Dueling Repository Woes

Greater Need, Fewer In-House Experts

Michelle Paquette, Metadata Archivist, Smith College
Sadie Menchen, Digital Strategist, Smith College
Northeast Institutional Repository Day
December 2, 2021

Overview

01.
Setting the Stage

Compass

Mount Holyoke Women Protest Apartheid in South Africa

Explore unique digital collections from Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith colleges.
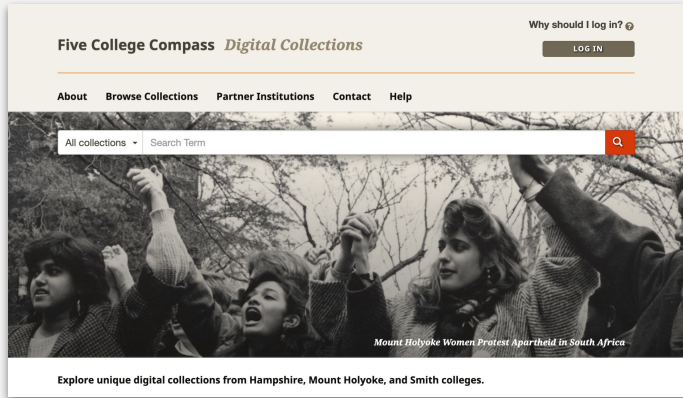
- A **shared repository** for member institutions to **store, manage and publish digital objects on the Web**.
- Launched in 2017.
- Built on Islandora 7.
- 1 million+ objects ingested!
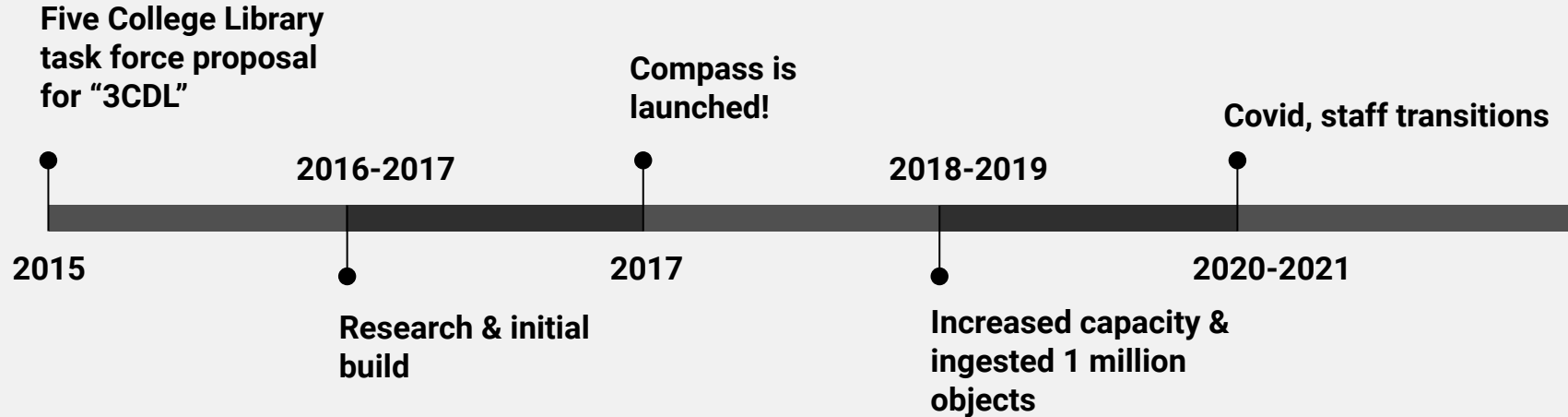
Governance, Support, Usage

Product Owners

Tech Team

Metadata Team

Design Team

Vendors

Stakeholders

A (Very) Brief History

Five College Library task force proposal for "3CDL"

2016-2017

Compass is launched!

2018-2019

Covid, staff transitions

2015

2017

2020-2021

Research & initial build

Increased capacity & ingested 1 million objects

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

Time	Staff at Smith
March 2020	6
August 2020	6
January 2021	3
August 2021	2

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?

mpaquette@smith.edu
smenchen@smith.edu

CREDITS: This presentation template was created by **Slidesgo**, including icons by **Flaticon** and infographics & images by **Freepik**

Photos of Neilson Library by Nic Lehoux