Centering Digital Scholarship in the Library: Building Community, Redefining Research Support

Elizabeth Cowell, University Librarian
Rachel Deblinger, Digital Humanities Specialist, CLIR Postdoctoral Fellow
OPENING JANUARY 2016
SUPPORTING CAMPUS-WIDE
Digital Scholarship
Omeka + IMLS Support: Building Expertise

2009: IMLS Leadership Grant for building Grateful Dead Archive Online

2012: IMLS Leadership Grant for building Omeka Curator Dashboard
UCSC opens to first class of students

The UC Santa Cruz campus opens to 652 students under the leadership of Dean E. McHenry, founding chancellor. It began as “the most significant educational experiment in the history of the University of California.”
Campus Facing Digital Scholarship

2015: IMLS Sparks! Grant for defining workflow to support lifecycle of Digital Exhibit Building

Omeka Service: Pilot Phase

Digital Scholarship Commons
Omeka Support: Pilot Phase

(1) RESEARCH: The Gail Project, Alan Christy (PI)

(1) PHYSICAL → DIGITAL EXHIBIT: Uncommon Place, James Clifford, Michael Cowan, Virginia Jansen, Frank Zwart (Pis)

(1) PEDAGOGY: On the Silk Road (Hist 185), Maya Peterson
The Gail Project

http://gailproject.ucsc.edu/
An Uncommon Place traces decisive moments in the creation of UC Santa Cruz, from the 1950s until the late 1970s. This Digital Companion follows the structure of the original exhibit in the Porter College Sesnon Gallery and the Cowell College Eloise Pickard Smith Gallery, marking the early history of UCSC through images and multi-media material. The exhibit
http://omeka.library.ucsc.edu/
A COALITION FOR
Digital Scholarship
Budget Cuts

50% cut to the University Library since 2008
No path to restored permanent funding
Creative strategies for funding a CLIR Fellow
Funding for a CLIR Fellow

University Library
Humanities Division
Office of Research
Graduate Division
Information Technology Services
Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor/Campus Provost
Building a Campus Community: Co-sponsored Digital Humanities Events

Speaker Series: Digital Humanities & Cultural Heritage
UC-Wide Omeka Symposium
Open Hours: Digital Project Consultations
Digital Happy Hours
Reading Group
Works-in-Progress
Digital Pedagogy
Hands-on Workshops
WORKING WITH OMEKA
Building a Community of Users

Calling all scholars, museum professionals, librarians, archivists, researchers and educators.

Omeka is a free and open-source platform for building vibrant online collections. It is designed with non-IT specialists in mind, allowing users to focus on content and to foster user interaction and participation. Join us to explore the possibilities of using Omeka for teaching, research, and publishing at UCSC and imagining the future of digital exhibit building at the University of California. Presentations by UCSC teams engaged in Omeka plugin development, research, and pedagogy. Breakout conversation about teaching, research, publishing, and future development.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:
“HOW CAN YOU TAILOR YOUR OMEKA SITE, AND WHY?”
by PATRICK MURRAY-JOHN
(George Mason Univ.)

Patrick Murray-John will also give a lecture on Wednesday, May 6, 5 – 7pm at Humanities 210. “Latent Data: Now, Where, And Why (Digital) Humanities Discover Data Hidden In Plain Sight.” Free and open to the public.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED
More Details & Registration online:
library.ucsc.edu/WorkingWithOmeka

Thursday, May 7
9:30AM – 4:00PM
HUMANITIES 210

http://library.ucsc.edu/workingwithomeka
BUILDING A
Digital Scholarship Commons
PHASE 1

- 8 New Workstations
- Lounge Space
- New Presentation, Workshop, & Meeting space
- Flexible study area
- Collaborative work stations
- Project brainstorm room
- Student-led mentoring
- Consultation services
Phased Approach

[Phase 1] Open Digital Commons with current infrastructure
New moveable & collaborative furniture
Upgrade workstation computers within current licensing
Student workers, mentors

[Phase 2] Reimagine and reconfigure space in McHenry
Build Visualization Wall for multiple uses (classroom, presentation)

[Phase 3] New programming
Faculty pilot-projects; Graduate Student Fellows

[Phase 4] Regularize digital project creation
Integrate undergraduate students into core projects
Successes

+ University Investment in Digital Scholarship Commons
+ Library recognized as significant partner in research process
+ Turning library expertise into support for broader university community
Challenges

+ Experimental: Iterative process
+ Scale: Tensions between support for projects v. campus wide services
+ Staff Time: Transitioning from support model to serving as intellectual partners
Potential Impact of Digital Scholarship Commons

+ Enable faculty to give their research more impact
+ Connect undergraduates with tools they need to provide meaningful, intellectual support for faculty led projects
+ Maintain continuity for student use of new technologies and software
+ Provide access to and expertise in new research methods
+ Serve as consultants during the initial phase of research project development