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Scholarly Commons

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Introducing Scholarly Commons

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October 16, 2013

Jona Whipple, Digital Resources Librarian

Purpose

- **Preservation:** To collect, manage, provide access to, and preserve the scholarly and creative output of IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law
- **Full-text:** As a full-text repository, to provide access to the complete scholarly work.
- **Open access:** As an open access repository, to make work found in Scholarly Commons freely accessible over the Internet, worldwide.

Advantages

- **Impact:** The repository is regularly indexed by Google, Google Scholar, Bing, and other popular search engines, which makes the content easy to find. In 2013 we have received visitors from over 60 countries and territories, including India, the UK, Australia, China, Brazil, Germany, Pakistan, Russia, and South Africa.
- **Personal branding:** The Digital Commons platform works with the Selected Works author profiles we already use. A link to the Selected Works author page is displayed on the home page of the repository.
- **Stability:** Every item deposited is given a stable URL that will never change.
- **Preservation:** Work is backed up multiple times so there is never a concern of losing anything due to server or hardware failure.

Successes

- **Downloads:** In June of this year, we began the process of bringing in papers cited on Selected Works. Since then, 4,342 of our total 6,657 downloads have been from the 733 works in the Faculty Scholarship series.
- **Law Commons:** Since June, the Law School has been featured prominently in Law Commons (<http://network.bepress.com/law/>) in the list of Top Schools in the areas of Water Law and Taxation-Federal Estate and Gift. The law school spent a month as a Top School in each discipline, based on download counts.
- **Law Review:** We completed uploading the full archive of the Chicago-Kent Law Review on Friday, October 11 (<http://scholarship.kentlaw.iit.edu/cklawreview/>). We have already seen 327 downloads from this series.