

Participant Profiles

CNI Digital Scholarship Centers Workshop Spring 2014

Name of Institution: Lafayette College

Participant I Name: Eric Luhrs

Participant I Email: luhrse@lafayette.edu

Participant I Title: Head of Digital Scholarship Services

Participant I Role in Digital Scholarship Center: Department head of DSS at Lafayette College

Participant II Name: Neil McElroy

Participant II Email: mcelroyn@lafayette.edu

Participant II Title: Dean of Libraries

Participant II Role in Digital Scholarship Center: Dean of Libraries at Lafayette College

Name and URL associated with your digital scholarship center:

Digital Scholarship Services

<http://digital.lafayette.edu>

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

The work of Lafayette's department of Digital Scholarship Services is based on engagement and partnership with our faculty members, and on supporting the creation and management of innovative digital scholarship. Everything we do, from training student collaborators and capturing digital content to repository development and specialized research application design, stems from our unique partnership and shared academic mission with Lafayette's Faculty.

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

Staff offices

Public workstations

Collaboration spaces

Service point/desk

Consultation areas

Seminar/workshop/classroom spaces

Media production studio

Visualization lab

Makerspace

Exhibit space

Other (please specify)

What services does your center support:

Digital project development

Digital preservation/curation consultation
Workshops/instruction
Digital repository development
Digitization services
GIS/data visualization services

Services offered (additional items) – select all that apply

Grant writing assistance
Data services X
Graduate student fellowships
Consultation in pedagogy/instructional technologies X
Seed grants X

What type of staff is involved in the center?:

Information technology professionals
Librarians X
Undergraduate students X
Other: we draw on other specializations from across campus

Do you have **instructional technologists** on your staff? no

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

The Easton Library Company database allows users to analyze, visualize, and interact with 19th century library reading records, and to gain a greater understanding of how the reading habits of the early citizens of Easton, PA shaped the politics, education, and culture of the city over a hundred years ago. The first phase of this project, already complete, involved digitization of thousands of pages of lending records, creation of relational tables within which to store values, design of an efficient data entry interface, and transcription of approximately a third of the available records. This work led to multiple conference presentations, and an invited, forthcoming, journal article. A second phase of the project, now well underway, will add biographical information about early readers, including profession, gender, kinship, civic and religious affiliations, among other things, and will make it possible to discover connections between readers of the same material. We are currently working to integrate this project with our Islandora and Fedora-based repository, after which we intend to provide public access to the project.

Recent article about this project:

<http://www.lafayette.edu/about/news/2012/02/21/prof-chris-phillips-explores-reading-habits-of-19th-century-eastonians-one-of-the-first-studies-of-its-kind-in-the-country/>

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.):
Successful application for ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries award, which highlights some of the work of Digital Scholarship Services on pages 7-10:

<http://www.ala.org/acrl/sites/ala.org.acrl/files/content/Lafayette%20College.pdf>

Recent press release announcing Mellon-funded DH initiatives:

<http://www.lafayette.edu/about/?p=37175>

Example of how we train and collaborate with students:

<http://www.lafayette.edu/about/news/2011/05/06/new-lafayette-software-program-allows-scholars-and-librarians-to-collaborate-on-digital-collections-from-any-location/>

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.

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 initiatives, such as digital humanities centers. Please share any suggestions or ideas you may have regarding this question: