


MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. William Miller, Dean, FAU Libraries

FROM: Dr. Deborah L. Floyd, Interim Dean, Graduate College 

RE: Letter of Support to Fund Thesis and Dissertation Digital Archive Project

DATE: October 23, 2014

The Graduate College would like to extend its support to the S.E. Wimberly Library for its Technology Fee Proposal to create a digital archive of FAU's thesis and dissertation print collection. Funding this initiative will enable FAU's library system to stay competitive by making the research generated by our graduate students accessible to the general public through open access. At the present time, FAU has a vast archive of graduate student manuscripts dating back to 1967; however, only those documents published after 2009 (20% of the total archive) are currently available in digital form.

FAU's libraries receive numerous requests from individuals and organizations every semester to access theses and dissertations published prior to 2009. With this 80% of the collection available only in its paper format, the University is only able to share these documents via interlibrary loan or if the interested party is able to physically visit FAU's Boca campus. In the digital, global society in which we currently operate, it is essential that FAU make this one-time investment to make our students' research and discovery more easily accessible.

Another important benefit to digitizing the manuscript collection is preservation. By digitizing FAU's entire print thesis and dissertation collection, we are then able to submit these files and metadata to Florida Digital Archive, a dark archive that guarantees long-term format migration and ensures disaster recovery.

The Graduate College strongly supports this request by the S.E. Wimberly Library for funding to digitize the manuscript collection published between 1967 and 2009. Doing so will enhance the discoverability of more than three decades of research produced by FAU students in collaboration with our faculty. It is also vital to remaining relevant, current and competitive in a global, digital higher education marketplace.