

# Participant Profiles

## CNI Digital Scholarship Centers Workshop Spring 2014

### Name of Institution: University of Alabama

Participant I Name: Thomas Wilson

Participant I Email: [tcwilson@ua.edu](mailto:tcwilson@ua.edu)

Participant I Title: Associate Dean, Branch Libraries & Digital Student Services

Participant I Role in Digital Scholarship Center: Established and directs the center, public face of center, leads workshops and discussions.

Participant II Name: Jason Battles

Participant II Email: [jjbattles@ua.edu](mailto:jjbattles@ua.edu)

Participant II Title: Associate Dean, Library Technology Policy & Planning

Participant II Role in Digital Scholarship Center: Technical consultant, workshop leader, part of Libraries' DH team.

Name and URL associated with your digital scholarship center:: Alabama Digital Humanities Center

<http://www.lib.ua.edu/digitalhumanities>

If you have a mission statement or some similar description of your center, please share it here:

Through the ADHC, faculty, staff, and advanced students can explore digital resources, reflect on the possibilities and challenges of new technologies, consult with experts about project development and digital research, and collaborate on innovative research and teaching projects. We also host events, such as workshops, talks, and lunch discussions, for those interested in learning more about the field of digital humanities and those already involved in digital work. UA faculty, staff, and graduate students may register to access the space for project work after reviewing our policies.

Our mission is to:

\*Encourage and engage faculty and graduate students in art, humanities, and performing arts digital research.

\*Support exploration and application of technology to arts and humanities research and teaching.

\*Provide a venue for collaborative development and hosting of research projects.

\*Foster interdisciplinary approaches to digital research questions.

\*Feature prominent digital scholars in colloquia.

\*Facilitate new research agendas.

\*Participate in international standards and best practices.

\*Conduct research on digital humanities research.

\*Enhance collaboration among library faculty and scholars.

\*Provide opportunities to collaborate on grant funding or seeking other sources of financial support.

**What kinds of spaces are included in your Digital Scholarship Center? Select all that apply:**

Staff offices X

Public workstations X

Collaboration spaces X

Service point/desk

Consultation areas X

Seminar/workshop/classroom spaces X

Exhibit space

Other (please specify)

What services does your center support?:

Consultation on digital technologies

Consultation on digital project management

Intellectual property consultation

Digital preservation/curation consultation

Workshops

Credit courses

Media production studio

Visualization studio

Makerspace

Other: conversations, collaborations, and community building

**Services offered (additional items) – select all that apply**

Grant writing assistance X

Data services (handled as another initiative)

Graduate student fellowships

Consultation in pedagogy/instructional technologies X

Seed grants

What type of staff is involved in the center?:

Information technology professionals

Multimedia professionals

Librarians

Information technologists

Graduate students

Other: depends on definition of "staff"

**Do you have instructional technologists on your staff? Yes, but not dedicated to the ADHC.**

Please provide a URL or describe (in a few sentences) one digital project that has had support of the center:

A number of our officially supported projects can be seen at this address:

<http://www.lib.ua.edu/digitalhumanities/projects>

See 2014 annual report for highlights of current projects launched and underway.

We have a variety of other projects that are in various stages of idea development.

Please provide pointers to additional materials that may be helpful in understanding the structure and work of the center (journal articles, book chapters, web pages, reports, etc.):

Wilson, T. (2013, April 4). DH Revisited: Continuing debates and work on the ground.

Coalition for Networked Information Spring 2013 Membership Meeting, San Antonio, TX.

<http://www.lib.ua.edu/sites/default/files/CNISp13%20wrk.pdf>

Averkamp, S., Battles, J., & Wilson, T. (2011 October 1). Building a Habitat for the Digital Humanities. Library & Information Technology Association National Forum, St. Louis, MO.

<http://www.lib.ua.edu/sites/default/files/LITA%20Forum%202011.pdf>

Wilson, T. (2011, April 4). Digital Humanities: A natural future for academic libraries.

Coalition for Networked Information Spring 2011 Membership Meeting, San Diego, CA.

<http://www.lib.ua.edu/sites/default/files/CNISp11.pdf>

**Would you like to include visuals in your profile?** If so, please send them as attachments and submit to CNI along with this profile document.

2014 annual report

<http://www.lib.ua.edu/digitalhumanities/visualhistory>

A quick review of our beginnings and outcome.

If you have **additional information** to add to this profile, please insert here:

During the workshop there was discussion of definitions for digital scholarship centers as compared to, or in relation to, other similar programs, such as digital humanities centers. Please share any suggestions or ideas you may have regarding this question:

I believe we should not make too much of terminological variances. We are all in the business of supporting and enhancing scholarship and/or teaching and learning. We have found that, even though our name includes "digital humanities" we have attracted scholars from a wide variety of disciplines, including some social sciences, because we are emphasizing new tools for exploration, analysis, communication, and presentation, something that many scholars desire.