Models for Supporting Digital Humanities at Liberal Arts Colleges

Lisa Spiro
lspiro@nitle.org
26 April 2012
The Challenge: Supporting Digital Scholarship

“anyone can see that it “takes a village” to produce this type of cyberscholarship. Who lives and works in such a village?... One obvious worry is that this sort of endeavor is so expensive that it will become the exclusive enclave of the richest of institutions...” (Green & Roy)
Supporting DH: Some DH Centers in the US

- Cleveland State U, Center for Public and Digital Humanities
- Emory, Digital Scholarship Commons
- George Mason U, Center for History and New Media
- Michigan State, MATRIX
- MIT, HyperStudio
- Stanford Literary Lab
- Texas A&M, Initiative for Digital Humanities, Media, and Culture
- U of Illinois, I-CHASS
- U of Maryland, MITH
- U of Nebraska-Lincoln, Center for Digital Research in the Humanities (CDRH)
- UVA: Scholars’ Lab & IATH
Connecting DH Centers: CenterNet

http://digitalhumanities.org/centernet/
Networking Digital Humanities: HASTAC
Early DH Center: IATH, UVA

The Salisbury Project

Roberts, Marion - Professor
Associate Fellowship: 2000

The Salisbury Project is the creation of Professor Marion Roberts, McIntire Department of Art, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia. The Project is an archive of color photographs designed for teachers, students and scholars to supplement visually books and articles published on the cathedral and town of Salisbury. The project consists of views of the exterior and interior of the cathedral. Views of the choir have yet to be added. In the future the project will include photographs of the Close, the Town, Old Sarum and some Parish Churches. There is a guide for teachers and students, a section devoted to texts and essays, and an annotated bibliography.

http://www.iath.virginia.edu/
Challenges to Doing DH at Liberal Arts Colleges

• Lack of resources:
  – staff
  – funding (start-up and sustaining)
  – infrastructure

• Acquiring technical skills

• Most lack a DH Center to provide technical support, assistance with grants, and ready collaborators

• Isolation of DH practitioners

• Lack of visibility
See Rebecca Frost Davis and Bryan Alexander, “Should Liberal Arts Campuses Do Digital Humanities?”
Digital Humanities Initiative (DHi) at Hamilton College

http://www.dhinitiative.org/
DHi Support Model

http://www.dhinitiative.org/projects/support/
Improving WordPress Search Function: Plugin Fun

I recently decided to start sharing my reflections on my day-to-day as a postdoc in digital scholarship at Oxy. I welcome feedback on my work because at times I feel as if much of our work could go unnoticed in a world so dominated by conventional notions of research and learning. Anything alternative to traditional research (i.e., publishing) and teaching (within the curriculum) — or labeled as altac — could get lost in the mix. I’m cross-posting from my personal blog.

One of the faculty projects associated with the CDLR is Lisa Wade’s Sociological Images, one of the most visible and influential public sociology sites in the blogosphere. To follow up on our last meeting with Lisa, I scoped out the use of a plugin as a possible solution to improve the search function on a WordPress site. Specifically I played with a WordPress search plugin called Relevanssi because of its high ratings and robust documentation community.

On the backend, the admin can configure the setting of the search to enable a specific combination of AND/OR queries. For instance, it could run an AND query first and if no results return, it would run an OR search. It does a good job with phrase search with quotes (e.g., “hillybilly music”). And it has fuzzy matching (matching partial words if complete words don’t match).

https://college.oxy.edu/cdlr/
TriCo Digital Humanities

Tri-Co Digital Humanities
Liberal Arts for a Networked World

Bringing together faculty, staff, and students interested digital research in the humanities, arts, and social sciences, the consortium fosters inquiry that combines innovative and traditional modes in scholarship and in the classroom.

What's New

Professor Laura McGrane Talks Digital Humanities in Inside Higher Ed

McGrane emphasizes the importance of digital humanities as a way to combine rigorous scholarship with digital literacies for undergraduates. As panelist at the AAG&AU, McGrane highlighted the rich sophistication of digital archives created by undergraduates during her course "Transatlantic Exchanges: Anatomies of Conversion and Revolution in Britain and Early America." Read more...

http://www.brynmawr.edu/tdh/
Cross-Institutional Collaborations

• Five Colleges (Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith colleges and the University of Massachusetts Amherst)
  – CFP to support collaborative projects, travel, training for faculty, staff & students, course (re-)development, residencies, postdocs

• Occidental
  – UCLA: HyperCities
  – USC: Scalar/ Sophie

• Swarthmore & Penn
  – Early Novels Database
Cross Institutional Collaboration: TAPAS & TEI

http://tapasproject.org/
Library/ IT Based Support

• **Lewis & Clark**
  – acccessCeramics
  – NYC Graffiti and Street Art Project
  – Oregon Poetic Voices
  – Spiders of Lewis & Clark
  – William Stafford Archives
  – Archive of Jewish Morocco

• **Willamette**
  – Collaboration with Hallie Ford Museum of Art
Integration with (Co-) Curriculum

- University of Puget Sound
  - Humanities 250
- Wheaton College
  - Wheaton College Digital History Project
  - Lexomics
- Holy Cross
  - Homer Multitext Project
  - Holy Cross Manuscripts, Inscriptions & Documents Club
Connect with Projects & Collaborators: DHCommons

Welcome

DHCommons is a hub for people and organizations to find projects to work with, and for projects to find collaborators. Log in or sign up to get started.

Tweet us! @DHCommons or #dhcom.

Getting started with DHCommons

When you create an account on DHCommons, you can start posting a collaborator profile or information about projects where you need a collaborator.

People
Christine McWebb

Projects
Lynchings in Georgia (1875–1930)

Events
4 DHCommons members will be attending Digital Humanities 2013 in Hamburg, Germany on 18 July 2013.

http://www.dhcommons.org/
Providing Credit for Collaborative Work: Collaborators’ Bill of Rights

Collaborators’ Bill of Rights

1) All kinds of work on a project are equally deserving of credit (though the amount of work and expression of credit may differ). And all collaborators should be empowered to take credit for their work.

2) The DH community should default to the most comprehensive model of attribution of credit: credit should take the form of a legible trail that articulates the nature, extent, and dates of the contribution. (Models in the sciences and the arts may be useful.)

a) Descriptive Papers & Project reports: Anyone who collaborated on the project should be listed as author in a fair ordering based on emerging community conventions.

b) Websites: There should be a prominent “credits” link on the main page with PIs or project leads listed first. This should include current staff as well as past staff with their dates of employment.

c) CVs: Your CV is your place for articulating your contribution to a collaboration. All collaborators should feel empowered to express their contributions honestly and comprehensively.

http://mediacommmons.futureofthebook.org/mcpress/offthetracks/
Confronting Challenges to Doing DH at Liberal Arts Colleges

- Choose a clear focus
- Build on existing structures
- Collaborate with other institutions
- Develop collaborative infrastructure
- Use existing platforms and tools
  - Omeka, WordPress, HyperCities, Scalar, Viewshare, etc.
- Integrate with the (co-)curriculum
- Integrate into university
NITLE’s Support for Digital Humanities

- Hosts [Digital Scholarship seminar series](#)
- Assists in development of DHCommons to facilitate collaborations
- Co-teaches workshop on integrating DH into undergrad curriculum (Davis & Tomasek)
- Supports information sharing & community building: blog posts, Twitter, etc.
- Monitors DH developments, e.g. DH education
Readings


More Readings

• Rebecca Frost Davis, Digital Humanities at Small Liberal Arts Colleges, 2010


• ---- & Quinn Dombrowski, “Divided and Conquered: How Multivarious Isolation is Suppressing Digital Humanities Research,” Spring 2011 (PDF)