### BROWSE BY

- By Issue Date
- Authors
- Titles
- Subjects

Search within this community and its collections:

### Sub-communities within this community

#### Scholarly Communications [19]

Beginning in the late 1980s Virginia Tech Libraries began exploring the future of scholarly communications.

### Collections in this community

Annual Reports, University Libraries [51]

Events, University Libraries [3]

In-Service Day [4]

Instructional Materials, University Libraries [10]

Interloper (journal) [7]

- Search VTechWorks
- This Community

### VTECHWORKS

About

Policies

Help



### BROWSE

All of VTechWorks

Communities & Collections

By Issue Date

# Omeka



- Chosen over other platforms such as DSpace and Fedora/Hydra or developing one from scratch
- Easy to install, with easy-to-use plugins
- File persistence not needed because objects will be updated as needed
- Librarians are able to add most items themselves rather than relying on web developer
- Not perfect - challenge to incorporate html5, need to create custom metadata options, built-in search feature not great



# Features - Visuals



# ODYSSEY

[Home](#)

[Objects](#)

[Collections](#)

[Search](#)

[Tags](#)

[About](#)

[Contact](#)

[Search](#)

Odyssey is a place for educators to find high-quality resources to use in the classroom, including videos, tutorials, assignments, modules, quizzes, and games.

[Browse Objects](#)

[Browse Collections](#)

[Advanced Search](#)



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## Learning Objects

Digital Citizen Wellness



Subject: Digital Citizenship

What Kind of Digital Citizen Are You?



Subject: Digital Citizenship

Sample Technologies for  
Communication



Subject: Online Communication

Best Practices for Online  
Communication

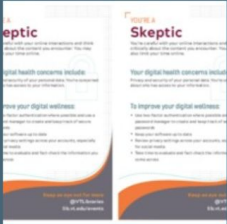


Subject: Online Communication



# Collections

Digital Literacy



School of Public and International Affairs



VTechData



First-Year Writing Resources





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## Tags

Human Development

School of Public and International Affairs

ENGL 1106

Undergraduate students

Composition

First-year students

Graduate students

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

faculty





# Features - Accessibility

## Adding and Citing an Image in a Poster

Adding and Citing an Image in a Poster



### The Health Benefits of Green Space



Let's pretend that you've been designing  
a poster for an assignment or conference presentation,

MORE VIDEOS



0:03 / 2:53



YouTube





# Features - Openness

## Adding and Citing an Image in a Poster

Adding and Citing an Image in a Poster

Creator  
Lisa Becksford

Contributor  
Amanda MacDonald

Rights  
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Language  
English

Date  
18 August 2017

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MORE VIDEOS

▶ 🔊 2:52 / 2:53

CC BY YouTube

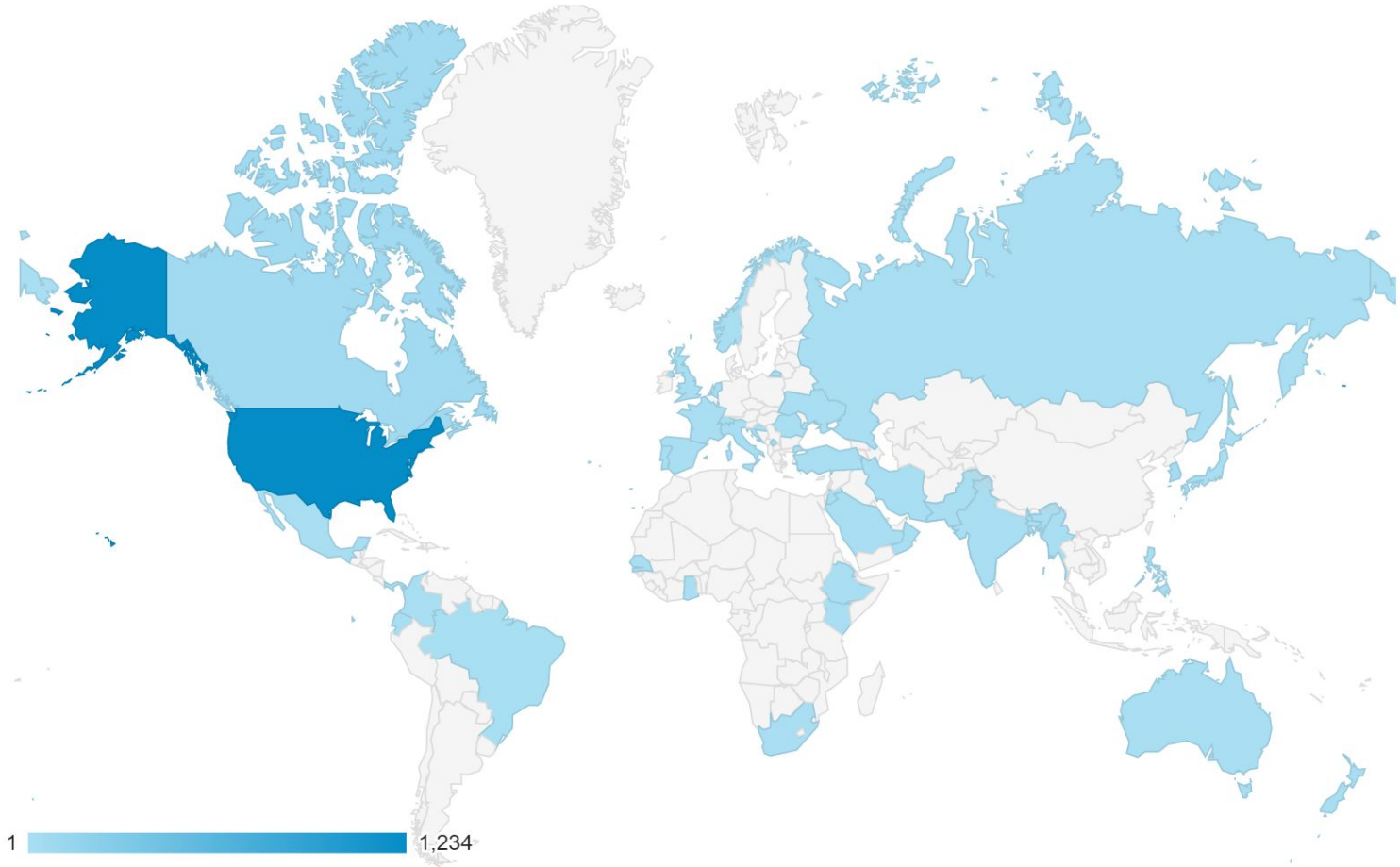


# Features - Findability

- 3D Collection Strategies
- Consulting
- Data Management & Curation
- Digital Literacy
- ePortfolios
- Informatics Lab
- Instruction & Workshops
- Learning Object Repository**
- Research Support
- Scholarly Communication
- Subject Guides
- VT Publishing









All Users  
100.00% Users (100.00% Sessions)



+ Add Segment

Aug 1, 2017 - Mar 28, 2018 ▾

Distribution

Session Duration Page Depth

Sessions

1,946

% of Total: 100.00% (1,946)

Pageviews

7,267

% of Total: 100.00% (7,267)

Session Duration <sup>?</sup>	Sessions <sup>?</sup>	Pageviews <sup>?</sup>
0-10 seconds	1,097	1,278
11-30 seconds	218	730
31-60 seconds	148	730
61-180 seconds	199	1,304
181-600 seconds	151	1,382
601-1800 seconds	109	1,089
1801+ seconds	24	754

This report was generated on 3/29/18 at 3:34:58 PM - [Refresh Report](#)

**Description**

A video demonstrating how to add and cite an image in a poster.

**Subject**

Citation

**Type**

Video

**Tags**

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Undergraduate students

**Creator**

Lisa Beckford

**Contributor**

Amanda MacDonald

**Rights**

CC-BY

**Language**

English

# Future plans



- Wide-scale campus marketing
- Add new content to support new and growing areas of library instruction at VT
- Usability testing round 2
- Upgrade to OmekaS
- Implement LTI to allow easy integration into Canvas
- Build a sorting/filtering system for the objects
- Ensure accessibility of all objects

# Conclusions / Applications



- Collaboration, collaboration, collaboration!
- Needs assessment and the pace of change
  - Do need to consider users' needs
- Consider what fits your needs and goals
- Be in it for the long haul
- It's worth it!



# Thanks!

## Any questions?

You can email me at [lisab5@vt.edu](mailto:lisab5@vt.edu)

Check out Odyssey at [odyssey.lib.vt.edu](http://odyssey.lib.vt.edu)

Slides available at [tinyurl.com/odysseyDLS2018pdf](https://tinyurl.com/odysseyDLS2018pdf)



# Credits

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

- Presentation template by [SlidesCarnival](#)