Talking Points

I. **Background**

Scholarly Communication Crisis

- Journal prices have inflated at 10-12% each year over the past 20 years (~8% for 2006); especially high in STM titles
- Library budgets are fortunate to get 5%
- Library cuts are only solution; resulting in fewer subscriptions, and less visibility of research
- Converting to ejournal packages has saved some money but not as much as hoped
- Large packages increase access but may not be sustainable
- Fewer books purchased as well

Other Issues

- Unpublished content (grey literature: working papers, conference proceedings/presentations, educational support materials) largely inaccesible, unused, and unpreserved
- Department/Center budget and personnel constraints don't allow for handling these materials, and are subject to changes
- Many have-nots in current system, who cannot access journals, books, etc.

II. **How DigitalCommons Can Help**

Internet allows for faster dissemination to a larger, global audience

Institutional Repositories provide access, visibility, stability, flexibility, and longterm preservation of content

- **Access**: "Open Acess"; not restricted to those who can pay; usage statistics demonstrate that more access means more use; can lead to more citations
- **Visibility**: materials are easily located via standard search engines (Google, Yahoo, etc.); serves as a good pr tool to attract students, staff and faculty
- **Stability**: all UConn output in one location; documents are assigned a permanent URL (no "file not found" messages)
- **Flexibility**: Individual communities can decide how they are arranged, what materials they will include, and branding
- **Longterm preservation**: we are committed to preserving the content, and migrating to new formats to the best of our abilities, when necessary

III. **Easy To Use**

- Set up of communities handled by library
- Community administrator(s) oversee their community; ensure policy compliance; can be staff, students, faculty, and/or librarians; may be hands-on, loading each contribution themselves, or hands-off, allowing open submissions; can expect to spend approximately one hour a week
- Submissions simple, requiring only author, title, date, keywords and abstract (optional), and the file(s)

IV. **Next Steps**

- Decide to participate
- Contact Coordinator
- Select community administrators
- Begin submissions